



EPIDEMIOLOGY

COCHRANE SKIN AND COUSIN: LINKING CORE OUTCOMES AND SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS

Jochen Schmitt⁽¹⁾ - Jan Kottner⁽²⁾ - Robert J Boyle⁽³⁾ - Laura Prescott⁽³⁾ - Helen Scott⁽³⁾ - Emma Axon⁽³⁾ - Laurence Le Cleach⁽⁴⁾ - Gloria Sanclemente⁽⁵⁾ - Robert P Dellavalle⁽⁶⁾ - Hywel Williams⁽⁷⁾

Technischen Universität (tu) Dresden, Center For Evidence-based Healthcare, Dresden, Germany⁽¹⁾ - Charité-universitätsmedizin Berlin, Department Of Dermatology And Allergy, Berlin, Germany⁽²⁾ - Cochrane Skin, University Of Nottingham, Centre Of Evidence Based Dermatology, Nottingham, United Kingdom⁽³⁾ - French Satellite Cochrane Skin & Hôpital Henri Mondor, Department Of Dermatology, Créteil, France⁽⁴⁾ - Spanish-speaking Satellite Cochrane Skin & Universidad De Antioquia, Grupo De Investigación Dermatológica (grid), Medellín, Colombia⁽⁵⁾ - Cochrane Skin & University Of Colorado, School Of Medicine, Denver, Colorado, United States⁽⁶⁾ - University Of Nottingham, Centre Of Evidence Based Dermatology, Nottingham, United Kingdom⁽⁷⁾

Background: In 2014, a collaboration was set up between the Center for Evidence-based Healthcare in Dresden and Cochrane Skin to form the Cochrane Skin Core Outcome Set Initiative (CS-COUSIN). CS-COUSIN will develop and implement core outcome sets (COS) in dermatology to improve and standardize outcome measurement in clinical trials to make trial evidence more useful.

Observations: Very often, predefined outcomes in skin reviews are not reported in a single included study. Furthermore, very few Cochrane Skin reviews include a meta-analysis, and when this is possible, it is usually only for a few trials. COS will improve this situation by helping to aid comparability in systematic reviews.

Cochrane Skin signposts review author teams to relevant CS-COUSIN core outcomes project groups to ensure any known COS are incorporated into Cochrane Reviews. It is important that authors are aware of COS at the start of the review journey.

CS-COUSIN has published a guidance document for developing a COS. The domain development process is as follows: complete a CSG-COUSIN proposal form, publish the protocol, produce a list of core outcome domains then outcome measurement instruments, and then select one instrument per domain using formal consensus methods. Selecting domains may be easier than selecting instruments. Currently there are groups on outcome sets in 15 different disease areas in CS-COUSIN.





Key Messages: Most reviews don't assess the most frequently reported effectiveness outcomes. Are clinical trialists choosing the wrong outcomes or are systematic reviewers?

The research group plan to develop processes and documents, and provide methods advice to COS groups which other Cochrane Groups might wish to use. CS-COUSIN also aspires to develop standards for instrument development, advance patient involvement methods, and keep abreast of methodological advances in COS.

There's a need to expand outside of Cochrane and focus on dissemination to ensure implementation.

