

Contents

<i>Contributors</i>	viii
<i>Foreword</i>	xiii
Introduction	
1 Rationale, potentials, and promise of systematic reviews MATTHIAS EGGER, GEORGE DAVEY SMITH, KEITH O'ROURKE	3
Part I: Systematic reviews of controlled trials	
2 Principles of and procedures for systematic reviews MATTHIAS EGGER, GEORGE DAVEY SMITH	23
3 Problems and limitations in conducting systematic reviews MATTHIAS EGGER, KAY DICKERSIN, GEORGE DAVEY SMITH	43
4 Identifying randomised trials CAROL LEFEBVRE, MICHAEL J CLARKE	69
5 Assessing the quality of randomised controlled trials PETER JÜNI, DOUGLAS G ALTMAN, MATTHIAS EGGER	87
6 Obtaining individual patient data from randomised controlled trials MICHAEL J CLARKE, LESLEY A STEWART	109
7 Assessing the quality of reports of systematic reviews: the QUOROM statement compared to other tools BEVERLEY SHEA, CATHERINE DUBÉ, DAVID MOHER	122
Part II: Investigating variability within and between studies	
8 Going beyond the grand mean: subgroup analysis in meta-analysis of randomised trials GEORGE DAVEY SMITH, MATTHIAS EGGER	143

CONTENTS

9	Why and how sources of heterogeneity should be investigated	157
	SIMON G THOMPSON	
10	Analysing the relationship between treatment benefit and underlying risk: precautions and recommendations	176
	STEPHEN J SHARP	
11	Investigating and dealing with publication and other biases	189
	JONATHAN A C STERNE, MATTHIAS EGGER, GEORGE DAVEY SMITH	
Part III: Systematic reviews of observational studies		
12	Systematic reviews of observational studies	211
	MATTHIAS EGGER, GEORGE DAVEY SMITH, MARTIN SCHNEIDER	
13	Systematic reviews of evaluations of prognostic variables	228
	DOUGLAS G ALTMAN	
14	Systematic reviews of evaluations of diagnostic and screening tests	248
	JONATHAN J DEEKS	
Part IV: Statistical methods and computer software		
15	Statistical methods for examining heterogeneity and combining results from several studies in meta-analysis	285
	JONATHAN J DEEKS, DOUGLAS G ALTMAN, MICHAEL J BRADBURN	
16	Effect measures for meta-analysis of trials with binary outcomes	313
	JONATHAN J DEEKS, DOUGLAS G ALTMAN	
17	Meta-analysis software	336
	JONATHAN A C STERNE, MATTHIAS EGGER, ALEXANDER J SUTTON	
18	Meta-analysis in Stata TM	347
	JONATHAN A C STERNE, MICHAEL J BRADBURN, MATTHIAS EGGER	
Part V: Using systematic reviews in practice		
19	Applying the results of systematic reviews at the bedside	373
	FINLAY A MCALISTER	
20	Numbers needed to treat derived from meta-analyses: pitfalls and cautions	386
	SHAH EBRAHIM	

21	Using systematic reviews in clinical guideline development MARTIN ECCLES, NICK FREEMANTLE, JAMES MASON	400
22	Using systematic reviews for evidence based policy making J A MUIR GRAY	410
23	Using systematic reviews for economic evaluation MIRANDA MUGFORD	419
24	Using systematic reviews and registers of ongoing trials for scientific and ethical trial design, monitoring, and reporting IAIN CHALMERS	429
Part VI: The Cochrane Collaboration		
25	The Cochrane Collaboration in the 20th century GERD ANTES, ANDREW D OXMAN FOR THE COCHRANE COLLABORATION	447
26	The Cochrane Collaboration in the 21st century: ten challenges and one reason why they must be met ANDREW D OXMAN	459
	<i>Index</i>	475