

COCHRANE INFECTIOUS DISEASES GROUP

Editors: Hasifa Bukirwa, Julia Critchley, Geraint Davies, Sarah Donegan, Michael Eisenhut, Paul Garner, Hellen Gelband, Patricia Graves, Jimee Hwang, Vittoria Lutje, Martin Meremikwu, Joseph Okebe, Piero Olliaro, Mical Paul, Dave Sinclair, Karen Steingart, Thambu Sudarsanam, Yemisi Takwoingi, Olalekan Uthman

Editorial Base: Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, UK

Contact: Anne-Marie.Stephani@lstm.ac.uk

BACKGROUND AND SCOPE

- The Cochrane Infectious Diseases Group was registered with The Cochrane Collaboration in June 1994.
- Our scope covers healthcare interventions for communicable diseases such as malaria, acute diarrhoea, tuberculosis, helminth infections, scabies and headlice, and other protozoan, bacterial, and viral infections.
- The focus is mainly, but not exclusively, on diseases that affect people in low- and middle-income countries.

OUR PEOPLE

- We have 18 editors, each with topic and methodological expertise.
- The editors provide feedback on reviews, help develop policies and guidelines for the Group, and help define the scope and topics covered by the CIDG.
- We have over 400 active review authors from over 50 countries.



CIDG Editors and staff, Liverpool 2013

Partners

- University of Stellenbosch, South Africa
- Christian Medical College Vellore, India
- Chongqing Medical University, China
- Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, UK
- Norwegian Knowledge Centre, Norway

Collaborators

- World Health Organization
- UCLA Global Health Group

OUR REVIEWS

Over 100 published reviews with around 30 more in development.

Important reviews published in 2013-14:

- Home- or community-based programmes for treating malaria
- Vaccines for preventing enterotoxigenic Escherichia coli (ETEC) diarrhoea
- Rifamycins (rifampicin, rifabutin and rifapentine) compared to isoniazid for preventing tuberculosis in HIV-negative people at risk of active TB
- Mosquito larval source management for controlling malaria
- Combined and alternating paracetamol and ibuprofen therapy for febrile children
- Larvivorous fish for preventing malaria transmission
- Mass drug administration for malaria
- Dihydroartemisinin-piperaquine for treating uncomplicated Plasmodium falciparum malaria
- Artesunate plus pyronaridine for treating uncomplicated Plasmodium falciparum malaria
- Rapid diagnostic tests versus clinical diagnosis for managing people with fever in malaria endemic settings
- Pre-referral rectal artesunate for severe malaria
- Antimicrobial drugs for treating cholera

OUR IMPACT

Policy

- We have a global track record of impact on policy.
- In 2014, the WHO Expert Technical Group in malaria chemotherapy required our reviews. We mobilised trained authors to contribute, and completed 11 new reviews and review updates in a period of 12 months, with fellowships, intensive distance coaching, and active management of review production.
- Seven authors from low- and middle-income countries thus contributed to reviews that directly contributed to global policy.

LMIC authors directly contributing to policy

Uganda	Hasifa Bukirwa	Artesunate plus pyronaridine for treating uncomplicated Plasmodium falciparum malaria
Nigeria	Ekpereonne Esu	Artemether intramuscular injection for severe malaria
The Gambia	Joseph Okebe	Pre-referral rectal artesunate for severe malaria
South Africa	Babalwa Zani	Dihydroartemisinin-piperaquine for treating uncomplicated Plasmodium falciparum malaria
Kenya	Michael Gathu	Artemisinin-naphthoquine for uncomplicated malaria
Uganda	John Odaga	Rapid diagnostic tests versus clinical diagnosis for managing people with fever in malaria endemic settings
India	Nithya Gogtay	Artemisinin-based combination therapy for treating uncomplicated Plasmodium vivax malaria.

Links with WHO

- CIDG editors and authors are on over five WHO guidelines panels.
- Seventeen Cochrane Reviews used to guide the **WHO Technical Expert Group** in drafting the new malaria guidelines.
- Our work helped clarify the evidence of toxicity with dihydroartemisinin-piperaquine (DHAP), interpretation of the large trial of pre-referral treatment, malaria prevention in pregnancy, and in primaquine for preventing transmission.

Institutions

The South Asian Cochrane Centre & Network, Vellore, was established in 2005. The network currently has sites in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, and supports and mentors the work of over 448 Cochrane authors and nine Editors.

