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Trusted evidence. Informed decisions. Better health.

Cochrane is a global independent network of health practitioners, researchers, patient advocates and others, responding to the challenge of making the vast amounts of evidence generated through research useful for informing decisions about health (www.cochrane.org). Previously known as The Cochrane Collaboration, it is a not-for-profit organization where collaborators aim to produce credible, accessible health information that is free from commercial sponsorship and other conflicts of interest.

Cochrane's mission is to promote evidence-informed health decision-making by producing high quality, relevant, accessible systematic reviews and other synthesized research evidence. The work of Cochrane is underpinned by a set of 10 key principles, listed in Box 1.1.a.

Box 1.1.a: The 10 principles of Cochrane

1. Collaboration	by fostering global co-operation, teamwork, and open and transparent communication and decision-making.
2. Building on the enthusiasm of individuals	by involving, supporting and training people of different skills and backgrounds.
3. Avoiding duplication of effort	by good management, co-ordination and effective internal communications to maximize economy of effort.
4. Minimizing bias	through a variety of approaches such as scientific rigour, ensuring broad participation, and avoiding conflicts of interest.
5. Keeping up-to-date	by a commitment to ensure that Cochrane Systematic Reviews are maintained through identification and incorporation of new evidence.
6. Striving for relevance	by promoting the assessment of health questions using outcomes that matter to people making choices in health and health care.
7. Promoting access	by wide dissemination of our outputs, taking advantage of strategic alliances, and by promoting appropriate access models and delivery solutions to meet the needs of users worldwide.
8. Ensuring quality	by applying advances in methodology, developing systems for quality improvement, and being open and responsive to criticism.
9. Continuity	by ensuring that responsibility for reviews, editorial processes and key functions is maintained and renewed.
10. Enabling wide participation	in our work by reducing barriers to contributing and by encouraging diversity.