



Cochrane Developmental, Psychosocial and Learning Problems Group

The Cochrane Methylphenidate Group

Date: January 2016

To whom it may concern,

Since you last heard from us, we have published the review regarding the use of methylphenidate for ADHD in the Cochrane Library 25th of November 2015, and in the BMJ 26th of November 2015.

On behalf of the Cochrane Methylphenidate Group we address you in order to request your assistance again. We have been entrusted by The Cochrane Developmental, Psychosocial and Learning Problems Review Group to elaborate another systematic review on the subject: *Methylphenidate for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in children and adolescents – assessment of harmful effects in observational studies.*

The Cochrane Methylphenidate Group

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We are investigating all literature on the effects of methylphenidate regarding both the positive and negative effects. The Cochrane review will be very comprehensive with over one hundred studies included. The results from the new review on harms will form the basis to guide authorities, clinicians, and researchers when it comes to considering the use of methylphenidate in the treatment for children and adolescents with ADHD. In our opinion it is for common interest and an important ethical concern to elaborate this review.

We have found the currently included empirical studies by searching international scientific medical databases¹. However, the published literature provides limited knowledge and not all existing studies and data are available through these databases. To achieve a high scientific standard we will make sure that we search broadly for data and literature which includes asking authors of significant papers, other experts in the field and pharmaceutical companies of their knowledge of other studies, published as well as unpublished. We have been inspired by this approach used in other Cochrane systematic reviews investigating medical preparations. We would therefore kindly ask whether it is possible for you to assist with relevant data for the review, provided that you have

¹ Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL) part of *The Cochrane Library*, MEDLINE, PsycINFO, EMBASE, CINAHL, ISI Conference Proceedings Citation Index (Science, and Social Science and Humanities), Clinical Trials.gov, and International Clinical Trials Registry Platform (ICTRP)



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these data? We are interested in data regarding the harmful effects of methylphenidate from observational studies, regardless of the year the data are recorded. It is important for us to point out that we are not investigating specific methylphenidate preparations but simply the effect of the active substance, methylphenidate. Thus, we will not refer to or recommend any specific methylphenidate preparation or drug company. However, we will state which companies we have been in contact with, and which of these who have assisted us with data.

If possible we would be very pleased to meet a representative from your company.

Enclosed to this letter are our protocol and a recommendation from the Cochrane Psychosocial and Learning Problems Review Group.

We are hoping to hear from you. If you have any questions, please contact us.

On behalf of the Cochrane Methylphenidate Group,

Yours sincerely and thank you in advance,

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