

Voices of Cochrane Authors: A Review of Cochrane Podcasts from 2014 to 2018

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Background: Cochrane podcasts deliver the latest evidence from the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews in a convenient easy-to-access audio format in under five minutes. Each podcast offers a summary of a recent Cochrane Review and allows the listener to hear directly from the review authors themselves. Since their launch in 2008, nearly 1300 podcasts have been published on the Cochrane website and more than 30 languages are represented across the collection (<https://www.cochranelibrary.com/about/podcasts>).

Objectives: To provide an overview of Cochrane podcasts published between 2014 and 2018, in English and other languages, and demonstrate how the podcasts allow the authors of Cochrane Reviews to gain greater recognition for the importance of their work.

Methods: From 2014 to 2018, 262 Cochrane podcasts were published in English and many of these were translated into other languages, contributing an additional 489 non-English podcasts. This means that approximately 7% of the Cochrane Reviews published for the first time or updated during the period were accompanied by a podcast. This poster shows year-by-year growth of Cochrane podcasts in English, Spanish, Croatian, Russian, and Tamil from 2014 to 2018, and access to these podcasts within that period. The data were obtained via FeedBurner, which reports total listens and views on iTunes, and Google Analytics which reports page views of the podcast hosting pages on www.cochrane.org. Cochrane podcasts are available in over 30 languages; however, the focus of this poster is on podcasts in these five languages only, as the data for other languages could not be obtained via FeedBurner and thus were outside of the scope.

Results: Figure 1 shows the year-by-year growth of Cochrane podcasts in English, Spanish, Croatian, Russian, Tamil, and other non-English languages from 2014 to 2018. Access to Cochrane podcasts between 2014 and 2018 is shown in Figure 2. In Table 1, we highlight the top 5 most-accessed English Cochrane podcasts in 2018; this represents views of the page on www.cochrane.org where the podcast is hosted.

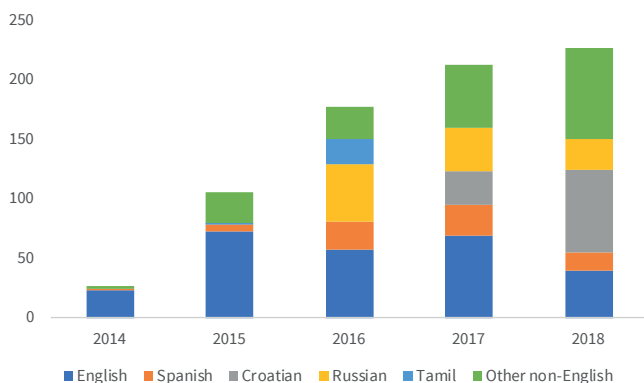


Figure 1. Cochrane podcasts published between 2014 and 2018. Total number of podcasts published in 2014 = 27, 2015 = 106, 2016 = 178, 2017 = 213, and 2018 = 227.

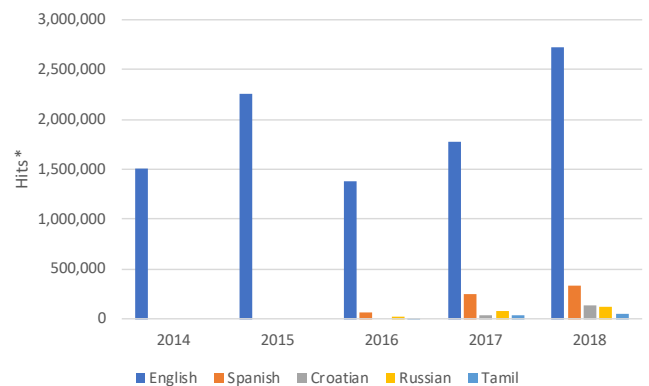


Figure 2. Access to Cochrane podcasts in 2014 to 2018. Total number of hits over the 5-year period: English = 9,659,442, Spanish = 647,940, Croatian = 175,430, Russian = 220,518, and Tamil = 100,396.

*According to the data source (FeedBurner), a 'hit' is recorded each time someone loads the feed in a web browser, feed reader or other programme. When bots and automated services request the feed, that also counts as a hit.

CD number	Podcast title	Unique views
CD000980	Vitamin C for preventing and treating the common cold	914
CD010820	Interventions for improving upper limb function after stroke	375
CD007471	How effective are pelvic floor muscle exercises undertaken during pregnancy or after birth for preventing or treating incontinence?	363
CD003054	Diet, physical activity or both for prevention or delay of type 2 diabetes mellitus and its associated complications in people at increased risk	362
CD005186	Methods to improve healthcare worker hand hygiene to decrease infection in patient care	317

Table 1. Most visited English Cochrane podcasts in 2018.

Discussion: Figure 1 shows that Cochrane podcast content continued to grow over the 5-year period and an increase in access to Cochrane podcasts can be observed in Figure 2 from 2016 to 2018, with podcasts in English receiving a total of 2,720,415 listens in 2018. The most accessed podcast in 2018 was 'Vitamin C for preventing and treating the common cold', which is based on the 2013 Cochrane Review.

Conclusions: These data demonstrate that the Cochrane Library podcast collection continues to be a successful way of disseminating Cochrane evidence. This retrospective 5-year review of Cochrane podcasts acknowledges the hard work that has gone into the creation and translation of Cochrane podcasts by hundreds of Cochrane Review authors.