

The Cochrane Collaboration's response to the aftermath of the tsunami

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The Cochrane Collaboration

- The world's largest organisation dedicated to the production of up-to-date assessments of the effects of health care interventions.
- Preparation and periodic updating of systematic reviews of research studies assessing health care interventions.



The Cochrane Collaboration

- 12 Cochrane centres
- 51 Cochrane review groups
- 11 fields
- 11 method groups
- 2249 reviews and 1539 protocols
- 435786 studies in Cochrane Central Register of Controlled trials

The Cochrane Collaboration

- More than 12,000 people, in nearly 100 countries, are involved in this work.
- Nearly 2500 **Cochrane reviews** of the effects of different healthcare interventions have been produced and published in **Cochrane Library** in the last 10 years.
- Several of these are potentially relevant to the healthcare needs that arose after the tsunami.



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the cochrane library

the best single source of reliable evidence about the effects of health care

The Cochrane Library presents the work of the Cochrane Collaboration and others interested in assembling reliable information to guide health-care decisions.



The Cochrane Library

- Is freely available to people in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand, Maldives, Malaysia, Myanmar (Burma), Bangladesh, Somalia, Kenya, Tanzania and the Seychelles until July 2005.
- www.thecochranelibrary.org

The Cochrane Collaboration's response to the aftermath of the tsunami

- Cochrane Collaboration felt that it had a moral duty to do what it could help.

Professor Jim Neilson

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Membership of the working party (as of 25 April 2005)

Clive Adams (Cochrane Schizophrenia Group)
Gerd Antes (German Cochrane Centre)
Frank Archer (Cochrane Pre-hospital and Emergency Health Field)
Xavier Bonfill (Iberoamerican Cochrane Centre; Convenor, Developing Countries Initiative)
Dave Booker (German Cochrane Centre)
Paul Chinnock (Cochrane Injuries Group)
Rachel Churchill (Cochrane Depression, Anxiety and Neurosis Group)
Mike Clarke (UK Cochrane Centre, convenor)
Luis-Gabriel Cuervo (BMJ Clinical Evidence)
Chris Del Mar (Cochrane Acute Respiratory Infections Group)
Paul Garner (Cochrane Infectious Diseases Group)
Sally Green (Australasian Cochrane Centre, Steering Group contact person)
Metin Gülmezoglu (WHO and Reproductive Health Library)
David Henderson-Smart (SEA-ORCHID project)
Jini Hetherington (Cochrane Collaboration Secretariat)
Tom Jefferson (Cochrane Vaccines Field)
Monica Kjeldstrøm (Cochrane Information Management System)
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Elizabeth Pienaar (South African Cochrane Centre)
Kreingkrai Piriyaupong (Cochrane Infectious Diseases Group)
Nick Royle (Chief Executive Officer, The Cochrane Collaboration)
Prathap Tharyan (Co-ordinator, South Asian Cochrane Network)
Michelle Tubman (Cochrane Child Health Field)
Janaki Vidanapathirana (Cochrane HIV-AIDS Group and Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka)
Liz Waters (Cochrane Health Promotion and Public Health Field)
Phil Wiffen (UK Cochrane Centre and WHO Essential Drugs List)

[top of page](#) | [home](#) | [contact us](#) | [Cochrane Reviews](#) | [news & events](#)

Small group working party

- Frank Archer
- Mike Clarke
- Paul Garner
- Sally Green
- Prathap Thayan
- Pisake Lumbiganon

Evidence Aid

- ❑ Providing and highlighting evidence of relevance to agencies and people making decisions about health care
- ❑ Bringing together reliable information on the effects of relevant healthcare interventions.
- ❑ Helps the survivors of the tsunami to receive the best care, and so recover as soon as possible.

Evidence Aid

- ❑ People in the affected countries compile a list of priority topics,
- ❑ relevant Cochrane reviews were identified and,
- ❑ special **summaries** are being prepared.

The Top Ten list of topics

- **Depression**
 - + Combinations of pharmacotherapy and psychotherapy
 - + Exercise therapy for prevention and treatment of depression and anxiety in children and adolescents
 - + SSRIs for depression for children and adolescents
 - + Antidepressants for depressed elderly

- **Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)**
 - + Pharmacotherapy for PTSD
 - + Eye movement desensitisation (EMDR) for PTSD

- **Suicide prevention**
 - + Psychosocial interventions for preventing suicide in offender populations

- **Bereavement**
 - + Interventions for supporting children through bereavement
 - + Support or self-help groups for parents after the loss of a child
 - + Psychological therapies for bereaved adults

Evidence Aid

- relates mainly to the effects of interventions assessed in Cochrane reviews,
- links to other sources e.g. **Clinical Evidence** are included if an up-to-date Cochrane review is not yet available.

Evidence Aid

- is a unique resource for
 - people making policy decisions about the types of health care to provide,
 - people who are planning, providing and receiving health care in circumstances such as those caused by the tsunami.

Evidence Aid

- should make it easier for those coping in the aftermath of a future disaster or other healthcare emergency to use interventions that will be of benefit and will save lives.

Evidence Aid

- aims to provide quick access to reliable information to show which interventions work, which don't work, and which might be **harmful**.

Brief 'debriefing'

- to reduce immediate psychological distress, as well as to prevent Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- The review shows that this strategy is unlikely to be helpful and may even be harmful and cause an *increase* in PTSD.

Evidence Aid

- These concise **summaries** are being made available, free of charge, on the Internet through the Evidence Aid section on The Cochrane Collaboration's website
- **www.cochrane.org**

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Special section: Response to the aftermath of the tsunami

*Evidence Aid: summaries of
relevant evidence*

*The Cochrane Collaboration's
response*

How you might help

The Cochrane Collaboration is an international not-for-profit organisation, providing up-to-date information about the effects of health care. [\[learn more\]](#)

Information for *newcomers*

The Cochrane Library contains regularly updated evidence-based healthcare databases. [\[browse systematic reviews\]](#) Now available in a [new interface](#) at Wiley InterScience!

- [Administrative resource page](#)
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(what you need to write the story)



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- » [News & events](#)
- » [Training](#)
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- » [Consumers](#)

- [Media pages](#)
- [Internal](#)

[cochrane collaboration](#) > [tsunami response](#)

Evidence Aid: summaries relevant to disasters and healthcare emergencies

This website highlights evidence relevant to the effects of interventions. It has been designed to try to help people making decisions about health care in the aftermath of the tsunami. The topics have been identified as priorities by people in the region and relate to treatments that might be used or available. Where possible, a structured summary ('Evidence Update') or some other summary has been prepared, based on one or more Cochrane reviews. If such a summary is being prepared but is not yet ready, a link is given to the relevant Cochrane review in [The Cochrane Library](#). This is freely available to people in the affected countries. If a suitable Cochrane review is not available, links are included to other sources of evidence if these have been identified. In particular, there are links to topics in the BMJ's [Clinical Evidence](#). (The inclusion of links to material from outside The Cochrane Collaboration does not imply endorsement of that material by the Collaboration.) If you would like to comment or ask questions, please email reviews@cochrane.org.

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Infectious diseases

This website has been designed to try to help people making decisions about health care in the aftermath of the tsunami. The topics have been identified as priorities by people in the region and relate to treatments that might be used or available. Where possible, a summary has been prepared, based on one or more Cochrane reviews. If such a summary is not yet ready, links are included to other sources of evidence, if these have been identified. If you would like to comment or ask questions, please email reviews@cochrane.org.

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events](#)[» Training](#)[» Admin.](#)[resources](#)[» Consumers](#)[Media
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Diarrhoea

Evidence summaries for topics of high priority in health care in the affected regions.

Prevention of diarrhoea

[Rotavirus vaccine for preventing diarrhoea](#) (PDF document 0.40 MB)

Treatment of diarrhoea

[Reduced osmolarity oral rehydration solution for treating dehydration caused by acute diarrhoea in children](#) (PDF document 0.20 MB)

Information on this topic is also available from [Clinical Evidence](#); click here for information on [acute diarrhoea in adults](#), [gastroenteritis in children](#) and [amoebic dysentery](#).

If you would like to comment or ask questions about any of the information available from this page, please email reviews@cochrane.org.

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The list of Evidence Updates or other summaries available in Evidence Aid

Cholera

Reduced osmolarity oral rehydration solution (ORS) for cholera

Vaccines for cholera

Diarrhoea

ORS reduced osmolarity for the treatment of diarrhoea

Rotavirus vaccine for preventing diarrhoea

The list of Evidence Updates or other summaries available in Evidence Aid

□ Filariasis

Albendazole for lymphatic filariasis

□ Injuries

Blood transfusion

Human albumin solution for resuscitation and volume expansion in critically ill patients

□ Respiratory Infections

Antibiotics for acute bronchitis

The list of Evidence Updates or other summaries available in Evidence Aid

□ Malaria

Amodiaquine for treating malaria

Drugs for preventing malaria-related illness in pregnant women and death in the newborn

High first dose quinine regimen for treating severe malaria
Impregnated mosquito nets to prevent malaria

Intramuscular arteether for treating severe malaria

Mannitol and other osmotic diuretics as adjuncts for treating cerebral malaria

Routine anticonvulsants for treating cerebral malaria
Steroids for treating cerebral malaria

The list of Evidence Updates or other summaries available in Evidence Aid

□ Pregnancy and childbirth

Antibiotic prophylaxis for cesarean section

Continuous support for women during childbirth

Episiotomy for vaginal birth

Magnesium sulphate versus diazepam for eclampsia

Position for women during second stage of labour

Vacuum extraction versus forceps for assisted vaginal delivery

Many challenges remain

- An up to date systematic review is available only for a quarter of more than 200 relevant topics,
- not all reviews have conclusions that can guide practice now, due to the lack of relevant good quality research studies.

The BMJ, On 23 April 2005, Lynn Eaton wrote

- Evidence based research for coping emergencies goes online

The BMJ, On 23 April 2005, Lynn Eaton wrote

- “People called in to help in health emergencies, such as the recent tsunami in Asia, will be able to get comprehensive up to date evidence based information, from a single source, on best treatments and approaches to handle such a crisis, thanks to the latest measures by The Cochrane Collaboration”.

Acknowledgement

- Mike Clarke
- Sally Green
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- Sir Iain Chalmers