**THE COCHRANE COLLABORATION**

The Cochrane Collaboration aims to help people make well-informed decisions about health care by preparing, maintaining and promoting the accessibility of systematic reviews of the effects of healthcare interventions. Established in 1993, it is an international network of more than 28,000 dedicated people from over 100 countries.

**What is a Cochrane Review?**

Cochrane Reviews are systematic summaries of evidence of the effects of healthcare interventions. They are intended to help people make practical decisions. They are published in the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews.

**Example of a Cochrane Review**

Artesunate compared with quinine for severe malaria:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Artesunate (n=22)</th>
<th>Quinine (n=23)</th>
<th>Odds Ratio</th>
<th>95% CI</th>
<th>P-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>17 (77.3%)</td>
<td>5 (21.7%)</td>
<td>8.74</td>
<td>2.02-35.91</td>
<td>0.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>6 (27.3%)</td>
<td>18 (78.3%)</td>
<td>0.19</td>
<td>0.03-1.45</td>
<td>0.12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Meta-analysis showing 29% reduction in death if artesunate used.

**THE CONSORTIUM**

- Is four substantive groups in developing countries with scientific leaders who co-ordinate networks that carry out reliable reviews in HIV, reproductive health, child health, nutrition, and non-communicable diseases.
- Also includes The Cochrane Infectious Diseases Group that prepares reviews on malaria, tuberculosis, diarrhoea and neglected tropical diseases, with over 400 contributors.
- Actively disseminates the results of systematic reviews and engages with policy makers globally, nationally and locally.
- Promotes an evidence-based culture in health care in developing countries, with a particular emphasis on policies relevant to the poor, particularly women.

**Partners**

- University of Stellenbosch, South Africa (Volmink)
- Christian Medical College Vellore, India (Tharyan)
- Chongqing Medical University, China (Wang Yang)
- Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, UK (Garner)
- Norwegian Knowledge Centre, Norway (Oxman)

**Collaborators**

- World Health Organization
- University of California Global Health Group

**OUR IMPACT**

**Policy**

The Effective Health Care RPC has a global track record of impact on policy and decision making.

**Finding**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>2009</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**People**

Over 450 authors and 16 editors make up the Cochrane Infectious Diseases Group. Fifty six new authors from low- and middle-income countries have been trained and supported to complete reviews since 2005.

**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.

The Centre for Evidence-based Health Care was established in 2011 at Stellenbosch University and is set to become a Centre of Excellence for evidence-based healthcare in the African region.

**The public**

Our Cochrane Reviews have had 19 press releases in the last three years, with over 400 media hits.

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**Lead Partners: South Africa, India, China**

Taryn Young (Africa lead) & Habiba Garga (Cameroon partner)

**Current reviews**

Around 100 published reviews with over 30 in process. Critical Cochrane reviews due to be published in 2012:

- Ways to kill mosquito larvae.
- Eradicating malaria with primaquine: does it work?
- Is it worthwhile giving the private sector subsidies to promote anti-malarial drug access?
- Should occupying forces invest in health to promote host government stability?