

Funding of the German Cochrane Centre

1998-2004 German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)
since 1998 University Medical Center Freiburg and Medical Faculty
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Team

Centre Director:	Dr. Gerd Antes	Administration:	Brigitte Weber Annette Golecki
Scientists (Medicine, Methods):	Dr. Anette Blümle	IT-Support:	Georg Koch
	Dr. Erik von Elm	Web Developer cochrane.org:	Chris Mavergames Martin Janczyk
	Dr. Frank Kunath		Evguenia Slavianova
	Dr. Britta Lang, MSc	Editorial Support:	Caroline Mavergames
	Sabine Lins, MScN	Webpublisher cochrane.de:	Christa Bast
Dr. Jörg Meerpohl	Dr. Christine Schmucker		

Getting involved and Regional Cochrane Review Groups

The task which The Cochrane Collaboration has undertaken is very large. The latest estimate is that at least 10,000 Cochrane Reviews are needed to cover all healthcare interventions that have already been investigated in controlled trials, and these reviews will need to be updated at the rate of 5000 per year. This will be achieved as more people contribute their skills and time. Already more than 28,000 people around the world have become involved in one of the following ways: Review Authors, Editors, Methodology Experts, Handsearchers, Field Members, Consumer Representatives or Translators. Learn more about how you can contribute at <http://www.cochrane.org/about-us/get-involved>

Two Cochrane Review Groups have their Editorial Base in Germany:

- Cochrane Haematological Malignancies Group (CHMG), Cologne: www.chmg.de
- Cochrane Metabolic and Endocrine Disorders Group (CMED), Düsseldorf: <http://endoc.cochrane.org>

Other working groups in Germany: <http://www.cochrane.de>

All international Cochrane Groups: <http://www.cochrane.org/contact>

Mailing lists and Newsletters

- ✓ National (German) Cochrane email mailing list with news on events, Cochrane specific activities, methodology, etc. <http://lists.cochrane.de/mailman/listinfo/cochrane-l>
- ✓ Newsletter: every few months, we distribute a hardcopy newsletter of the German Cochrane Network. To subscribe, please e-mail sec@cochrane.de
- ✓ International newsletter of the Cochrane Collaboration: www.cochrane.org/newslett/
- ✓ News from the Cochrane Collaboration is available at www.cochrane.org/news/



The work of the German Cochrane Centre

German Cochrane Centre
Dep. of Medical Biometry and Statistics
University Medical Center Freiburg
Berliner Allee 29
79110 Freiburg i. Br. / GERMANY
Phone +49 (0) 761-203-6715
Fax +49 (0) 761-203- 6712
mail@cochrane.de
www.cochrane.de

Background – The Cochrane Collaboration www.cochrane.org



The Cochrane Collaboration

Working together to provide the best evidence for health care

The **Cochrane Collaboration (CC)** is an international not-for-profit and independent organisation dedicated to making up-to-date, accurate information about the effects of health care readily available worldwide. It produces and disseminates systematic reviews of healthcare interventions and promotes the search for evidence in the form of clinical trials and other studies of interventions. The Cochrane Collaboration was founded in 1993 and named after the British epidemiologist Archibald Leman Cochrane.

The main product of the CC is the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, which is published quarterly as part of the **Cochrane Library**. The reviews are prepared mainly by healthcare professionals who volunteer to work in one of the 52 **Cochrane Review Groups**. Editorial teams oversee the preparation and maintenance of the reviews as well as the application of the rigorous quality standards for which Cochrane Reviews have become known. The activities of the CC are directed by an elected Steering Group and are supported by staff in Cochrane Entities (Centres, Review Groups, Methods Groups, Fields/Networks, Consumer Network) around the world. The entities are financially supported by ministries, healthcare authorities, universities and research funds.

The German Cochrane Centre

www.cochrane.de

The work of Cochrane Review Groups, Methods Groups, Fields/Networks and the Consumer Network is facilitated in various ways by the work of more than a dozens Cochrane Centres around the world. We are the reference centre for Germany, Austria, parts of Switzerland and Liechtenstein as well as the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary. The whole of Switzerland is represented by the Swiss Branch of the French Cochrane Centre and Austria is represented by the Austrian branch of the German Cochrane Centre. Our main objective is to support all aspects of establishing and disseminating reviews to improve the translation of medical knowledge into policy and practice.

We provide and facilitate training and support by organising workshops, seminars and colloquia on methodological and other review-related topics. Furthermore, we coordinate activities for handsearching clinical trials in medical journals and supporting review groups in their search for specific literature in the centre's geographic area. We promote access to *The Cochrane Library* for healthcare professionals, consumers and others and support its users.

Evidence-based Medicine in Germany www.ebm-netzwerk.de

“Evidence-based medicine is the conscientious, explicit, and judicious use of current best evidence in making decisions about the care of individual patients. The practice of evidence-based medicine means integrating individual clinical expertise with the best available evidence from systematic research.” (more at www.cochrane.org/docs/ebm.htm)

We are an active member of the [German Network for Evidence Based Medicine \(DNEbM\)](http://www.dnebm.de) and support its objectives and its mission to establish a competence and reference centre for all aspects of evidence-based medicine.

www.thecochranelibrary.com



THE COCHRANE LIBRARY

Independent high-quality evidence for health care decision making

Cochrane Reviews are based on the best available information about healthcare interventions. They explore the evidence for and against the effectiveness and appropriateness of treatments (medications, surgery, education, etc.) in specific circumstances.

The complete reviews are published in *The Cochrane Library*, which is published monthly in the *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR)*. You can browse and search ABSTRACTS and plain language summaries free of charge:

www.cochrane.org/reviews/

www.thecochranelibrary.com

The Cochrane Library is published by Wiley InterScience in England, and full texts are available by subscription, either on CD ROM or via the Internet:

www.thecochranelibrary.com

cs-cochrane@wiley.com

Some countries have [national licences](http://www.cochrane.de). For access info in Germany: <http://www.cochrane.de>

Workshops in our region

<http://www.cochrane.de>

Workshop „Systematic Reviews“

An introduction to locating and using systematic reviews and to EbM with emphasis on Cochrane Collaboration resources and methods for users and future authors of systematic reviews: small group sessions cover critical appraisal of clinical trials and reviews; computer sessions introduce *The Cochrane Library*, Medline and the review software RevMan. Recognized as the basic course of the German "Curriculum EbM" compiled by Aquamed (the German Agency for Quality in Medicine) and the German Network for EbM (DNEbM).

Workshop for registered authors of the Cochrane Collaboration

An informal course focused on the review authors' requirements that guides through the steps of developing a systematic review with hands-on practice using the Cochrane Collaboration's Review Manager (RevMan) software.

Workshop “GRADE: Levels-of-Evidence with the GRADE system” basic / advanced

An introduction to the GRADE system (Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development and Evaluation), which offers a sensible and transparent approach to grading quality of evidence and strength of recommendations. Participants learn how to apply the GRADE approach to a therapeutic question and how to produce a GRADE evidence profile and a Summary of Findings (SoF) table using the GRADEpro software.

Workshop “Systematic literature search”

Designed for all those needing to efficiently search for medical literature (clinicians, authors, medical librarians and other information professionals), this workshop offers both a thorough introduction to and advanced training in searching Medline and other databases.

Workshop language is German. **More workshops on these topics:** www.ebm-netzwerk.de and at the [Austrian Cochrane branch \(ÖCZ\)](http://www.oetz.at), Donau-Universität Krems, Austria