Specialised register

Inclusion criteria

The editorial base of the Cochrane Gynaecology and Fertility Group (CGFG) has assembled a specialised register of controlled clinical trials that fall within the scope of the Group. This is a PROCITE database and is maintained and searched by the CGFG Information Specialist. This database was established on 19 August 1996, random controlled (RCTs) and quasi-controlled trials have been collected, both prospectively and retrospectively, since this time. In 2008 we stopped collecting quasi randomised trials due to the Group policy of only including RCTs in reviews.

Trials for the specialised register are sourced through;

- weekly email alerts from the major databases MEDLINE, Embase, PsycINFO, and CINAHL. The original search strategies for MEDLINE, Embase and PsycINFO (OVID platform) were developed by the Group with advice from the UK Cochrane Centre. The CINAHL strategy (EBSCO platform) was developed by the GF information specialist
- weekly email alerts from various journals and other databases i.e. Medlinx, PLOS ONE, TRIALS, TRIP, Medscape, Human Reproduction.
- hand-searching of conference abstracts and journals. We currently routinely hand-search the conferences ASRM and ESHRE. In the past, prior to indexing in Embase, multiple journals and conference abstracts were hand-searched
- other sources, i.e. any trials found by authors that were not already included in the specialised register

Before entering a report of a trial onto the register, a pdf copy is obtained, either directly from the library databases or through inter library loan, it is then saved into an electronic pdf library. These are available to review authors on request.

The trial is then coded in the specialised register for the following domains; country of first author, trial registration number, disease/condition, interventions, outcomes, study design, control description and method i.e. another intervention/placebo/no treatment, blinding and method of randomisation.

Any potentially useful trials are not be excluded. A reviewer or member of the Group may subsequently reject these trials as being methodologically inadequate after obtaining further information from the author(s).

No language restrictions are applied.

Submission of these trials to CENTRAL occurs on a monthly basis via The Cochrane Register of Studies (CRS Web).

See the CGF guidance document for searching practices and requirements.