The Cochrane Collaboration’s response to the aftermath of the tsunami

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The Cochrane Collaboration

- The world’s largest organisation dedicated to the production of up-to-date assessments of the effects of health care interventions.

- Preparation and periodic updating of systematic reviews of research studies assessing health care interventions.
The Cochrane Collaboration

- 12 Cochrane centres
- 51 Cochrane review groups
- 11 fields
- 11 method groups
- 2249 reviews and 1539 protocols
- 435786 studies in Cochrane Central Register of Controlled trials
The Cochrane Collaboration

- More than 12,000 people, in nearly 100 countries, are involved in this work.
- Nearly 2500 Cochrane reviews of the effects of different healthcare interventions have been produced and published in Cochrane Library in the last 10 years.
- Several of these are potentially relevant to the healthcare needs that arose after the tsunami.
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The Cochrane Library presents the work of the Cochrane Collaboration and others interested in assembling reliable information to guide healthcare decisions.

About the Cochrane Library
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- Is freely available to people in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand, Maldives, Malaysia, Myanmar (Burma), Bangladesh, Somalia, Kenya, Tanzania and the Seychelles until July 2005.

- www.thecochranelibrary.org
The Cochrane Collaboration’s response to the aftermath of the tsunami

☐ Cochrane Collaboration felt that it had a moral duty to do what it could help.

Professor Jim Neilson
Membership of the working party
(as of 25 April 2005)

Clive Adams (Cochrane Schizophrenia Group)
Gerd Antes (German Cochrane Centre)
Frank Archer (Cochrane Pre-hospital and Emergency Health Field)
Xavier Bonfill (Iberoamerican Cochrane Centre; Convener, Developing Countries Initiative)
Dave Booker (German Cochrane Centre)
Paul Chinnock (Cochrane Injuries Group)
Rachel Churchill (Cochrane Depression, Anxiety and Neurosis Group)
Mike Clarke (UK Cochrane Centre; convener)
Luis-Gabriel Cuervo (EMC Clinical Evidence)
Chris Dal Mar (Cochrane Acute Respiratory Infections Group)
Paul Garner (Cochrane Infectious Diseases Group)
Sally Green (Australasian Cochrane Centre, Steering Group contact person)
Metin Gulemozoglu (WHO and Reproductive Health Library)
David Henderson-Smart (SEA-ORCHID project)
Jini Hetherton (Cochrane Collaboration Secretariat)
Tom Jefferson (Cochrane Vaccines Field)
Monica Keijzers (Cochrane Information Management System)
Pisaka Lumbiganon (Convenor, Thai Cochrane Network)
Hakimi Mohammad (Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia)
Deborah Pentecost-Quilbert (John Wiley & Sons Ltd)
Elizabeth Pienaar (South African Cochrane Centre)
Kreertrirat Prayasuppong (Cochrane Infectious Diseases Group)
Nick Royle (Chief Executive Officer, The Cochrane Collaboration)
Prathap Thanavan (Co-ordinator, South Asian Cochrane Network)
Michelle Tubman (Cochrane Child Health Field)
Janali Udangapathirana (Cochrane HIV/AIDS Group and Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka)
Liz Waters (Cochrane Health Promotion and Public Health Field)
Phil Wiffen (UK Cochrane Centre and WHO Essential Drugs List)
Small group working party

- Frank Archer
- Mike Clarke
- Paul Garner
- Sally Green
- Prathap Thayan
- Pisake Lumbiganon
Evidence Aid

- Providing and highlighting evidence of relevance to agencies and people making decisions about health care.
- Bringing together reliable information on the effects of relevant healthcare interventions.
- Helps the survivors of the tsunami to receive the best care, and so recover as soon as possible.
Evidence Aid

- People in the affected countries compile a list of priority topics,
- relevant Cochrane reviews were identified and,
- special summaries are being prepared.
The Top Ten list of topics

- **Depression**
  - Combinations of pharmacotherapy and psychotherapy
  - Exercise therapy for prevention and treatment of depression and anxiety in children and adolescents
  - SSRIs for depression for children and adolescents
  - Antidepressants for depressed elderly

- **Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)**
  - Pharmacotherapy for PTSD
  - Eye movement desensitisation (EMDR) for PTSD

- **Suicide prevention**
  - Psychosocial interventions for preventing suicide in offender populations

- **Bereavement**
  - Interventions for supporting children through bereavement
  - Support or self-help groups for parents after the loss of a child
  - Psychological therapies for bereaved adults
Evidence Aid

- relates mainly to the effects of interventions assessed in Cochrane reviews,

- links to other sources e.g. Clinical Evidence are included if an up-to-date Cochrane review is not yet available.
Evidence Aid

- is a unique resource for
  - people making policy decisions about the types of health care to provide,
  - people who are planning, providing and receiving health care in circumstances such as those caused by the tsunami.
Evidence Aid

- should make it easier for those coping in the aftermath of a future disaster or other healthcare emergency to use interventions that will be of benefit and will save lives.
Evidence Aid

- aims to provide quick access to reliable information to show which interventions work, which don’t work, and which might be harmful.
Brief ‘debriefing’

- to reduce immediate psychological distress, as well as to prevent Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

- The review shows that this strategy is unlikely to be helpful and may even be harmful and cause an increase in PTSD.
Evidence Aid

- These concise summaries are being made available, free of charge, on the Internet through the Evidence Aid section on The Cochrane Collaboration’s website
- www.cochrane.org
Cochrane

The reliable source of evidence in healthcare

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What's new
The Cochrane Library, Issue 2, 2005 now online! (browse new reviews) (press releases)

[more news] . . .

The Cochrane Collaboration is an international not-for-profit organisation, providing up-to-date information about the effects of health care. (Learn more)

Information for newcomers

The Cochrane Library contains regularly updated evidence-based healthcare databases. (browse systematic reviews) Now available in a new interface at Wiley Interscience!

» Administrative resource page
» "Cochrane internal" (for staff & review authors)
» For the media
(what you need to write the story)

Special section: Response to the aftermath of the tsunami

Evidence Act: summaries of relevant evidence

The Cochrane Collaboration's response

How you might help

Come to the Cochrane Colloquium - Melbourne, Australia, 22 - 26 October
Evidence Aid: summaries relevant to disasters and healthcare emergencies

This website highlights evidence relevant to the effects of interventions. It has been designed to try to help people making decisions about health care in the aftermath of the tsunami. The topics have been identified as priorities by people in the region and relate to treatments that might be used or available. Where possible, a structured summary ('Evidence Update') or some other summary has been prepared, based on one or more Cochrane reviews. If such a summary is being prepared but is not yet ready, a link is given to the relevant Cochrane review in The Cochrane Library. This is freely available to people in the affected countries. If a suitable Cochrane review is not available, links are included to other sources of evidence if these have been identified. In particular, there are links to topics in the NICE’s Clinical Evidence. (The inclusion of links to material from outside The Cochrane Collaboration does not imply endorsement of that material by the Collaboration.) If you would like to comment or ask questions, please email reviews@cochrane.org.

Infectious diseases

Injuries and wounds

Rebuilding of communities and infrastructure

Mental health

Nutrition

Rehabilitation

Pregnancy and childbirth
Infectious diseases

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Cholera

Diarrhoea

Hepatitis

Leptospirosis

Malaria

Rehabilitation

Respiratory infections and influenza

Other infections
Diarrhoea

Evidence summaries for topics of high priority in health care in the affected regions.

Prevention of diarrhoea

Rotavirus vaccine for preventing diarrhoea (PDF document 0.40 MB)

Treatment of diarrhoea

Reduced osmolality oral rehydration solution for treating dehydration caused by acute diarrhoea in children (PDF document 0.20 MB)

Information on this topic is also available from Clinical Evidence; click here for information on acute diarrhoea in adults, gastroenteritis in children and amoebic dysentery.

If you would like to comment or ask questions about any of the information available from this page, please email reviews@cochrane.org.
The list of Evidence Updates or other summaries available in Evidence Aid

- Cholera
  - Reduced osmolarity oral rehydration solution (ORS) for cholera
  - Vaccines for cholera

- Diarrhoea
  - ORS reduced osmolarity for the treatment of diarrhoea
  - Rotavirus vaccine for preventing diarrhoea
The list of Evidence Updates or other summaries available in Evidence Aid

- Filariasis
  - Albendazole for lymphatic filariasis

- Injuries
  - Blood transfusion
    - Human albumin solution for resuscitation and volume expansion in critically ill patients

- Respiratory Infections
  - Antibiotics for acute bronchitis
The list of Evidence Updates or other summaries available in Evidence Aid

- **Malaria**

  - Amodiaquine for treating malaria
  - Drugs for preventing malaria-related illness in pregnant women and death in the newborn
  - High first dose quinine regimen for treating severe malaria
  - Impregnated mosquito nets to prevent malaria
  - Intramuscular arteether for treating severe malaria
  - Mannitol and other osmotic diuretics as adjuncts for treating cerebral malaria
  - Routine anticonvulsants for treating cerebral malaria
  - Steroids for treating cerebral malaria
The list of Evidence Updates or other summaries available in Evidence Aid

- Pregnancy and childbirth
  - Antibiotic prophylaxis for cesarean section
  - Continuous support for women during childbirth
  - Episiotomy for vaginal birth
  - Magnesium sulphate versus diazepam for eclampsia
  - Position for women during second stage of labour
  - Vacuum extraction versus forceps for assisted vaginal delivery
Many challenges remain

- An up to date systematic review is available only for a quarter of more than 200 relevant topics,

- not all reviews have conclusions that can guide practice now, due to the lack of relevant good quality research studies.
The BMJ, On 23 April 2005, Lynn Eaton wrote

- Evidence based research for coping emergencies goes online
The BMJ, On 23 April 2005, Lynn Eaton wrote

“People called in to help in health emergencies, such as the recent tsunami in Asia, will be able to get comprehensive up to date evidence based information, from a single source, on best treatments and approaches to handle such a crisis, thanks to the latest measures by The Cochrane Collaboration”.

Acknowledgement

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Prathap Thayan
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