

# Teaching Evidence-Based Neurology in Europe - Cochrane Systematic Reviews in Practice

A Series of Training Workshops on Evidence-based Neurology

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## First workshop: Epilepsy - London, 30 June - 1 July 2005

### Workshop Format

#### Topic

Treatment for epileptic patients

#### Site

London, UK  
King's College, Waterloo Campus  
Franklin Wilkins Building  
150 Stamford Street

#### Dates

30 June – 1 July 2005

#### Coordinator

*Tony Marson* (Cochrane Epilepsy Group),  
University of Liverpool and Walton Centre  
for Neurology & Neurosurgery, Liverpool, UK

#### Lecturers

*Ettore Beghi*  
University of Milano-Bicocca, Ospedale San Gerardo,  
Monza, Italy  
*Livia Candelise*  
Università degli Studi di Milano, Milan, Italy  
*David Chadwick*  
Walton Centre for Neurology & Neurosurgery,  
Liverpool, UK  
*Emilio Perucca*  
University of Pavia and Institute of Neurology IRCCS  
C. Mondino Foundation, Pavia, Italy  
*Philippe Ryvlin*  
Hôpital Neurologique, Lyon, France  
*Dieter Schmidt*  
Epilepsy Research Group, Berlin, Germany  
*Sam Wiebe*  
University of Calgary, Alberta, Canada

#### *The aims of this two-day workshop are to*

- 1. Discuss the existing evidence that informs:*
  - The decision to start or delay treatment for patients with a single seizure
  - Choice of monotherapy for patients with epilepsy
  - Add-on treatments for patients with refractory epilepsy
  - The outcome of surgery for patients with refractory epilepsy
- 2. Teach participants about the following methodological issues:*
  - Randomized controlled trial (RCT) design
  - Critical appraisal of randomized controlled trials
  - Conducting a systematic review of randomized controlled trials
  - Appraising a systematic review of randomized controlled trials
  - The challenges of assessing surgical interventions in trials
  - Using observational studies in systematic reviews

The workshop will comprise both lectures and small group sessions. The lectures will be given by internationally respected epileptologists, and each lecture will focus on one clinical area and a number of methodological issues as outlined above. Following each lecture, participants will have the opportunity to question and interact with the lecturer.

For the small group sessions, participants will be split into groups of 20-30, and will be given examples of randomized controlled trials and/or systematic reviews to assess and critically appraise. These sessions will reinforce and complement topics covered in the lectures. They will be facilitated by the team of lecturers.

#### Day 1 - June 30<sup>th</sup> 2005

	<i>Moderators: Livia Candelise, Dieter Schmidt</i>
	Introduction <i>Livia Candelise</i> , Milan, Italy
<b>10.30-11.00</b>	First seizure(s): What are the clinical questions? <i>Dieter Schmidt</i> , Berlin, Germany
<b>11.00-11.30</b>	First seizure(s): What evidence from RCTs do we have? Randomized controlled trial design <i>David Chadwick</i> , Liverpool, UK
<b>11.30-12.00</b>	Discussion
<b>12.00-12.30</b>	Lunch
<b>12.30-13.30</b>	<b>Small group work</b>
<b>13.30-16.00</b>	Epilepsy monotherapy. Critical appraisal of randomized controlled trial <i>Dieter Schmidt</i> , Berlin, Germany <i>David Chadwick</i> , Liverpool, UK <i>Tony Marson</i> , Liverpool, UK <i>Livia Candelise</i> , Milan, Italy
<b>16.00-16.30</b>	Systematic reviews of epilepsy monotherapy trials. Systematic review methods <i>Tony Marson</i> , Liverpool, UK
<b>16.30-17.00</b>	Discussion
<b>17.00-17.30</b>	Evaluation form

#### Day 2 - July 1<sup>st</sup> 2005

	<i>Moderators: Tony Marson, Sam Wiebe</i>
	Breakfast
<b>07.30-08.30</b>	<b>Small group work</b>
<b>08.30-11.00</b>	Add-on therapy. Appraisal of systematic review <i>Philippe Ryvlin</i> , Lyon, France <i>Tony Marson</i> , Liverpool, UK <i>Emilio Perucca</i> , Pavia, Italy <i>Sam Wiebe</i> , Alberta, Canada
<b>11.00-11.30</b>	Add-on AED treatment. Summary of current systematic reviews <i>Philippe Ryvlin</i> , Lyon, France
<b>11.30-12.00</b>	Add-on AED treatment. Unanswered questions <i>Emilio Perucca</i> , Pavia, Italy
<b>12.00-12.30</b>	Discussion
<b>12.30-13.30</b>	Lunch
<b>13.30-14.00</b>	Surgery for refractory temporal lobe epilepsy. Challenges of trials of surgical interventions <i>Sam Wiebe</i> , Calgary, Canada
<b>14.00-14.30</b>	Surgery for epilepsy: Assessing evidence from observational studies. Using observational studies in systematic reviews <i>Ettore Beghi</i> , Monza, Italy
<b>14.30-15.00</b>	Discussion
<b>15.00-15.30</b>	Evaluation form

