



The Cochrane Renal Group

2007 Report



Endorsements: Asia-Pacific Society of Nephrology, Australian and New Zealand Society of Nephrology, International Pediatric Nephrology Association, International Society of Nephrology, National Kidney Foundation

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Personnel

Our personnel at the editorial base in Sydney are:

Coordinating Editors – Prof Jonathan Craig, Dr Angela Webster

Review Group Coordinator – Ms Narelle Willis

Trials Search Coordinators – Ms Ruth Mitchell and Ms Gail Higgins

Administration Officer – Ms Leslee Edwards

Editorial Team

We have twelve international editors:

- Dr Cecile Couchoud (France)
- Prof Denis Fouque (France)
- Dr Elisabeth Hodson (Australia)
- Prof Les Irwig (Australia)
- Prof Bertram Kasiske (USA)
- Dr Petra Macaskill (Australia)
- Prof Alison MacLeod (UK)
- Prof Sir Peter Morris (UK)
- Prof Giuseppe Remuzzi (Italy)
- Prof Teut Rislér (Germany)
- Dr Paul Roderick (UK)
- Dr Giovanni Strippoli (Italy)

Gail Higgins was recently seconded to the WHO for five months to work on the Clinical Trials Platform. During her absence Jeremy Cullis was seconded from the University of Sydney Dentistry Library. We wish to thank Jeremy for his professionalism and the ease in which he adjusted.

The Cochrane Collaboration

Over the past 12 months our editorial staff have been actively contributing to the activities of The Cochrane Collaboration.

- **Cochrane Collaboration Steering Group (CCSG)** – Jonathan Craig was elected to represent Co-ordinating Editors. Narelle Willis continued to represent the Review Group Coordinators.
- **CCSG Executive Group** – Jonathan Craig is a member of this group responsible for making interim decisions on behalf of the full CCSG between the 2 biannual meetings.
- **CCSG Publishing Policy Group** – Narelle Willis is a member of this group which is responsible for providing advice on the contents of the Collaboration's products and setting the principles for the pricing, distribution and marketing arrangements for Cochrane products.
- **CCSG Colloquium Policy Advisory Group** – Jonathan Craig is a member of this group responsible for maintaining records of previous policy decisions about Cochrane Colloquia and move forward new policies after appropriate consultation.
- **Coordinating Editors Executive** – Jonathan Craig is a member of this group responsible for developing policy on issues like quality of reviews which may be implemented Collaboration-wide.
- **Diagnostic Test Accuracy Studies register** – Ruth Mitchell is developing the template for use across the Cochrane Collaboration.
- **Diagnostic Tests Methods Working Group** - Jonathan Craig is a member of the executive, which is responsible for the development of methods and processes to support systematic reviews across the collaboration
- **CENTRAL Vision Group** – Gail Higgins is a member of this working group looking at the future direction of the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL)
- **CENTRAL Interim measures Liaison** – Gail Higgins is in charge of liaising with Wiley and Sons and the Cochrane Review Groups to publish the review groups specialised registers on the Cochrane Library.
- **Quality Advisory Group** – Ruth Mitchell and Narelle Willis are both members of the Collection Procedures Working Party developing forms and documents aimed at streamlining editorial processes. Narelle Willis is also the CCSG representative on this group.
- **Handbook Advisory Group** – Ruth Mitchell is a member of this group involved in updating the searching for studies section of the '*Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of interventions*' and the '*Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Diagnostic Test Accuracy Studies*'.
- **Workflows Working Group** – Narelle Willis is part of this group which is preparing workflows for all stages of the editorial process. These workflows will enable tracking of each review and provide essential monitoring information for the new Cochrane Collaboration editorial board.

Reviews, protocols and titles

Summary of reviews, protocols and updated/up-to-date reviews published in *The Cochrane Library* (issues 1-4 2007).

Published reviews (8)

- 1) **Continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis versus automated peritoneal dialysis for end-stage renal disease.** Rabindranath KS, Adams J, Ali TZ, MacLeod AM, Vale L, Cody J, Wallace SA, Daly C.
Number of included studies: 3
- 2) **Correction of chronic metabolic acidosis for chronic kidney disease patients.** Roderick P, Willis NS, Blakeley S, Jones C, Tomson C.
Number of studies: 3
- 3) **Extracorporeal shockwave lithotripsy (ESWL) versus ureteroscopic retrieval for ureteric stones.** Nabi G, Downey P, Keeley F, Watson G, McClinton S.
Number of studies: 5
- 4) **Fish oil for kidney transplant recipients.** Lim AKH, Manley KJ, Roberts MA, Fraenkel MB.
Number of studies: 16
- 5) **Immunoglobulins, vaccines or interferon for preventing cytomegalovirus disease in solid organ transplant recipients.** Hodson EM, Jones CA, Strippoli GFM, Webster AC, Craig JC.
Number of studies: 37
- 6) **Intermittent versus continuous renal replacement therapy for acute renal failure in adults.** Rabindranath K, Adams J, MacLeod AM, Muirhead N.
Number of studies: 15
- 7) **Modes of administration of antibiotics for symptomatic urinary tract infection.** Pohl A.
Number of studies: 15
- 8) **Protein restriction for children with chronic kidney disease.** Chaturvedi S, Jones C.
Number of Studies: 2

Updated/up-to-date reviews (9)

- 1) **Antibiotics for acute pyelonephritis in children.** Hodson EM, Willis NS, Craig JC.
Number of included studies: 23
- 2) **Antibiotics for preventing recurrent urinary tract infection in non-pregnant women.** Albert X, Huertas I, Pereiró I, Sanfélix J, Gosalbes V, Perrotta C.
Number of studies: 19
- 3) **Calcium channel blockers for preventing acute tubular necrosis in kidney transplant recipients.** Shilliday IR, Sherif M.
Number of studies: 13

- 4) **Corticosteroid therapy for nephrotic syndrome in children.** Hodson EM, Willis NS, Craig JC.
Number of studies: 24
- 5) **Effects of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory treatment on postoperative renal function in adults with normal renal function.** Lee A, Cooper MG, Craig JC, Knight JF, Keneally JP.
Number of studies: 23
- 6) **Interventions for preventing bone disease in kidney transplant recipients.** Palmer SC, McGregor DO, Strippoli GF.
Number of studies: 24
- 7) **Interventions for primary vesicoureteric reflux.** Hodson EM, Wheeler DM, Vimalchandra D, Smith GH, Craig JC.
Number of studies: 11
- 8) **Methenamine hippurate for preventing urinary tract infections.** Lee BB, Simpson JM, Craig JC, Bhuta T.
Number of studies: 13
- 9) **Short versus standard duration oral antibiotic therapy for acute urinary tract infection in children.** Michael M, Hodson EM, Craig JC, Martin S, Moyer VA.
Number of studies: 10

Published protocols (16)

- 1) **Altered dietary salt intake for preventing and treating diabetic kidney disease.** Suckling RJ, He FJ, MacGregor GA.
- 2) **Antibiotics for treating uncomplicated urinary tract infection in children.** Fitzgerald A, Lee CW, Mori R.
- 3) **Bicarbonate versus lactate solutions for acute haemodialysis.** Tian JH, Ma B, Liu YL, Tan JY, Yang KH, Liu TX.
- 4) **Calcineurin inhibitor withdrawal or tapering for kidney transplant recipients.** Karpe KM, Talaulikar GS, Walters G.
- 5) **Chinese herbal medicine Huangqi type formulation for nephrotic syndrome.** Yuan W, Wang J, Wu T.
- 6) **Chinese medicinal herbs for diabetic kidney disease.** Liu JP, Ai YK, Wan X, Zhang HW.
- 7) **Continuous renal replacement therapies for acute renal failure in critically ill patients.** Fayad A, Buamscha DG, Ciapponi A, Rodriguez Palacios A.
- 8) **Human albumin for intradialytic hypotension in haemodialysis patients.** Fortin PM, Bassett K, Musini VM, Pi DW.
- 9) **Insulin-sensitising therapies for preventing the progression of diabetic kidney disease.** Chen HS, Liu JP, Wang W.
- 10) **Interventions for erythropoietin-resistant anaemia in dialysis patients.** Liang S, Beller EM, Francis DP, Howard PF.
- 11) **Isolation as a strategy for controlling the transmission of hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection in haemodialysis units.** Bravo JI, Loza Munarriz C.

- 12) **Long-term nutritional interventions for adult kidney transplant recipients.** Fry KM, Chan M.
- 13) **Low molecular weight heparin for diabetic kidney disease.** Xie XS, Li J, Yang M, Wu TX, Fan JM, Liu GJ.
- 14) **Pentoxifylline for diabetic kidney disease.** Wu HM, Yuan QY, Zhou RL, Li J, Liu GJ.
- 15) **Pharmacological interventions for preventing recurrent urinary stones in adults and children.** Thomas J, Philipraj J, Annamma K.
- 16) **Thyroxine for acute kidney injury.** Nigwekar SU, Navaneethan SD, Strippoli GF.

New Titles registered in 2007 (30)

- 1) **Acupuncture for acute renal colic.** Guobing Xiong (China).
- 2) **Adjunctive medical expulsive therapy for renal and ureteral stone fragments immediately following shock wave lithotripsy.** Trevor Schuler (Canada).
- 3) **Adjunctive therapies for HIV-associated nephropathy.** Ismail Yahaya (Nigeria).
- 4) **Aldosterone antagonists for patients with chronic kidney disease.** Sankar Navaneethan (USA).
- 5) **Amino acid containing peritoneal solutions for peritoneal dialysis patients.** Per Ivarsen (Denmark).
- 6) **Androgens for the anaemia of chronic kidney disease in adults.** Taixiang Wu (China)
- 7) **Antibiotic lock therapy for preventing dialysis catheter related infections in hemodialysis patients.** Sankar Navaneethan (USA).
- 8) **Antibiotics versus placebo or no treatment for uncomplicated urinary tract infections in pre-menopausal women.** Dalit Blum (Israel).
- 9) **Anticoagulants for preventing thrombosis of tunnelled, cuffed central venous hemodialysis catheters in end-stage renal disease.** Robert Pauly (UK).
- 10) **Antimicrobial agents for treating uncomplicated urinary tract infection in women.** Anca Zalmanovici (Israel).
- 11) **Bicarbonate versus lactate solutions for acute peritoneal dialysis.** Kehu Yang (China).
- 12) **Biocompatible dialysis fluids for peritoneal dialysis.** Kate Wiggins (Australia).
- 13) **Early referral for preventing end-stage kidney failure.** Neil Smart (Australia).
- 14) **Education programmes for diabetic people with chronic kidney disease.** Chang Huang (China).
- 15) **Effects of amphotericin B deoxycholate versus liposomal amphotericin B on kidney function.** Jason Cota (USA).
- 16) **Extracorporeal shock wave lithotripsy (ESWL) for kidney stones.** Attasit Srisubat (Thailand).

- 17) **Family-based interventions for promoting psychosocial adjustment in solid organ transplant recipients.** Montserrat de la Huerta (UK).
- 18) **Interventions for bone disease in children with chronic kidney disease.** Denis Geary (Canada).
- 19) **Interventions for dialysis patients with hepatitis C virus (HVC) infection.** Ravindra Prabhu (India).
- 20) **Interventions for preventing clotting of extracorporeal circuits during continuous renal replacement therapy.** Suzi Robertson-Malt (Saudi Arabia).
- 21) **Peer-group interventions for promoting psychosocial adjustment in solid organ transplant recipients.** Montserrat de la Huerta (UK).
- 22) **Preoperative vascular access evaluation for haemodialysis patients.** Charmaine Lok (Canada).
- 23) **Probiotics for preventing urinary tract infections.** Aaron Tejani (Canada)
- 24) **Prophylactic angioplasty for extending patency in haemodialysis grafts.** Raman Uberoi (UK).
- 25) **Recombinant human insulin-like growth factor I for acute renal failure.** Kehu Yang (China).
- 26) **Rhubarb (a Chinese medicinal herb) for chronic kidney disease.** Yan Bin Hou (China).
- 27) **Steroid sparing strategies for pancreas and kidney/pancreas transplant recipients.** Julio Pascual (Spain).
- 28) **Support interventions for caregivers of patients with chronic kidney disease.** Allison Tong (Australia)
- 29) **Teicoplanin versus vancomycin for proven or suspected infection.** Alexandre Cavalcanti (Brazil).
- 30) **Vascular access surveillance for patients on haemodialysis.** Louise Moist (Canada).

Conference abstracts

- 1) Cross NB, Roderick PJ, Mitchell RL, Macaskill P, Craig JC. **Absolute and relative accuracy of the MDRD equation and Cockcroft Gault equation for estimating GFR and diagnosing CKD.** [Abstract 1173]. *Nephrology* 2007 12(Suppl 2):A44.
- 2) Navaneethan SD, Strippoli GS. **Higher hemoglobin targets and kidney disease progression: A systematic review.** [Abstract 149]. *American Journal of Kidney Diseases* 2007; 49(4):A62.
- 3) Sanni AO, Wilson CH, Reddy M, Yrley-Birch H, Vijayanand D, Navarro A *et al.* **Laparoscopic versus open donor nephrectomy: a meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials.** [Abstract 457]. *American Journal of Transplantation* 2007 7(Suppl 2):266-7.

Reviews co-published in print journals

Transplantation

Lim AKH, Manley KJ, Roberts MA, Fraenkel MB. **Fish oil treatment for kidney transplant recipients: a meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials.** *Transplantation* 2007 83(7):831-8.

Molecular Nutrition & Food Research

Jepson RG, Craig JC. **A systematic review of the evidence for cranberries and blueberries in UTI prevention.** *Molecular Nutrition & Food Research*. 51(6):738-45, 2007.

Trials registers

Prospective trials register

In mid 2005, the Cochrane Renal Group set up a Prospective Trials Register accessible via the Group's website at

<http://www.cochrane-renal.org/trialsubmissionform.php>.

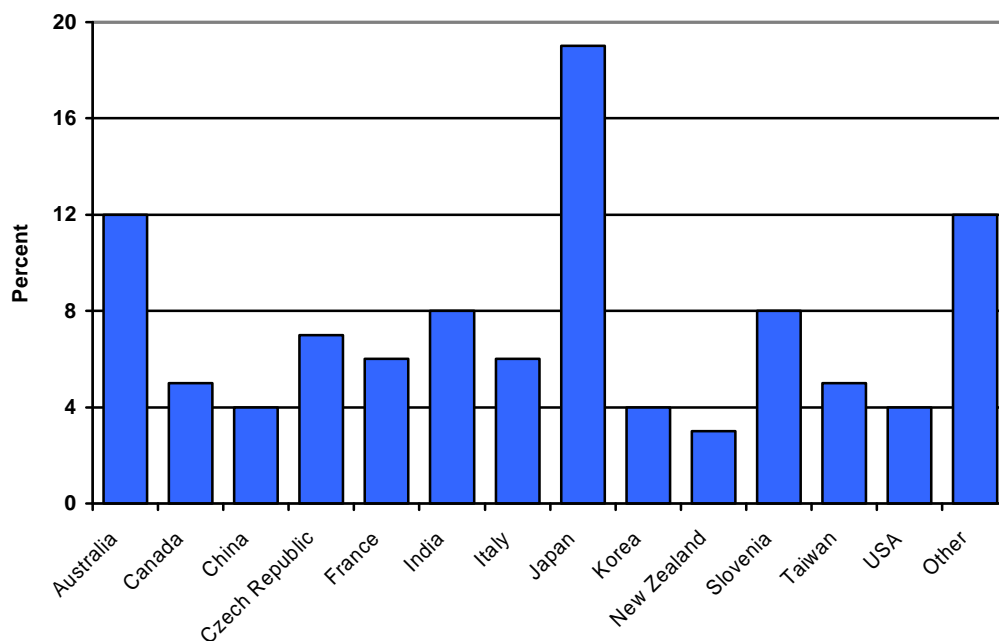
Nephrology trials can be registered in accordance with the criteria recommended by the International Committee of Medical Editors and the WHO International Clinical Trials Registry Platform (ICTRP) Initiative.

The registration process requires data about the study or trial to be submitted under the following headings:

- Study title which includes an acronym or a web site for further information
- Lead Investigator (position and contact details)
- Study contact or Study coordinator (position and contact details)
- Sources of funding
- Study design (study design, group assignment, blinding, start and completion dates both proposed and actual, whether the study is multi-centre and multi-national)
- Study description (research question in plain English, status of study, health care condition, interventions, participants, recruitment, inclusion & exclusion criteria, primary and secondary outcomes)
- References (reports generated by study)

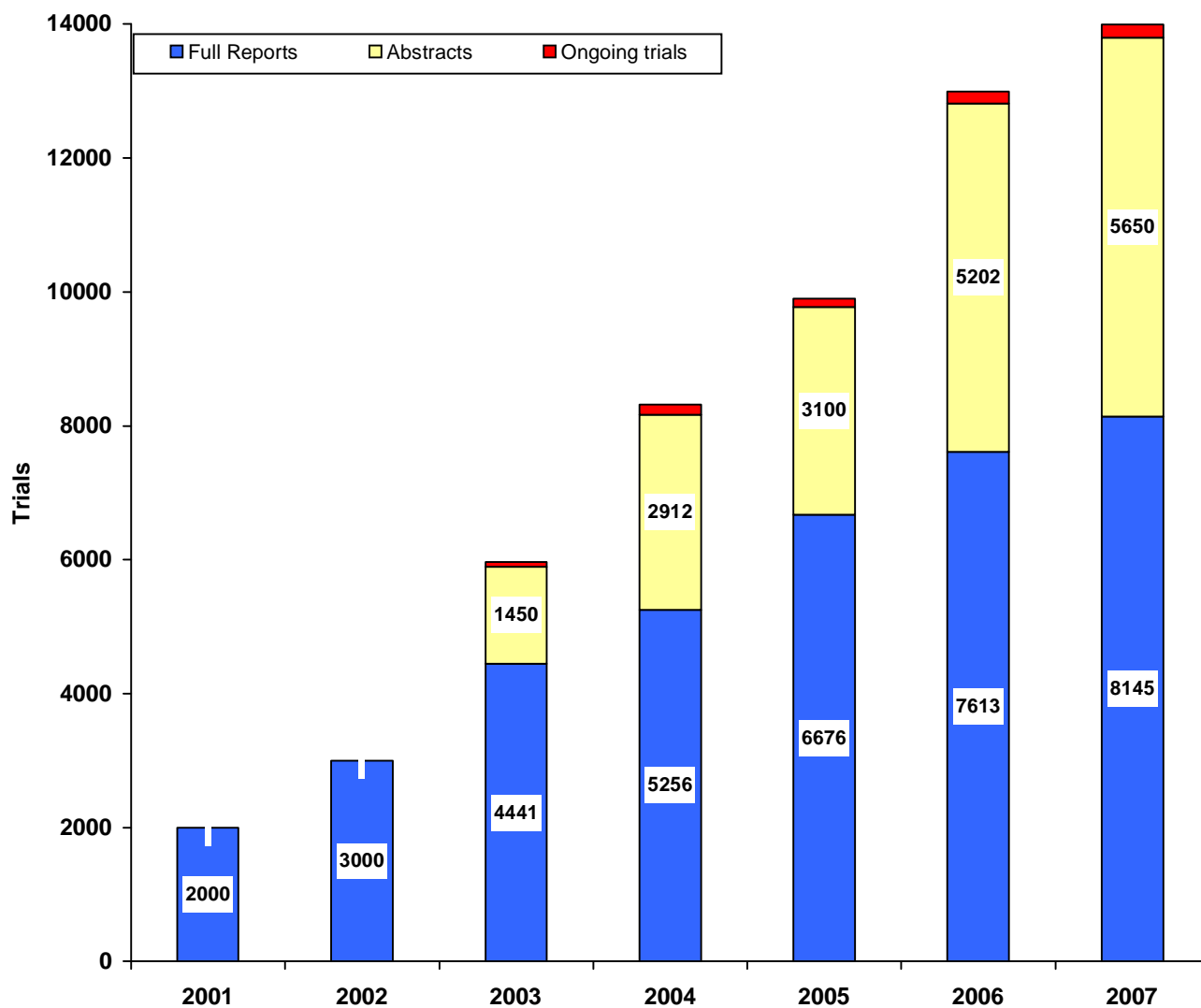
Once a completed registration form is submitted, a unique registration number, e.g. CRG00001, is emailed to the registrants. The unique ID is based on the month & year of registration followed by a sequential number.

Since June 2005, 130 studies have been registered covering areas such as acute kidney injury, diabetic kidney disease, haemodialysis, transplantation, nephrotic syndrome and peritoneal dialysis.



Specialist trials register

We currently have 13,996 reports of randomised controlled trials (RCTs) and 9949 studies on our register; approximately one third of these reports are held as full-text hard copy. Handsearching of the proceedings of the major renal conferences (American Society of Nephrology, European Renal Association, European Dialysis and Transplantation Association) has identified 5650 reports of abstracts of RCTs, which have now been included in our register. This represents 40% of our register.



Diagnostic test register

In 2006 we successfully submitted a proposal to the Cochrane Collaboration Steering Group for two-year funding to develop a Cochrane-wide study-based register of reports of diagnostic test accuracy. This exciting initiative will ultimately lead to better support for authors and review groups doing Cochrane systematic reviews of diagnostic test accuracy, by providing a clean and comprehensive register of potential studies for their reviews

Searching for diagnostic test accuracy studies is more difficult and time consuming than for reports of randomised controlled trials. This is due both to poor reporting by the authors of these studies, and inconsistent indexing in Medline and other databases, making it difficult to develop search strategies that are both sensitive and specific i.e. that will retrieve all relevant studies without too many irrelevant records. This adds an extra burden of time for systematic review authors, who often have to screen thousands of records to find a few relevant to their reviews.

Our objectives for the next two years include:

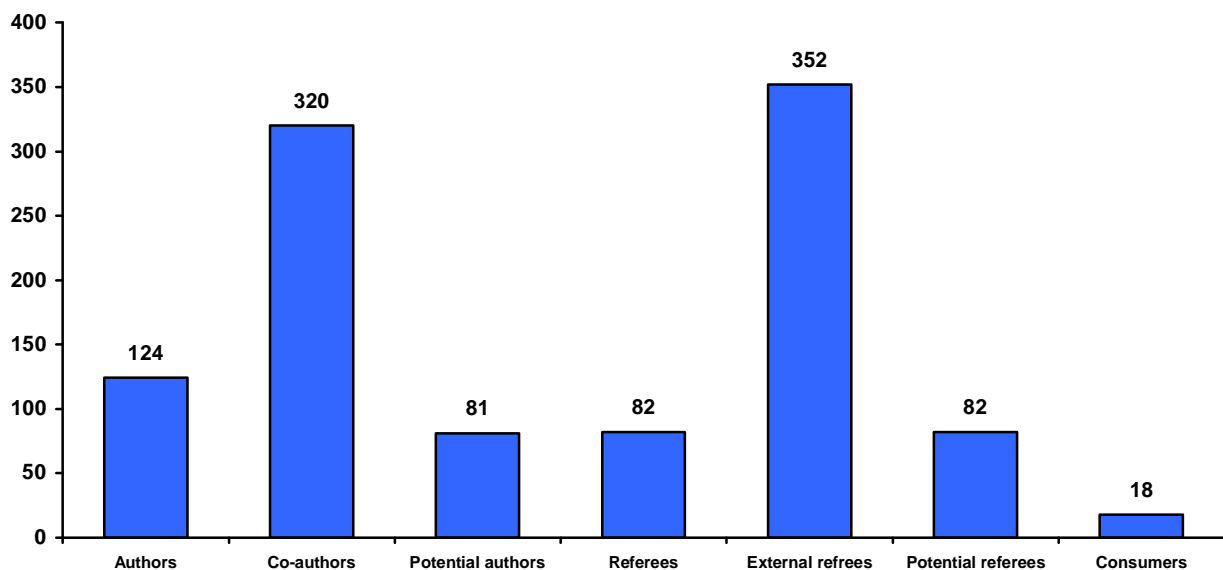
- setting up a database to house the register
- developing and implementing search strategies and protocols for retrieving relevant studies from Medline
- developing coding to enable accurate retrieval of studies from the register
- developing and implementing a training package for trials search coordinators in how to search for these studies on Medline and screen search results.
- providing support in search strategy development for the authors and trials search coordinators of pilot reviews
- providing a mechanism for re-tagging studies with a searchable field name in Medline e.g. diagnostic accuracy.pt.

We would like to acknowledge the Screening and Test Evaluation Programme (STEP), School of Public Health, University of Sydney, for supporting the development of the register proposal.

Group involvement

At the end of December 2007 the Cochrane Renal Group has a mailing list of 1,415. A large number of these are happy to just receive our newsletter and be kept up to date with the Group and the Cochrane Collaboration's activities. Also included are:

- **124** primary authors
- **320** co-authors
- **81** members who would like to undertake a review in the future
- **82** internal referees
- **352** external referees
- **82** possible referees
- **18** consumers who assist us in refereeing our protocols and reviews



Dissemination

Website

Our website is located at www.cochrane-renal.org. On the site you can find:

- All our reviews, protocols and registered titles (with links to the full-text or abstract)
- Recently published studies for 2007 and ongoing trials, (with links to PubMed abstracts or other full-text links)
- Resources for authors and referees on writing a review
- A Prospective Trial Register for kidney disease
- Our current and past newsletters
- List of potential review titles requiring authors, online membership form, workshop details, and a selection of information brochures.

The most frequently visited pages were:

1. Prospective Trials Registration form
2. Ongoing trials
3. Renal Health Library
4. CRG topic list
5. Potential reviews
6. Reviews (lists all reviews)
7. CRG Newsletters

Newsletters

Our newsletter is produced twice a year, in April and October. Our newsletters contain:

- Renal Group and Collaboration news
- A list of recent and ongoing trials,
- Upcoming international nephrology meetings
- Abstracts and Consumer synopses of recently published Cochrane Renal Group Reviews
- List of titles needing reviewers
- Cochrane protocol and analysis workshop dates for around the world.

Cochrane 'Top Reviews' Report

The Cochrane Renal Group's review "Cranberries for preventing urinary tract infections" continues to be ranked in the top 50 reviews accessed worldwide (ranking of '5' in Canada and '8' in Sweden).

Reviewer support and training

Reviewer support

Our information and resource booklets are constantly being refined. We have now prepared protocol and review templates, which we hope will speed up the review process. Data extraction forms and tables are also being collected and we have prepared an electronic form based on Excel.

We have identified 184 potential titles from our trials register. This list is posted on our website, is included in our information booklets and is sent to those who are interested in undertaking a systematic review.

Training

In June and December 2007 CRG held training workshops in Sydney. Each training workshop was held over two days and focused on writing a protocol and an introduction to analysis. The first day focused on:

- developing the question for a review,
- defining the population, the interventions and outcomes,
- developing a search strategy, and
- quality assessment.

This workshop was a mixture of lectures, small group activities and a computer workshop on searching MEDLINE.

Day two was dedicated to:

- Binary and continuous data,
- statistical methods used in a review (relative risk, risk difference, odds ratio, weighted mean difference and standardised mean difference),
- using the Review Manager programme (RevMan), and
- heterogeneity.

As for day one, there was a mixture of lectures, small group activities and hands on computer time.

An additional training day in December was set aside for authors of existing reviews to use the new RevMan 5 software. This workshop demonstrated the new features, new review types and allowed authors to work through a tutorial so that they would be familiar with the software when it is rolled out early in 2008.

Advisory board

The Advisory Board met in March and October in 2007. The minutes of these meetings are available on request.

Members of the Advisory Board at December 2007 were:

- Prof Robert Atkins, Chair (Kidney Disease Prevention Unit, Monash Medical Centre)
- Prof Gavin Becker (Kidney Health Australia)
- Mr John Bernardinis (consumer representative)
- Prof Jonathan Craig (Cochrane Renal Group)
- Prof Sally Green (Australasian Cochrane Centre)
- Dr Elisabeth Hodson (Nephrology, The Children's Hospital at Westmead)
- Dr Tony Penna (The Children's Hospital at Westmead)
- Dr Matthew Roberts (ANZSN)
- Dr Angela Webster (Cochrane Renal Group)
- Ms Narelle Willis (Cochrane Renal Group)

During 2007 the following changes occurred:

- Prof Andrew Coats - replaced by Prof Bruce Robinson
- Prof George Rubin - resigned
- Prof Robert Atkins - accepted position of Chair
- Prof Gavin Becker - new member
- Mr John Bernardinis - new member
- Dr Matthew Roberts - new member
- Prof David Harris - resigned
- Prof Bruce Robinson - resigned
- Mr Jim Dellit - resigned
- Dr Angela Webster - new member

We thank retiring members for their contribution to the work of the Cochrane Renal Group over many years and welcome new members to the Advisory Board.

Funding

We are most grateful for the support from the following organisations;

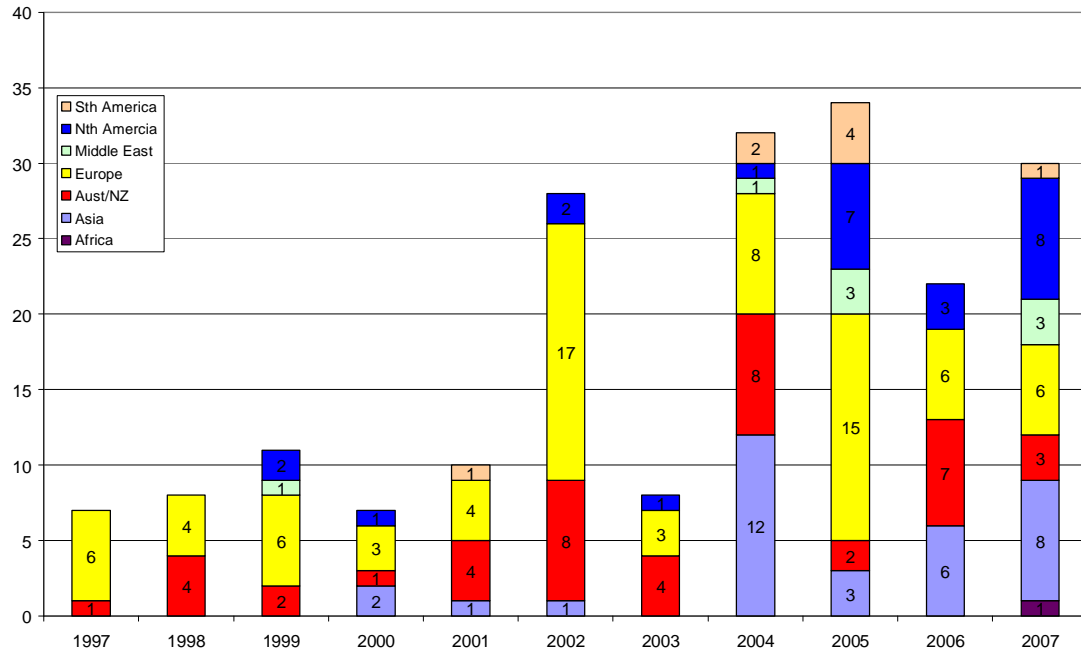
Major sponsors

- Australian Department of Health and Ageing
- The Cochrane Collaboration
- International Society of Nephrology
- Kidney Health Australia
- National Health & Medical Research Council of Australia, CCRE (Centre for Clinical Research Excellence in Renal Medicine)
- National Kidney Foundation (KDIGO)
- STEP (Screening and Test Evaluation Program), The University of Sydney
- The Children's Hospital at Westmead
- Centre for Kidney Research

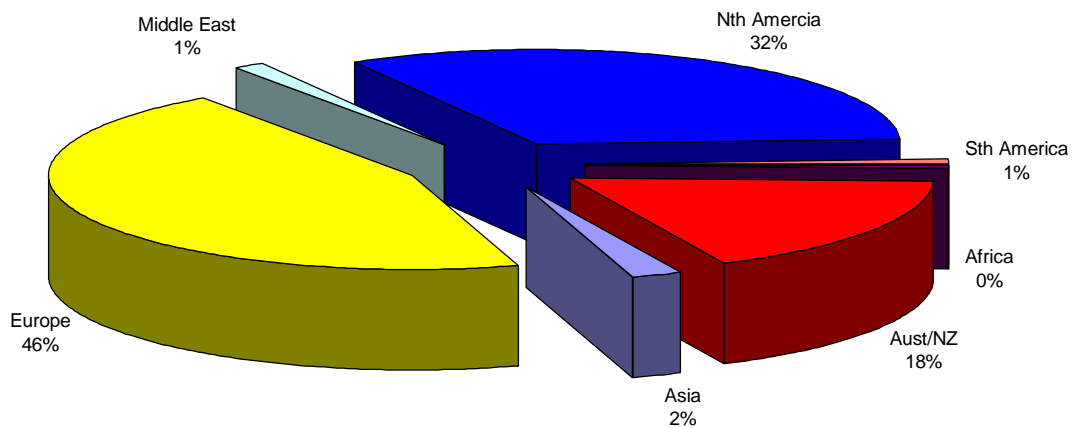
Endorsements

- Asia-Pacific Society of Nephrology
- Australian and New Zealand Society of Nephrology
- International Pediatric Nephrology Association
- National Kidney Foundation
- International Society of Nephrology

Titles registered from 1997 to 2007



Contact authors' country of residence



Africa – Nigeria

Asia – China, India, Philippines, Thailand

Europe – Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Poland, UK

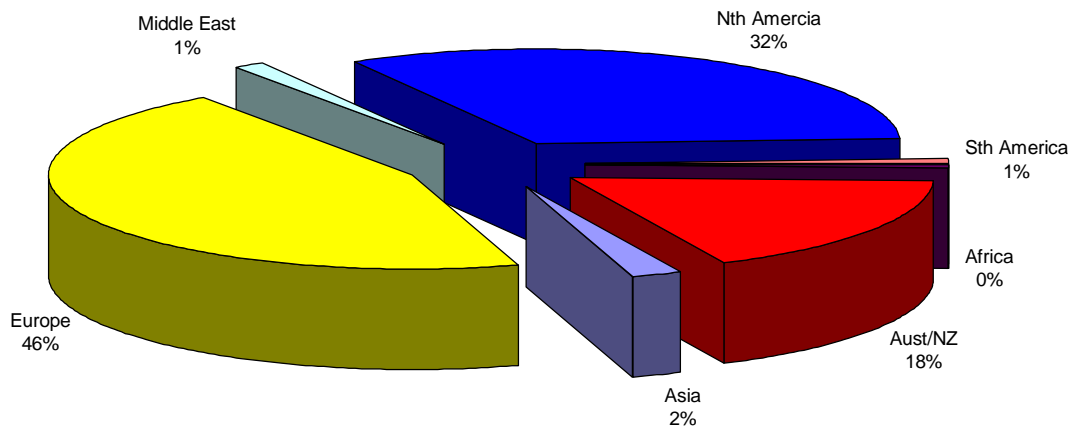
Middle East – Israel, Saudi Arabia

South America – Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru

Authors and co-authors

Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, UK, Ukraine, USA

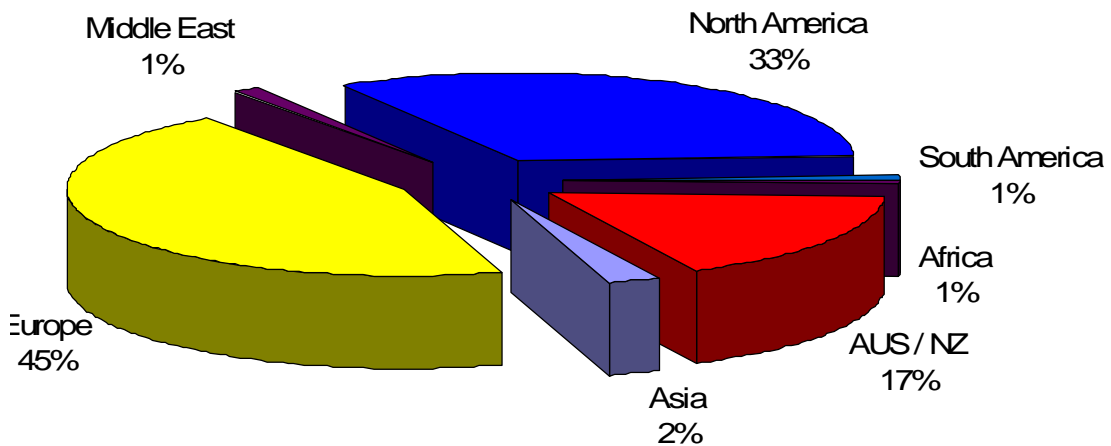
Number of authors and co-authors - 425



Referees

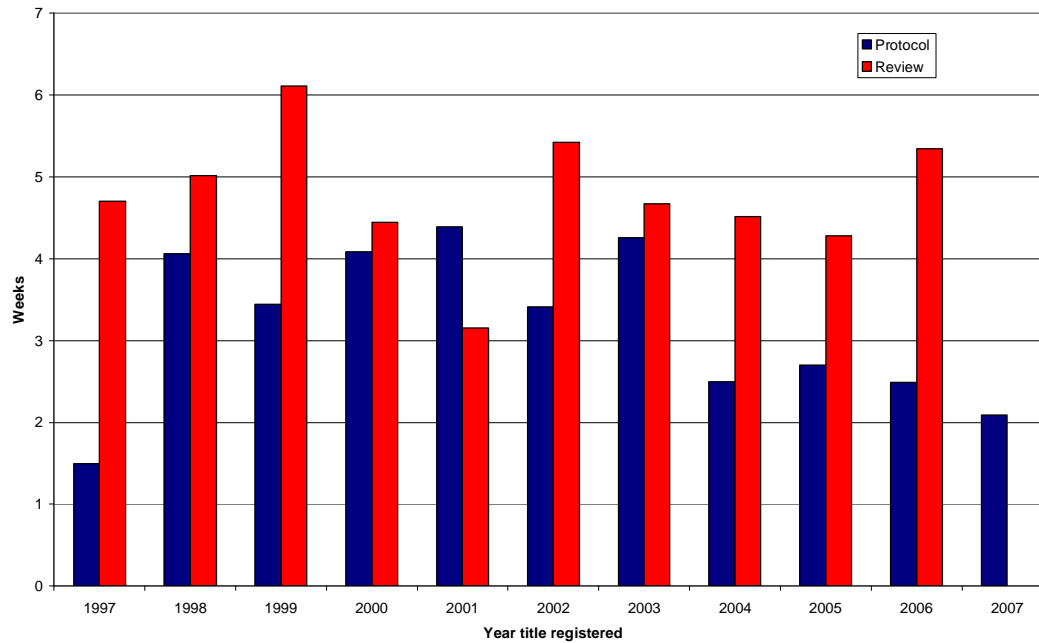
Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, India, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Russia, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Taiwan, UK, USA

Number of referees - 425



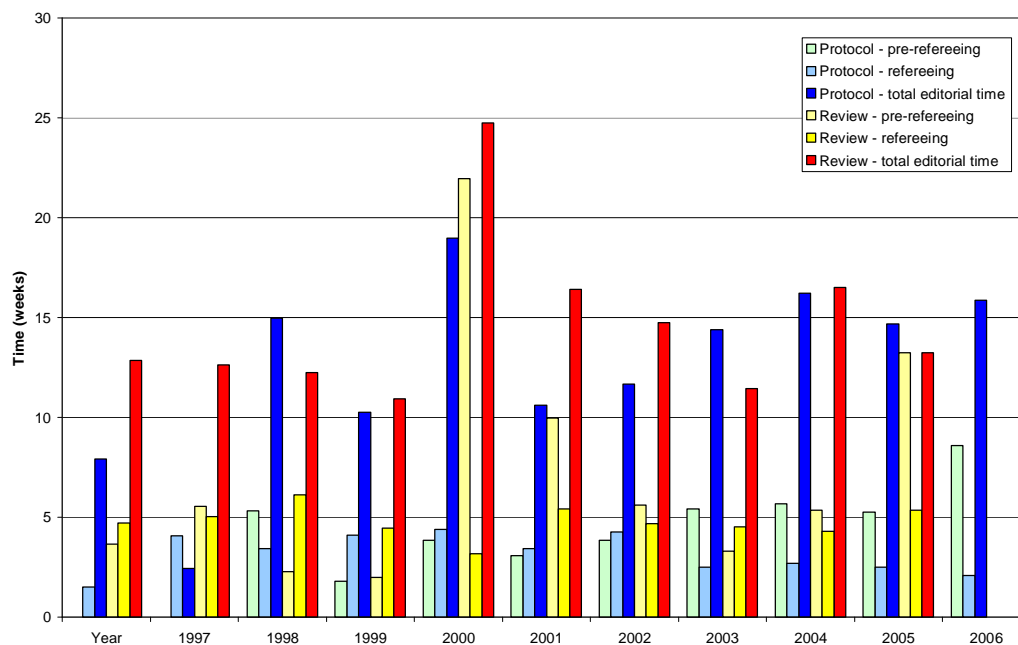
Time taken by referees

Mean time taken (weeks) to referee a protocol or review from sending documents to referee until comments received.



Complete editorial process

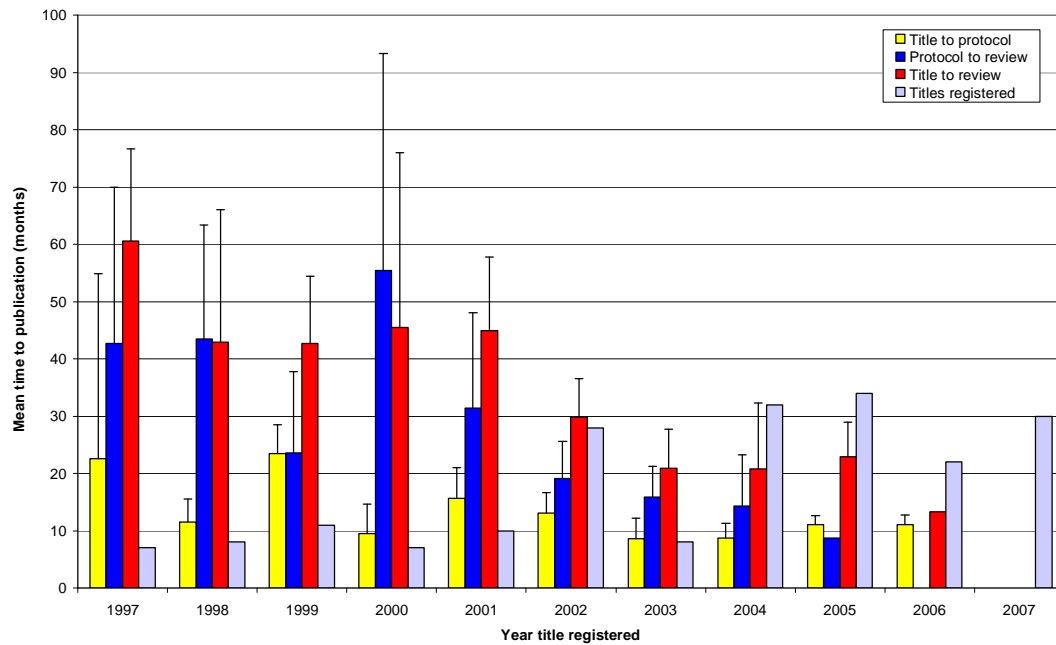
Mean time taken (weeks) from first submission of draft protocol or review to the editorial office, until comments are sent back to author.



Mean time to publication

Time (months, mean and 95%CI) taken from;

1. Title registration to protocol inclusion in *The Cochrane Library*
2. Time from protocol inclusion until review inclusion in *The Cochrane Library*
3. Time from title registration until review inclusion in *The Cochrane Library*



All Cochrane Review Group publications

Full protocols and reviews published in The Cochrane Library, Issue 4, 2007

