



THC Registers with the Cochrane Handsearching Program

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The Cochrane Collaboration is an international non-profit and independent organization, driven by a world-wide effort, and dedicated to ensuring the availability of up-to-date and accurate information about the effects of healthcare. It synthesizes and disseminates systematic reviews, of healthcare interventions, which have been assembled from a comprehensive search for evidence in the form of clinical trials and other studies.

Cochrane Reviews are systematic assessments of evidence of the effects of healthcare interventions intended to help people make informed decisions about healthcare, their own or someone else's. They are needed to help ensure that healthcare decisions throughout the world can be informed by high quality and timely research evidence. At present The Cochrane Library includes over 3197 full text completed systematic reviews and nearly 1744 protocols (reviews in progress) covering a wide range of healthcare interventions and specialties.

Cochrane Reviews synthesize results from randomized controlled trials (RCTs) of the highest methodological quality. The global handsearching program, one of the Collaboration's most important activities, serves as a major way of identifying reports of randomized controlled trials which may have otherwise not been found. The identified trials are then classified as either randomized (RCT) or quasi-randomized (CCT) according to Cochrane eligibility criteria.

The eligible trials are then posted in the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL), where they are readily accessible to the global research community.

Hundreds of journals have been or are being hand searched by members of The Cochrane Collaboration. An estimated 1,000 searchers are contributing to this effort, by searching for and cataloguing trials.

With the more recent upsurge of interest in the work of the Cochrane Collaboration in Iran it is most probably time for those colleagues with similar interests to meet formally and to seek closer working relationships to increase their cooperation with the Cochrane Collaboration. Not only will this help authors to develop Cochrane systematic reviews which are relevant to the specific health problems in Iran, but it will also bring together existing research through the handsearching of our journals which will help guide the direction of future research.

The Journal of the Tehran University Heart Center has recently been registered on the Cochrane Collaborations Master list of journals being handsearched and arrangements are being made to ensure that each issue will be searched comprehensively and that any reports of randomized controlled trials that are identified are forwarded to the Bahrain Branch of the UK Cochrane Centre for forward transmission to CENTRAL. This work is currently being coordinated by Mona Nasser and Hamad Aljufairi.

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