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## Common abbreviations

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### Commonly used abbreviations

This table lists some abbreviations commonly used in Cochrane Reviews. See also [Common abbreviations that do not need to be defined](#) and [Frequently used names](#).

Term	Abbreviation
absolute risk reduction	ARR
control group risk (avoid control event rate)	CGR
controlled clinical trial	CCT
confidence interval	CI
degrees of freedom	df
inverse variance or intravascular  Note: if both terms are abbreviated in a review, use lower case 'iv' for intravascular.	IV
Mantel-Haenszel	M-H
mean difference (avoid weighted mean difference)	MD
number needed to treat for an additional harmful outcome (avoid number needed to harm)	NNTH
number needed to treat for an additional beneficial outcome (avoid number needed to treat)	NNTB
odds ratio	OR
Peto odds ratio	Peto OR
randomized controlled trial	RCT
risk difference	RD
risk ratio (formerly called relative risk in Review Manager 4)	RR
standard deviation	SD
standard error	SE
standardized mean difference	SMD

### Common abbreviations that do not need to be defined

Also note that it is not necessary to define the full unit name of standard SI units (see [General guidance on SI units](#) in the section on [Units and systems of measurement](#)).

Term	Abbreviation
United States of America	USA
United Kingdom	UK
	DNA

Deoxyribonucleic acid	
Human immunodeficiency virus	HIV
Acquired immune deficiency syndrome	AIDS
Grading of Recommendations, Assessment, Development and Evaluation	GRADE
Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses	PRISMA
Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials	CONSORT
Medical Subject Headings	MeSH (not MESH or Mesh)

## Acronyms used within Cochrane

A list of acronyms used within Cochrane is available in the [Glossary of terms](#).

### e.g., etc., and i.e.

**e.g.:** an abbreviation for 'for example' (from the Latin '*exempli gratia*') that can be used in lists within the text, when examples are given in brackets, and in tables (for brevity). Use the form 'e.g.' with no following comma.

**etc.:** always write 'etc.' (followed by a full stop) in Cochrane Reviews. Use a comma before 'etc.' if it follows more than one item in a list. If 'etc.' is used at the end of a sentence, do not use two full-stops.

**i.e.:** an abbreviation for 'that is' (from the Latin '*id est*') that can be used for lists within the text, when information is given in brackets, and in tables (for brevity). Use the form 'i.e.' with no following comma.

Correct	Incorrect
e.g. (e.g. men, women, children)	e.g., eg, eg
i.e. (i.e. men, women, children)	i.e., ie, ie
etc. (Canada, USA, Germany, etc.)	etc e.t.c.

## Currency abbreviations

Currencies should be expressed using standard three-letter codes defined by [ISO-4217](#), but as with other abbreviations it is generally helpful to expand on first use.

Common codes include USD (US dollar), EUR (euro), and GBP (pounds sterling). Full list:  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ISO\\_4217#Active\\_codes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ISO_4217#Active_codes)

See also: [Units and systems of measurement: currencies](#)