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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 beneficial outcome (avoid number needed to treat)	NNTB
number needed to treat for an additional harmful outcome (avoid number needed to harm)	NNTH
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](#)).

Abbreviation	Term
AIDS	acquired immune deficiency syndrome
CONSORT	Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials

coronavirus disease 2019

COVID-19

DNA	deoxyribonucleic acid
GRADE	Grading of Recommendations, Assessment, Development and Evaluation
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
MeSH (not MESH or Mesh)	Medical Subject Headings
PRISMA	Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses
RNA	ribonucleic acid
UK	United Kingdom
USA	United States of America

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

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