



EPIDEMIOLOGY

COCHRANE SKIN: IMPACT STORIES

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Background: The value of a Cochrane review can be seen in the way it impacts health care. Here we present three case studies outlining some of the many ways impact can be achieved.

Observation: The review 'Interventions for vitiligo' has had a direct influence on the treatment and management of vitiligo through guidelines across Europe. It led to the HI-Light Vitiligo trial being undertaken at the Centre of Evidence Based Dermatology in Nottingham, and has influenced recommendations for designing and reporting vitiligo trials.

The review 'Interventions for rosacea' has had significant influence on guidelines produced by the UK-based National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), the Dutch Society of Dermatology and Venereology, the American Acne and Rosacea Society, and Canadian dermatologists. Two of the authors used the content to create an e-learning module on rosacea aimed at family and hospital doctors.

For the review 'Sentinel lymph node biopsy followed by lymph node dissection for localised primary cutaneous melanoma', the authors of the one included study did not report the review's primary outcome of overall survival, but the review team were able to calculate it from data they provided. The calculation showed no benefit of SNLB for people with intermediate or thick melanomas. The included study did not report any difference in disease-specific survival for participants who underwent SLNB or observation. Disease-free survival was better in the SLNB treatment group. However, recurrence of the melanoma at a distant site in the body occurred more frequently in participants in the SLNB group than those in the observation group. This review cast doubt on the claimed benefit of sentinel node biopsy followed by lymph node dissection for melanoma and highlighted the issue of selective reporting bias.

Key message: The above examples show ways in which Cochrane Skin reviews impact health care.

