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Antibiotics for exacerbations of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (Review)

Ram FSF, Rodriguez-Roisin R, Granados-Navarrete A, Garcia-Aymerich J, Barnes NC

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[Intervention Review]

Antibiotics for exacerbations of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

Felix SF Ram¹, Robert Rodriguez-Roisin², Alicia Granados-Navarrete³, Judith Garcia-Aymerich⁴, Neil C Barnes⁵

¹School of Health Sciences, Massey University - Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand. ²Servei de Pneumologia, Hospital Clínic, Universitat de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain. ³Respiratory and Environmental Health Research Unit, Institut Municipal d'Investigació Mèdica, University of Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain. ⁴Centre for Research in Environmental Epidemiology (CREAL), Barcelona, Spain. ⁵Department of Respiratory Medicine, London Chest Hospital, London, UK

Contact: Felix SF Ram, School of Health Sciences, Massey University - Auckland, 24 Portsea Place, Chatswood, North Shore, Auckland, New Zealand. fsfram@yahoo.co.uk.

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REASON FOR WITHDRAWAL FROM PUBLICATION

The review was withdrawn from *The Cochrane Library* issue 1, 2011 as the authors were unable to update it.

The editorial group responsible for this previously published document have withdrawn it from publication.

FEEDBACK

Antibiotics for exacerbations of chronic obstructi

Summary

Feedback: While authors concluded that: "... in COPD exacerbations ... antibiotics ... reduce the risk of short-term mortality by 77%, decrease the risk of treatment failure by 53% and the risk of sputum purulence by 44%; with a small increase in the risk of diarrhoea. These results should be interpreted with caution ... Nevertheless, this review supports antibiotics for patients with COPD exacerbations ...

The plain language statement bring the other message IN BOLD: "Despite their widespread use, the value of antibiotics in exacerbations of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) remains controversial"

I believe that this is quite clear misinformation of consumers.

Submitter agrees with default conflict of interest statement:

I certify that I have no affiliations with or involvement in any organization or entity with a financial interest in the subject matter of my feedback.

Reply

We thank Dr Vasily Vlassov for his interest in our review. Dr Vasily Vlassov may find the introductory sentence contradictory in the plain language summary. This is because this opening sentence is part of the thinking of the background to the topic whereas the "added" comment in our results is part of the conclusions that are modulated by the "methodological nature" and the evidence provided from the 11 trials included in the review.

Felix Ram

Contributors

Vasily Vlassov

Correction needed, 25 May 2006

Summary

Excellent review on an important topic. However, the reviewers reversed the antibiotic/placebo groups on an important article when doing their analyses. The numbers for Anthonisen 1987 should be - placebo: 28/59, antibiotic: 19/57. This affects figure 03 and analysis 01.02.

Reply

Dear Dr Craig Roberts,

Thank you for your interest in our review and for informing us of the data entry error (transposition) in one of the included studies (Anthonisen et al) for treatment failure outcome. We have re-analysed the data with this revision. The revised outcome does not affect the conclusion (or key findings) of the review as the Anthonisen et al and Jorgensen et al studies were removed from the final analysis (sub-group analysis) as they were conducted in the community and therefore introduced heterogeneity in this outcome. Although, the revised data did reduce the level of heterogeneity (as measured by I2 statistic from 80% to 67%) it remained significant.

We believe that the revised data has little (to no) impact on the overall findings of the review and therefore we will incorporate this revision in the next update of the review.

Again, thank you for your interest in our review and for highlighting this data entry error.

Kind regards
 Dr Felix Ram

Contributors

Craig Roberts

WHAT'S NEW

| Date | Event | Description |
|------------------|---------|--------------------------------|
| 25 November 2010 | Amended | Review withdrawn issue 1, 2011 |

HISTORY

Protocol first published: Issue 4, 2003

Review first published: Issue 2, 2006

| Date | Event | Description |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| 12 September 2008 | Amended | Converted to new review format. |
| 25 July 2006 | Amended | Data entry error for treatment failure outcome corrected for one study. Review conclusions unaffected. |
| 5 June 2006 | Feedback has been incorporated | Feedback comment and reply added to review. |
| 25 May 2006 | Feedback has been incorporated | Correction needed |

SOURCES OF SUPPORT

Internal sources

- No sources of support supplied

External sources

- RRR is supported by Red Respira-ISCIII-RTIC-03/11 and la Generalitat de Catalunya (2001/SGR00386), Spain.
- JGA was supported by Red RESPIRA (RTIC C03/11), Instituto de Salud Carlos III, Spain.
- ANG was partially supported by RCESP (ISCIII, C03/09), Spain.