

# Time interval for updating Cochrane systematic reviews about neglected tropical diseases

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## The Problem

Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) are **communicable diseases** that prevail in **149 tropical and subtropical countries** (1). According to the World Health Organization (WHO), **NTDs affect more than one billion people** and cost billions of dollars to developing economies every year (2). Neglected diseases, despite being such burdens especially in less-developed countries, **are not recognized by industries, governments, and health organizations as they should be**. In order to provide evidence-based healthcare, it is urgent to raise agents involved in research interested in those diseases.

## Methods

- 18 NTDS were considered based on the most recent WHO criteria (2)
- From 466 records available at Cochrane Library (edition 3, 2019), we included five SRs
- Three researchers (NDH, AR and FOL) independently screened and evaluated all records retrieved for confirming their eligibility.

## Key Results

We concluded that none of the 5 SRs included was updated in the last 2 years.

Table 1. Cochrane SRs about neglected tropical diseases and their characteristics.

Systematic review (title)	Publication date of the protocol/full review (first publication)	Date of update	RCTs added (n) in the last version (compared to the previous version)	Number of RCTs in the last published version
Interventions for trachoma trichiasis	2003/2006	2015	Yes (n=4)	13
Interventions for skin changes caused by nerve damage in leprosy	2004/2008	No	No	8
Albendazole alone or in combination with microfilaricidal drugs for lymphatic filariasis	2003/2004	2005/2019	Yes (n=13)	13
Anthelmintics in helminth- endemic areas: effects on HIV disease progression	2007/2008	2009/2016	Yes (n=5)	8
Deworming drugs for soil transmitted intestinal worms in children	1997/1998	2000/2007 2012/2015	Yes (n=4)	45



466 records from Cochrane Library



Screening by 3 independent researchers



5 Systematic reviews were found





None of the reviews were properly updated

### References:

1. [https://www.who.int/neglected\\_diseases/diseases/summary/en/](https://www.who.int/neglected_diseases/diseases/summary/en/)
2. [https://www.who.int/neglected\\_diseases/diseases/Adoption\\_additiional\\_NTDs.pdf?ua=1](https://www.who.int/neglected_diseases/diseases/Adoption_additiional_NTDs.pdf?ua=1)



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