



Cochrane Reviews of Diagnostic Test Accuracy



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Outline

- i Current status
- i Support of DTA SRs
 - | Continental Europe Support Unit
 - | Diagnostic Test Accuracy Editorial Team
- i Things to consider



Numbers

Reviews of interventions

1993 to 2008 (15 years)
1787 protocols 3384 reviews
489 editors in 51 CRGs
13033 authors

Reviews of diagnostic test accuracy

2007 to 2008
8 protocols 1 review published
ca. 4 protocols and 4 reviews in
process
~20 editors
44 authors in 8 CRGs



At this moment, 55 entries in Archie
26 registered titles
21 protocols (8 published)
8 reviews (1 published)



DTA titles of Continental European CRGs

i	Anaesthesia	1
i	Childhood Cancer	2
i	Colorectal Cancer	1
i	Hepatobiliary	20
i	Total Continental Europe	24
i	Total of the whole Collaboration	55



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Support of DTA SRs

- i Support Units
 - | to assist Cochrane Review Groups (CRGs) with the implementation of methods and procedures for developing Cochrane DTA Reviews

- i Diagnostic Test Accuracy Editorial Team
 - | to advise CRGs re proposed titles (on request)
 - | peer review of protocols and full text reviews for methodological content

- i See <http://srdta.cochrane.org>



Continental Europe Support Unit

- i Contact for CRGs re DTA issues
- i “Induction training” of CRGs
- i Hands-on support with the first 1-3 SRs
- i Provide materials as TRFs, handbook chapters, RevMan tutorial, etc.
- i Training workshops for authors

NB: support units do not support individual review authors or author teams



Induction training

- i CRGs visited
 - | Anaesthesia / Colorectal Cancer / Hepato-Biliary
 - | Haematological Malignancies / Metabolic & Endocrine Disorders
 - | Drugs & Alcohol / Multiple Sclerosis
 - | Lung Cancer
 - | (Childhood Cancer)
- i To be planned
 - | Movement disorders
- i No training
 - | Fertility Regulation
 - | Methodology



Other training

18-19 June, 2009, Amsterdam

- Two-day SR DTA course for review authors

6-8 July, 2009, Birmingham

- Training for Cochrane methodologists

October 2009, Singapore (planned)

- Special DTA session
- Workshop: Developments of DTA Cochrane SRs
- Workshop: Issues for CRGs



DTA Editorial Team

Tasks

- i To advise CRGs re proposed titles (on request)
- i Peer review of protocols and full text reviews for methodological content

Common challenges / “mistakes” encountered
(to be reported later)



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Challenges

- i DTA studies not readily understood
- i Primary DTA studies are often
 - | badly conducted
 - | badly reported
- i Steps in DTA SRs are much more complex
- i Methodology for systematic reviews (SRs) of DTA is new and rapidly evolving



Things to consider [1]

- i CRGs are not required to take on DTA SRs
- i Ensure sufficient DTA expertise in your CRG
 - | Identify dedicated editors(s) with experience of diagnostic research
 - | Recruit a dedicated statistician (Training for statisticians July 2009)



Things to consider [2]

- i Set a limited number of priority DTA reviews with pragmatic and focussed clinical questions
- i Consider author requests within your priority reviews
- i Don't take on too many titles
- i Don't make topics too broad



Things to consider [3]

- i Beware of other diagnostic methods: only those in the Cochrane Handbook (= DTA) will be supported
- i Discuss potential diagnoses of common interest with other CRGs



Things to consider [4]

- i Check author teams carefully to ensure there is suitable experience of systematic reviewing and statistical DTA expertise
- i Consider that the research in SR of DTA studies is evolving rapidly and the Handbook will change.



Opportunities

- i Cochrane can set new standards
 - | Meaningful and properly framed questions
 - | High quality methods / scientific rigour
- i Education of researchers
 - | “More research needed” -> higher quality primary studies?
 - | Missing information -> better reporting?



Don't do this at home?

- i Take time to build up sufficient DTA expertise in your editorial team
- i Set a limited number of priority DTA reviews
- i Don't take on too many or too broad titles
- i Ensure sufficient expertise in the author team

Bezint eer ge begint!