Evidence-informed health reporting

Webinar 1

Finding the evidence: Navigating the Cochrane Library

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Learning objectives

• From question to answer: How to make your question clear
• Simple rules for searching electronic databases
• Searching and navigating the Cochrane Library
• Cochrane and COVID-19 resources
What’s the story?

Currently there is no proven treatment to improve the outcome for hospitalised patients with COVID-19. South Africans with COVID-19 are being recruited by the South African National Blood Services for a clinical trial using blood plasma from recovered patients to treat COVID-19. The trial aims to explore whether this treatment could reduce deaths and shorten the hospital stay for patients.
Currently there is no proven treatment to improve the outcome for hospitalised patients with COVID-19. South Africans with COVID-19 are being recruited by the South African National Blood Services for a clinical trial using blood plasma from recovered patients to treat COVID-19. The trial aims to explore whether this treatment could reduce deaths and shorten the hospital stay for patients.
Creating an ‘answerable’ question

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In hospitalised people with COVID-19 what are the benefits and harms of using convalescent plasma to reduce deaths and shorten hospital stay?
Searching tips and tricks

Why clarify the question?
• Helps you locate information – saves time
• Allows you to conduct an effective and comprehensive search
• Able to replicate, verify and report your search (important for systematic reviews)

Starts with identifying key concepts
• Determine the PICO from your question
• Create search terms from the PICO
• Start with the 2-3 most important concepts
• Focus on terms most likely to be found in the title and abstract
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## Turning concepts into search terms

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Combining your search terms

• Search terms are combined using BOOLEAN operators
• The most commonly used are:
  – **OR**
    • Used to join synonyms or related words (within one concept)
    • Instructs the search tool to retrieve any record that contains either (or both) of the terms, thus broadening your search results
  – **AND**
    • Used to join words or phases when both (or all) the terms must appear in the search results
Boolean operators

COVID-19

CHLOROQUINE (CQ)
Boolean operators

COVID-19  OR  CQ

OR - to expand the search
AND - to narrow the search
## Turning concepts into search terms

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# Bringing it all together

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**AND**
Let’s go and look for the evidence

https://www.cochranelibrary.com/
Cochrane


Coronavirus (COVID-19) resources

https://www.cochrane.org/about-us
Relevant resources

- Media links: https://www.cochrane.org/media


- https://www.wiley.com/network/cochranelibrarytraining

World Health Organization

Wikipedia

Centre for Evidence Based Health Care
UNIVERSITEIT STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY
Cochrane Nutrition
READ-It Research, Evidence & Development Initiative
Cochrane South Africa
SAMRC
Thanks

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Cochrane South Africa www.southafrica.cochrane.org, South African Medical Research Council; the Centre for Evidence-based Health Care www.sun.ac.za/cebhc, Stellenbosch University, and Cochrane Nutrition collaborate to promote evidence-informed healthcare decision making within Africa. We see the media as a vital stakeholder in the dissemination of reliable research evidence and are therefore delighted to participate in this webinar series to build linkages as well as facilitate knowledge exchange.

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