



The Cochrane Collaboration
Oral Health Review Group

**CHECKLIST FOR REFEREEING
STRUCTURED PROTOCOLS**

REVIEW TITLE:		Review	
		Ref.No:	
CONTACT REVIEWER: (Name)		Yes	No
1.	TITLE: Is the title appropriate ? Does it follow the Cochrane format of <i>[Intervention] for [health problem] in [participants/setting]</i>		
2.	BACKGROUND: This section should be written in simple prose to be understood by those not expert in the field. The background should include the biological and healthcare rationale for the intervention under study and include appropriate references. It should be written from an international perspective Is the background section understandable ?		
3.	OBJECTIVES Are the objectives precise and accurate ? Do the hypotheses make sense, and do they relate to the background ?		
4.	CRITERIA FOR INCLUSION OF TRIALS: <i>The criteria used to decide which trials should be included in the review should be explicit and should specify:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>types of participants/ disease status</i> • <i>types of interventions and control groups</i> • <i>types of outcomes to be measured</i> Has the reviewer adequately justified these inclusion criteria ? Do the outcomes to be recorded make sense ?		
5.	SEARCH STRATEGY for IDENTIFICATION OF TRIALS <i>This section should give an outline of the databases to be searched; the periods to be searched; and an outline of the search strategy to be used for searching MEDLINE</i> Do you think that the search strategy is adequate ? Has/have the author/s made good attempts to identify unpublished material ? Is there a description of how non-English language articles will be handled? (Will they be included, or is there justification for excluding them?)		
6.	METHODS OF THE REVIEW <i>This section should include a description of:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>the methods used to select trials for inclusion (eg.independent assessment by two or more reviewers)</i> • <i>criteria and methods used to assess the methodological quality of the included trials</i> • <i>the methods used to collect data from the included trials</i> • <i>the methods used to synthesise data (eg. statistical procedures to be used, any sensitivity analyses/sub-group analyses to be undertaken, examination of heterogeneity etc)</i> • <i>data checking procedures</i> Do you think the methods section is adequate ?		
Referee (Signature)		Date:	
Referee name (Please print)			



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REFEREE'S COMMENTS ON STRUCTURED PROTOCOL

Review Title:

Contact Reviewer:

Date sent to referee:

Date to be returned by:

Comments from Referee

Please make specific suggestions for recommended changes, if any. Use additional pages if necessary.

Referee (Signature)

Date:

Referee name (Please print)

Please return to: The Co-ordinator, Cochrane Oral Health Group, The Cochrane Suite, Manchester Dental Education Centre, School of Dentistry, The University of Manchester, Higher Cambridge Street, Manchester M15 6FH (UK) (Tel:+44 (0)161 275 7818 Fax: +44 (0)161 275 7815)