

## Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews<sup>CC</sup>

<http://hsc.unm.edu/library>

Databases: Cochrane

- ✓ Worldwide consortium formed in 1993
- ✓ Full text of protocols and reviews prepared and maintained by review groups
- ✓ Synthesizes studies of a specific research question using randomized controlled trials (RCTs) as the principal focus of its reviews
- ✓ Highly structured; peer reviewed
- ✓ Published four times a year: January, April, July, October

### **Collaborative Review Groups (CRGs)**

Information about each group (members, scope, methods used in review, assessment, protocols, etc.) may be reviewed by clicking *BROWSE articles by ABOUT*.

### **SEARCHING**

**Browse** - click on the *By Topic* link for a subject list of reviews by the various groups (e.g. Cochrane Back Group; Gynaecological Cancer Group)

**Search for term or phrase** - Type term or phrase in the search box and *GO*

### **Cochrane Advanced Search**

Expands search capabilities by:

- Allowing for more than one search term at a time
- Searching in more than one field (e.g. author, title, abstract, keyword)
- Restrict by product
- Restrict by date
- Other options ( new, updated, commented, withdrawn)

### **Search for a Medical Subject Heading (MeSH) term:**

Click on the *MESH* search icon;

Type term you are looking for and click on *THESAURUS*;

Choose your specific term from the list generated.

Qualifiers: restrict your term by using a subheading (e.g. diagnosis, etiology, drug therapy)

\*Note – there is a lag time for entering MeSH terms into Cochrane. New reviews may not have MeSH terms

## Combine search statements using Boolean Operators

**AND** – breast AND fibrosis

**OR** – either cancer OR carcinoma OR neoplasm

**NOT** – one term NOT another \*\* be careful – you may eliminate something you don't mean to eliminate

**NEAR** – broadens retrieval to words within 6 words of each other e.g. “breast NEAR cancer” will pick up a phrase such as “...breast lumps indicate possible cancer.”

## Search History

- ✓ Click here to review your past search statements. You may either click the hyperlink to take you back to a previously run search or you may choose to combine search statements to create a new search.
- ✓ To create a new search, type the search statement numbers (#) in the Search box using Boolean operators ( e.g. #1 and #6)
- ✓ To erase your searches, click delete

## View documents:

25 titles are shown at a time

Sort by title, match, or year

To view an actual document, click the available blue hyperlink

## Print



- ✓ Click PDF link
- ✓ Click PDF printer icon – do not use file print or browser print icon

## Citation style

- Citing a review or protocol: "Authors. Title (Cochrane Review). In: The Cochrane Library, Issue #, Year. Chichester, UK: John Wiley & Sons, Ltd

Melchart D, Linde K, Fischer P, Kaesmayr J. Echinacea for preventing and treating the common cold (Cochrane Review). In: *The Cochrane Library*, Issue 2, 2004. Chichester, UK: John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.

## Other tips:

- ✓  indicates Cochrane Systematic Review
- ✓  indicates Protocol (in process; not yet finalized as a systematic review)
- ✓ Use **CTRL F** to find words within the document.
- ✓ Asterisks (\*) are wildcards (neoplas\* matches neoplasia, neoplasm, neoplasms, neoplastic)
- ✓ Search for exact phrases by using quotation marks (“gene therapy”)