

# COCHRANE FOR PHYSIOTHERAPY – THE DATABASE!

## Information for non-German speaking readers/users

This document provides an overview of key aspects of the paper “Cochrane für die Physiotherapie – die Datenbank!” by Braun et al. 2017, and of any subsequent updates.

### How to cite the original article

Braun C., Bossmann T., Hefner S., Helmchen R.M. (2017). Cochrane für die Physiotherapie – die Datenbank! *Z.f. Physiotherapeuten*; 69(6):78-81. [German].

An online version of the article is freely available via the following link:

<https://www.physiotherapeuten.de/cochrane-fuer-die-physiotherapie-die-datenbank/#.WWW1NYppxls>.

A short article on the 1<sup>st</sup> update (2018 version) of the database was published in March 2018:

Braun C., Bossmann T., Hefner S., Helmchen R.M. (2018). Cochrane für die Physiotherapie – die Datenbank! Version 2018. *Z.f. Physiotherapeuten*; 70(3):72-3. [German]. The online version is accessible via the following link: <https://www.physiotherapeuten.de/cochrane-fuer-die-physiotherapie-die-datenbank-version-2018/#.W32qmn4yXXo>.

A short article on the 2<sup>nd</sup> update (2019 version) of the database was published in March 2019:

Braun C., Bossmann T., Hefner S. (2019). Cochrane für die Physiotherapie – die Datenbank! Version 2019. *Z.f. Physiotherapeuten*; 71(3):82-3 [German]. The online version is accessible via the following link: <https://physiotherapeuten.de/artikel/cochrane-fuer-die-physiotherapie-die-datenbank-version-2019/>

A short article on the 3<sup>rd</sup> update (2020 version) of the database was published in March 2020 (*Z.f. Physiotherapeuten*, Issue 3/2020; [German]). The online version is accessible via the following link: <https://physiotherapeuten.de/artikel/cochrane-fuer-die-physiotherapie-die-datenbank-version-2020/>

A blog article on the “Cochrane for physiotherapy” resources including the 4<sup>th</sup> update (2021 version) of the database was published in March 2021 and is accessible via the following link: <https://wissenwaswirkt.org/cochrane-fuer-die-physiotherapie-den-zugang-zu-evidenz-erleichtern> (& see here: <https://physiotherapeuten.de/news/2021/04/cochrane-fuer-die-physiotherapie-den-zugang-zu-evidenz-erleichtern/>)

### What we did

We created a database of physiotherapy-related Cochrane reviews (with relevance to physiotherapy practice in Germany) published between October 2012 (the cut date of a previous overview of physiotherapy-related Cochrane reviews by Bossmann & Braun 2013) and March 2017. A first update of the database (up to 31 Dec 2017) was completed in January

2018, a second update (up to 31 Dec 2018) was completed in January 2019, a third update was completed in January 2020, a fourth update was completed in March 2021, a fifth update was completed in January 2022, and a sixth update was completed in May 2023 – for further information see the “Updates” section.

### How we did it

- Two persons (Cordula Braun and Tanja Bossmann) screened all Cochrane Library issues from October 2012 to 31 March 2017 (current version 2021: to 31 Dec 2020).
- Relevant Cochrane reviews were selected based on a set of predefined eligibility criteria (summary of key criteria):  
We considered any kind of health problems from all medical fields; we considered any interventions that are or may be delivered by physiotherapists in Germany (e.g. exercise, manual therapy, physical modalities), or may be part of physiotherapy treatment (e.g. yoga, dance therapy) as well as multimodal interventions as long as these included a physiotherapeutic or physical component, interventions for promoting self-management, aids and appliances (e.g. braces), and physical activity-related preventive interventions.  
We excluded interventions that are currently/generally not delivered by physiotherapists in Germany, e.g. injections, acupuncture or medication, and alternative treatments, e.g. meditation or electromagnetic fields
- For each relevant review, the following data were extracted and entered in a Microsoft Excel 2016 database:
  - author ID: first author
  - year of publication (from version 2018: month & year of publication)
  - title: original title
  - link: Cochrane Library (CDSR)
  - field: 1) orthopaedics/surgery; 2) neurology; 3) internal medicine; 4) gynaecology/urology; 5) oncology; 6) geriatrics; 7) paediatrics; 8) psychiatry; 9) prevention; 10) other (reviews that could not be clearly assigned (e.g.) to one particular field)
  - Currentness: year and month of the most recent search
  - German PLS (plain language summary): availability yes/no
  - Commentary in “pt”: availability of a comment on the review in “pt”, with link to the respective issue
  - German “clinical question”: translation of the review title into a “clinical” question

All searches, screening and data extraction were done independently by at least two persons; consensus was reached through discussion and, where needed, through involvement of a third independent person.

Through the activated filter functions, the database can easily be sorted by any of the above items.

Although the column titles in the database are in German, we believe that it is usable for non-German speakers, too, as the content of the database is mostly either self-explanatory or in English. Non-German users can also rely on the translation of the items provided above.

### Where the database can be accessed

The database (current version) is freely accessible for everyone on the website of the Cochrane Germany Foundation:

- [http://www.cochrane.de/sites/cochrane.de/files/public/uploads/gfb/final\\_cochrane\\_fur\\_die\\_pt\\_datenbank.xlsx](http://www.cochrane.de/sites/cochrane.de/files/public/uploads/gfb/final_cochrane_fur_die_pt_datenbank.xlsx)

### What's in the database

Well... - have a look! The 2023 version of the database (which includes all relevant Cochrane reviews published up to 31 May 2023) contains key information on 419 physiotherapy-related Cochrane reviews. For approx. 268 of these (64 %), a German PLS is available!

### Updates

Version	Cut date	Key amendments	N reviews (German PLS)
<b>2018</b>	<b>20171231</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ addition of all newly published relevant reviews from 20170401 to 20171231, with deduplication (removal of previous versions)</li> <li>○ addition of month of publication for all reviews</li> <li>○ checks/updating of all Cochrane Library review links;</li> <li>○ cross checks of the database with elimination of any identified errors</li> <li>○ addition of introductory information (title, references, contact details etc.)</li> </ul>	284 (147)
<b>2019</b>	<b>20181231</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ addition of all newly published relevant reviews from 20180101 to 20181231, with deduplication (removal of previous versions)</li> <li>○ update of information on availability of German PLS</li> <li>○ renewal of all Cochrane Library review links</li> <li>○ cross checks of the database with elimination of any identified errors</li> <li>○ update of introductory information (title, references, contact details etc.)</li> </ul>	313 (176)
<b>2020</b>	<b>20191231</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ addition of all newly published relevant reviews from 20190101 to 20191231, with deduplication (removal of previous versions)</li> <li>○ update of information on availability of German PLS</li> </ul>	347 (207)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ cross-checks of the database with elimination of any identified errors</li> <li>○ update of introductory information (title, references, contact details etc.)</li> </ul>	
<b>2021</b>	<b>20201231</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ addition of all newly published relevant reviews from 20200101 to 20201231, with deduplication (removal of previous versions)</li> <li>○ update of information on availability of German PLS</li> <li>○ cross-checks of the database with elimination of any identified errors</li> <li>○ update of introductory information (title, references, contact details etc.)</li> </ul>	371 (231)
<b>2022</b>	<b>20211231</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ addition of all newly published relevant reviews from 20210101 to 20211231, with deduplication (removal of previous versions)</li> <li>○ see update 2021</li> </ul>	389 (246)
<b>2023</b>	<b>20230531</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ addition of all newly published relevant reviews from 20220101 to 20230531, with deduplication (removal of previous versions)</li> <li>○ due to limited resources, we have not updated update of information on availability of German PLS for reviews published in the years before 2022, and have not done cross-checks of the database across all years</li> </ul>	419 (268) Note: this version spans a longer period of time, i.e. Jan 2022 to May 2023

### Where to get further information

We are happy about any feedback, questions, ideas or whatever...! Please don't hesitate to contact Dr Cordula Braun at [braun@cochrane.de](mailto:braun@cochrane.de); or on Twitter: @CordulaBraun

This project was initiated as a collaboration of hochschule 21, Buxtehude, Germany, and Richard Pflaum Verlag, Munich, Germany. It is currently a collaboration of Cochrane Germany, Freiburg and Richard Pflaum Verlag, Munich.

### References

Bossmann Tanja, Braun C. (2013). Welche Cochrane Reviews gibt es zu physiotherapeutischen Interventionen? Teile 1-4. *Z.f. Physiotherapeuten*, 65(1-4).

Braun C., Bossmann T., Hefner S., Helmchen R.M. (2018). Cochrane für die Physiotherapie – die Datenbank! Version 2018. *Z.f. Physiotherapeuten*; 70(3):72-3.

Braun C., Bossmann T., Hefner S. (2019). Cochrane für die Physiotherapie – die Datenbank! Version 2019. *Z.f. Physiotherapeuten*; 71(3):82-3

Braun C., Bossmann T., Hefner S. (2020). Cochrane für die Physiotherapie – die Datenbank! Version 2020. *Z.f. Physiotherapeuten*; 72(3): <https://physiotherapeuten.de/artikel/cochrane-fuer-die-physiotherapie-die-datenbank-version-2020/>

Braun C., Bossmann T. (2021). Cochrane für die Physiotherapie – den Zugang zu Evidenz erleichtern. <https://wissenwaswirkt.org/cochrane-fuer-die-physiotherapie-den-zugang-zu-evidenz-erleichtern> & <https://physiotherapeuten.de/news/2021/04/cochrane-fuer-die-physiotherapie-den-zugang-zu-evidenz-erleichtern/>