



THE COCHRANE ANAESTHESIA REVIEW GROUP

Annual Report 2006



CARG Editors, CARG Editors' meeting 2006
Copenhagen, Denmark
Photo by Karen Hovhannisyan



Rigshospitalet

Contents	Page
Preface	3
The Cochrane Anaesthesia Review Group (CARG)	4
CARG Editorial Office	4
CARG Editors	5
CARG Members	5
Publications in <i>The Cochrane Library</i> , 2006	5
Publishing agreement with Anesthesia and Analgesia (A&A)	7
Promotional Activities	7
The Book: Evidence-Based Anaesthesia and Intensive Care	7
Lectures, Conferences and Meetings	8
CARG Articles	8
Books	9
Cochrane Anaesthesia News	9
Website	9
Specialized Register (SR-ANAESTH)	10
Handsearching	10
Consumer representation	10
CARG's goals for 2007	10
Funders	11
Budget	11

Preface

2006 has been a successful and busy year for the Cochrane Anaesthesia Review Group (CARG). The group has published 11 new protocols and 7 new reviews. As described elsewhere in this Annual Report, we had a very fruitful editorial meeting in Copenhagen in August. This meeting was attended by almost all our editors and staff members. .

The CARG editorial offices moved in January 2007 to a new location in the Panum Institute at Copenhagen University. Our new offices are close to Rigshospitalet in Copenhagen. We are now based in the same building as our colleagues from the Nordic Cochrane Centre and the Copenhagen Trial Unit.

In 2006, CARG's book: "Evidence Based Anaesthesia", was published by Cambridge University Press. The book contains contributions from many CARG editors and other academics with an interest in the field of evidence based anaesthesia.

One of our editors (Dr Martin Tramer) left the group and a new statistical editor, (Dr Marialena Trivilla from Greece/UK) joined us. We would like to thank Martin for his contribution to the group and to welcome Marialena to a very useful position.

We would also like to take this opportunity to inform the editors and authors how important their work is for the group; no authors or editors: no CARG, it is as simple as that. CARG also thanks our main funder the Copenhagen Hospital Corporation and the other private foundations which have generously supported us in 2006.

We hope that everyone in CARG will continue in the future to keep up this high-standard of work.

We hope that not only CARG, but the whole idea of evidence-based medicine will continue to grow in the future years. The mission of the CARG is still to contribute to the best effective treatment and care of patients within the field of anaesthesia, intensive care and emergency medicine. We try to do this by keeping up to date of all published trials within these fields, systematizing those trials and then publishing systematic reviews of relevant interventions.

Do we need to do more than this? Although knowledge of evidence-based medicine is becoming more widespread, it is not enough to simply rely on the passive diffusion of knowledge from published science into clinical practice. It is important to actively discuss these matters with healthcare consumers, healthcare decision makers, politicians and other professionals. We could also undertake research into the barriers that prevent the implementation of new scientific results, to see how those barriers could be overcome.

Another task for CARG is to initiate research with in the field of evidence -based medicine. How reliable and useful are the results from systematic reviews; do we have enough information to recommend a specific treatment: how do we know when we have enough? To do this we plan to look for a PhD student, who can hopefully start a new tradition of research within the CARG.

Once more, we would like to thank everyone for their contribution to the work of CARG and welcome anyone who would like to contribute in the future.

Ann M. Møller and Tom Pedersen

**Co-ordinating Editors
Copenhagen, February 2007**



The Cochrane Anaesthesia Review Group (CARG)

CARG conducts systematic reviews of randomized controlled trials (RCTs) and other controlled Clinical Trials (CCTs) of interventions evaluating outcomes in:

- Anaesthesia
- Perioperative medicine
- Intensive care medicine
- Emergency medicine
- Prehospital medicine
- Resuscitation

The Group avoids duplication of work by collaborating closely with other Collaborative Review Groups, which have overlapping scopes, such as the Cochrane Pregnancy and Childbirth Group, the Cochrane Injuries Group and the Cochrane Pain, Palliative Care and Supportive Care Group. The Cochrane Anaesthesia Review Group is committed to collaborate on topics that are on the borderline between Groups, both in performing the reviews as well as in the editorial process. If a review potentially overlaps with another Cochrane Group, that Group is asked to contribute to the editorial process by providing a peer-reviewer.

CARG Editorial Office

The CARG Editorial Office is located in Panum Institute, Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Tom Pedersen, MD, DMSc
Co-ordinating Editor

Ann M Møller, MD, DMSc
Co-ordinating Editor

Jane Cracknell, RN, BA
Co-ordinator & Managing Editor

Karen Hovhannisyan, MD
Trials Search Co-ordinator

Anne Roelsgaard
Communication and fundraising co-ordinator

Nete Villebro RN, MI
Consumer co-ordinator

CARG Editors

- Jane Ballantyne, USA
- Michael Bennett, Australia
- John Carlisle, UK (Criticisms Editor)
- Peter Choi, Canada
- Martha Delgado, Colombia
- Harald Herkner, Austria
- Anna Lee, China
- Ann M. Møller, Denmark
- Nathan Pace, USA (Statistical Editor)
- Tom Pedersen, Denmark
- Nicola Petrucci, Italy
- Andrew Smith, UK
- Marialena Trivella, UK
- Mathew Zacharias, New Zealand



New editor joins CARG in August 2006

A new statistical editor, Marialena Trivella, joined CARG in August 2006. Marialena has a degree in Mathematics and an MSc in Medical Statistics and completed a DPhil in Medical Statistics (her DPhil was in systematic reviews and meta-analysis of prognostic cancer studies).

She will make a significant difference to our work-load.

CARG Members

The CARG has a broad membership of individuals, many of whom are active and contribute to the work of the CARG by performing systematic reviews, editing, peer refereeing, handsearching, translating or extracting data.

Publication in medical journals and in *The Cochrane Library*; the CARG website; the CARG newsletter, and intense recruitment at conferences have all contributed to the CARG's rapid growth.

Publications in *The Cochrane Library*, 2006

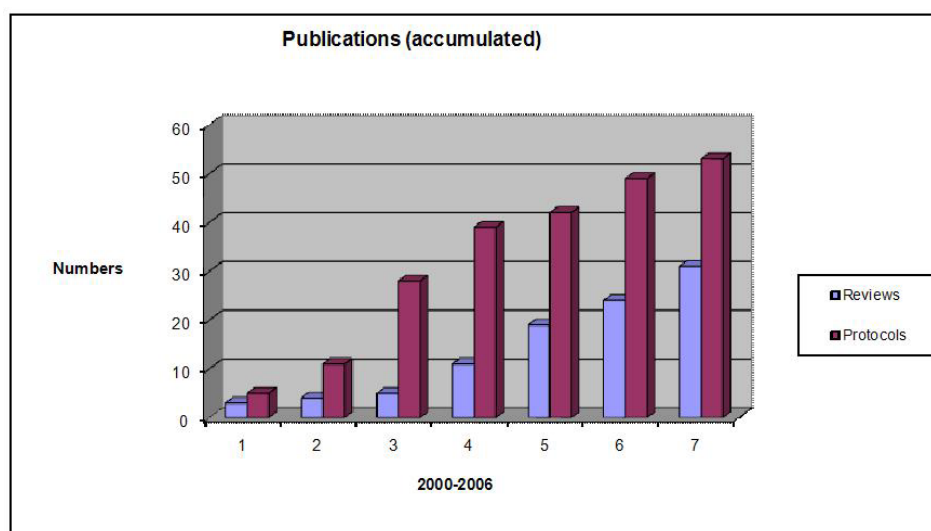
New reviews

1. Antibiotic prophylaxis for surgical introduction of intracranial ventricular shunts (Ratilal B, Costa J, Sampaio C)
2. Antifungal agents for preventing fungal infections in non-neutropenic critically ill patients (Playford EG, Webster AC, Sorrell TC, Craig JC)
3. Beta lactam antibiotic monotherapy versus beta lactam-aminoglycoside antibiotic combination therapy for sepsis (Paul M, Silbiger I, Grozinsky S, Soares-Weiser K, Leibovici L.)

4. Drugs for preventing postoperative nausea and vomiting (Carlisle JB, Stevenson CA)
5. Epidural pain relief versus systemic opioid-based pain relief for abdominal aortic surgery (Nishimori M, Ballantyne JC, Low JHS)
6. Pulmonary artery catheters for adult patients in intensive care (Harvey S, Young D, Brampton W, Cooper AB, Doig G, Sibbald W, Rowan K)
7. Single, double or multiple injection techniques for axillary brachial plexus block for hand, wrist or forearm surgery (Handoll HHG, Koscielniak-Nielsen ZJ)

New protocols

1. Laryngeal mask airway versus endotracheal tube in laparoscopic cholecystectomy in adults (Torres D, Baudoin Loayza J)
2. Cefepime versus other beta-lactam antibiotics for the treatment of infections in non-neutropenic patients (Yahav D, Sarid N, Paul M, Borok S, Fraser A, Leibovici L)
3. H1-antihistamines for the treatment of anaphylaxis with and without shock (Sheikh A, Brown SGA, Simons EFER, ten Broek VM)
4. Incentive spirometer for prevention of postoperative pulmonary complications in upper abdominal surgery (Guimarães MF, Atallah AN, El Dib RP9)
5. Pharmacologic prophylaxis for postoperative atrial arrhythmia in patients undergoing pulmonary and oesophageal surgery (Sedrakyan A, Sedrakyan G, Ganesh JS, Treasure T)
6. Pressure support versus T tube for weaning from mechanical ventilation in adults (Ladeira M, Burns K, Atallah A, Vital F, Andriolo R, Soares B)
7. Prophylactic hypertonic saline versus isotonic salt solutions for patients undergoing surgery (McAlister VC, Burns KE, Znajda TL)
8. Remifentanyl for analgesia and sedation of critically ill patients in intensive care units (Martinelli C, Davoli M, Rutili A, Vecchi S)
9. Sub-Tenon's anaesthesia versus topical anaesthesia for cataract surgery (Davison M, Padroni S, Bunce C, Rüschen H)
10. Supplemental oxygen for caesarean section during regional anaesthesia (Chatmogkolchart S, Lee BB, Uakridathikarn T)
11. Target-controlled infusion versus manually-controlled infusion of propofol for general anaesthesia or sedation in adults (Leslie K, Clavisi O, Hargrove J)

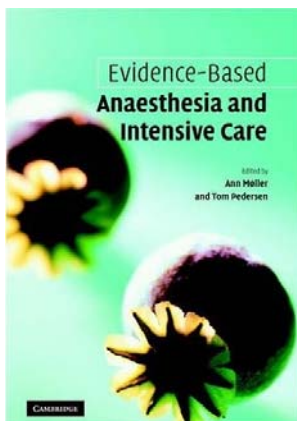


Publishing agreement with Anesthesia and Analgesia (A&A)

The Cochrane Anaesthesia Review Group has a publishing agreement with A&A. All newly published CARG reviews will be submitted to A&A. Authors are made aware that the editors' of A&A may either decide to publish their Cochrane abstract in a new Cochrane Corner or the full review. (All full reviews will need to be edited in accordance with A&A's style guidelines and will enter A&A's editorial process.)

Promotional Activities

The Book: Evidence-Based Anaesthesia and Intensive Care



The paperback "Evidence-based Anaesthesia and Intensive Care" (edited by Ann Møller and Tom Pedersen, project coordinator Jane Cracknell), was published by Cambridge University Press in October 2006. The book took two years to come to fruition and involved many of CARG's editors, peer referees and authors.

The book is a comprehensive volume on the theories and applications of evidence-based anaesthesia and critical care. The first half of the book provides an introduction to evidence-based medicine and applies the principles to anaesthesia and critical care, including critical appraisal, meta-analysis, interpreting results and controlling bias. The second half shows how to practice this in preoperative evaluation, regional and general anaesthesia, postoperative pain therapy, critical care and acute medicine. We hope that worldwide medical professionals working in anaesthesia and the surrounding specialties will find this book immensely useful.

The book was presented at the ASA congress in Chicago in October 2006.



From right to left: Ann Møller, Jane Cracknell, Tom Pedersen
Photo by Karen Hovhannisyan

Lectures, Conferences and Meetings

We increased awareness and participation in CARG by representing CARG in the following ways:

Conferences and Meetings

- We attended the Cochrane Continental European Entities Meeting in Copenhagen, May 2006
- We launched the CARG book (Evidence-based Anaesthesia and Intensive Care) at the American Society of Anesthesiologists' meeting in Chicago, October 2006
- We attended the XIVth Cochrane Colloquium in Dublin, October 2006
- We held our 2nd Editorial Meeting in Copenhagen (August 2006). Ten editors were able to fly in from around the world to attend that very successful meeting. During the meeting we discussed amongst other things: the new Cochrane Management System; statistical quality in systematic reviews; how to define academic questions and create search strategies; bias risk and the effect of interventions; prioritizing academic questions in future titles and protocols; involving developing country authors and the role of the consumer in writing a systematic review.

CARG Articles

Pedersen T, Pedersen BD, Møller AM. Pulse Oximetry for perioperative monitoring. (Cochrane Review) In: The Cochrane Library, Issue 1, 2006.

Møller AM, Kjellberg J, Pedersen T. Sundhedsøkonomisk analyse af rygestop før operation. Ugeskr Læger. 2006; 168; 1026-30.

Pedersen T. Evidence-based anaesthesia and health economics. Best Practice & Clinical Anaesthesiology 2006; 20: 347-60.

Lauritsen J, Møller AM. Clinical relevance in anesthesia journals. Current opinion in Anaesthesiology 2006 19(2): 166-70.

Afshari A, Møller AM, Hangaard N. Comparison of prophylactic infusion of ephedrine and phenylephrine during Caesarian section under spinal anaesthesia Ugeskrift for læger 2006 168(14): 1428-31

Møller AM, Tønnesen H. Risk Reduction: Perioperative smoking intervention. Best Practice and Research Clinical Anaesthesiology, 2006 20(2): 237-48.

Tønnesen H, Møller AM. Den rygende og drikkende patient. Ugeskrift for Læger 2006 168(49): 4293-6.

Møller AM. Preoperative smoking intervention. Journal of Clinical Anesthesia 2006; 18(8): 561-2

Books

Evidence-based Anaesthesia, Cambridge University Press, 2006. Editors: Ann M Møller & Tom Pedersen.

Including the following chapters:

Chapter 1 *Introducing evidence-based medicine* (Ann Møller and Tom Pedersen);

Chapter 2 *How to define the questions* (Ann Møller);

Chapter 3 *Developing a search strategy, Locating studies & Electronic databases* (Tom Pedersen);

Chapter 6 *Outcomes* (Ann Møller);

Chapter 9 *The Cochrane Collaboration and the Cochrane Anaesthesia Review Group* (Tom Pedersen).

Cochrane Anaesthesia News

Cochrane Anaesthesia News, the CARG Newsletter, is published annually. It is printed and distributed to CARG members and other interested parties worldwide. It is also published on the CARG website. In 2002 The Danish Royal Library acknowledged CARG News as a publication and the newsletter was conferred an ISSN number:

ISSN: 1602-6349

Keytitle: Cochrane Anaesthesia News

Website

The CARG new web site was launched in February 2006. The template for the Web site was provided by the Cochrane Collaboration.

The website www.carg.cochrane.org contains information about:

- The CARG editors and CARG editorial office
- The CARG activities
- The scope of the CARG
- The topics addressed by the CARG
- The reviews, protocols and titles supported by the CARG
- The CARG membership
- Writing a systematic review (resources for Review Authors)
- Other information about the CARG, including Cochrane Anaesthesia News

- The Cochrane Collaboration and anaesthesia-related entities, through Web links as well as CARG publications
- Introduction to consumers and handsearchers

Specialized Register (SR-ANAESTH)

The CARG maintains a register of more than 26,543 RCTs and CCTs related to: anaesthesia, perioperative medicine, intensive care medicine, pre-hospital medicine, resuscitation and emergency medicine. The register is maintained on ProCite software, and searches for trials are executed quarterly. Trials included in the register are tagged SR-ANAESTH, and the tag term may be searched in the Cochrane Library. The register has now been submitted to CENTRAL. Access to the register is available to authors and other members of the CARG.

Handsearching

Members of the CARG are actively involved in handsearching anaesthesia journals in order to identify RCTs and CCTs for inclusion in systematic reviews, the Specialized Register, the Cochrane CENTRAL Register of Controlled Trials and The National Library of Medicine, CARG's HS-ANAESTH results have been submitted to NECC@P Central.

We currently have three active handsearchers. We are looking for new handsearchers to help us increase our handsearch activities.

Consumer representation

The consumer team has been actively involved in commenting on CARG protocols and reviews. The goal of the consumer involvement is to clarify the results of the review in lay text.

CARG's goals for 2007

- To further disseminate knowledge of evidence-based medicine with other organizations and individuals.
- To develop new visions for the next 5 years of CARG
- To offer authors individual training in writing systematic reviews.
- To offer a mentoring system for new editors.
- To develop a list of Anaesthesia, Emergency Medicine and Intensive Care titles to offer potential authors.
- To publish a further 6 reviews and 10 protocols.
- To continue to improve the editorial process.
- To improve the involvement of developing countries.
- To continue our co-operation with *Anesthesia and Analgesia*.
- To recruit and involve more handsearchers in CARG handsearching activities.
- To update all the CARG reviews.
- To begin a PhD project.

- To publish a status article.
- To develop a policy for the CARG editorial board.

Funders

- Copenhagen Hospital Corporation (H: S)
- Jakob Madsens Foundation
- Danielsen Foundation
- Sofus Emil Friis Foundation
- King Christian the X Foundation

Budget

Budget (in Danish Kroner)	Funds
Income H: S	977.000-
Private Funds	192.000-
Total	1.169.000-
Expenditures:	850.367-
Salaries and consultants	10.377-
Travel, meetings, promotion	338.838-
IT/Software, Literature	1.670-
Total Expenditures	1.201.252-
Balance	-32.252-