



EPIDEMIOLOGY

## DERMATOLOGY REFERENCE CITATIONS OF COCHRANE SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS

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**Introduction:** The Cochrane Collaboration, which encompasses the dermatology division, Cochrane Skin, is an independent not-for-profit consortium dedicated to providing up-to-date, accurate information on healthcare intervention and management. Cochrane Skin was launched in 1997 and has more than 1300 contributors in over 60 countries. Cochrane Skin has an editorial base at the University of Nottingham, with additional satellites in France and Columbia. Its international organizational efforts include the Cochrane Skin Group - Core Outcome Set Initiative (CSG-COUSIN) and the International Federation of Dermatology Clinical Trials Networks (IFDCTN).

**Objective:** To determine the number of Cochrane systematic review citations as a surrogate measure of clinical impact of these reviews.

**Materials and Methods:** Between August 1 and 31, 2018, we examined citations in chapters addressing a convenience sample of five dermatologic diseases (acne, atopic dermatitis, cutaneous T-cell lymphoma, melanoma, and psoriasis) in three widely used dermatology references (Bologna's Textbook of Dermatology 4th edition, Andrews' Diseases of the Skin 12th edition, and UpToDate). The number of Cochrane Database Systematic Review citations from each reference were summed.

**Results:** Cochrane systematic reviews comprised 44 of 6518 (0.68%) citations [Bologna and Andrews' constituted 8 of 722 (1.1%) citations and UpToDate accounted for 36 of 5796 (0.62%) citations].

**Conclusions:** Health impacts of systematic reviews are difficult to measure. There are various international organizations that produce systematic review databases; however, only reviews from the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews were frequently cited in the three reference texts. Cochrane is the leading international organization for production of high impact systematic reviews that are cited in clinical dermatology references.

