Transplant Library - the definitive resource of high quality evidence in solid organ transplantation.

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Background
In 1979 Archie Cochrane wrote:

"It is surely a great criticism of our profession that we have not organised a critical summary, by specialty or subspecialty, adapted periodically, of all relevant randomised controlled trials" (1)

Our aim was to develop a database that provides easy and quick access to high quality, evidence-based information on all aspects of solid organ transplantation, and does not require any expert search skills.

Method
Identification of studies
Detailed search strategies were developed for Medline and Cochrane’s Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL) to identify:

- All randomised controlled trials (RCTs) in solid organ transplantation, published as a full article or conference abstract from the earliest record to the present. Conference abstracts were identified from CENTRAL (with permission) and by handsearching conference proceedings of relevant meetings.
- Selected, systematic reviews or meta-analyses from 2008 using the following inclusion criteria:
  - The review addresses a clearly focused question and describes the inclusion and exclusion criteria of the review.
  - At least one bibliographic database was searched.

In addition, one of the following criteria must be addressed: (1) methodological quality of studies was assessed and reported or (2) sufficient details of individual studies was provided or (3) description of an appropriate analysis was included in the report.

Searches for new RCTs are conducted every 2 weeks and every 4 weeks for systematic reviews.

Methodological quality
The methodological quality of RCTs published since 2004 was assessed using:

- Jadad scale addressing randomisation, double-blinding and withdrawals/dropouts
- allocation concealment
- data analysis (intention to treat)

The quality was assessed by two independent reviewers and consensus was reached by discussion or by contacting a third reviewer. The quality scores were sent to authors and amended if additional information was provided.

Data extraction
The following information was extracted and included in the Transplant Library:

- Registration number of RCTs or systematic reviews
- Funding information (industry, non-industry, mixed, no funding or not described)

Results

Bibliographic records
Over 8,200 records from 1971 to the present have been included:

- ~ 4,300 references to full RCT articles,
- ~ 3,800 conference abstracts
- ~ 250 systematic reviews

Search platform

- The Transplant Library is available on the OvidSP platform, offering a basic, advanced and citation search options.

- The search platform includes limits specific to organs transplanted (A) and publication type (B) to make searching faster and more effective (Figure 1).

- The complete record shows the bibliographic, methodological quality and funding information (Figure 2).

Conclusion
The Transplant Library is the first specialist database and definitive source of all RCTs and selected, good quality systematic reviews in solid organ transplantation that can be used without professional search skills.

Reference