



8th Congress of the European Society of Contraception
"A holistic approach to sexual health: is it needed, appropriate and possible"
23-26 June 2004
Edinburgh, Scotland, UK

Report from Meet the Expert session:
" How to develop a Cochrane review on fertility regulation "
Friday 25 June 2004, 13:00-14:00
Experts: Dr. Frans M. Helmerhorst & Prof.Dr. David Grimes (USA)

1. What is 'Cochrane'?

The Cochrane Collaboration is an international non-profit and independent organisation, dedicated to making up-to-date, accurate information about the effects of healthcare readily available worldwide. It produces and disseminates systematic reviews of healthcare interventions and promotes the search for evidence in the form of clinical trials and other studies of interventions. The Cochrane Collaboration was founded in 1993 and named for the British epidemiologist, Archie Cochrane. The major product of the Collaboration is the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews which is published quarterly as part of the Cochrane Library. (See Cochrane.org)

2. What do you mean with fertility regulation?

Contraception + abortion

3. Can you show me some titles of systematic reviews on fertility regulation?

See www.lumc.nl/1060/cochrane/abstracts.html and www.cochrane.no/titles/

4. Why a systematic review?

For effectiveness

- it is the highest level of evidence
- comparable with a large randomised controlled trial
lower levels: observational studies as cohort, case control studies or case series

5. What is the difference between a narrative and a systematic (Cochrane) review?

Table comparing narrative and systematic reviews across categories: scope, system studies, search, selection appraisal, analysis synthesis. Narrative is broad, authority, focused, haphazard, qualitative. Systematic is focused, structured, all available, transparent, reproducible, acc. strategy, critical, reproducible, meta-analysis, quantitative.

6. What can I do for making such a review?

Phases: Title, Protocol (Materials & Methods section of the review), Review

See lumc.nl/1060/cochrane/

INFORMATION FOR REVIEWER

F. Helmerhorst, D. Grimes - 9/8/2004