

Accuracy of the Spanish translated conclusions of Cochrane Systematic Reviews

Agustín Ciapponi¹, Amanda Burls², Vilma Irazola³

1. Centro Colaborador Argentino de la Red Cochrane Iberoamericana, Instituto de Efectividad Clínica y Sanitaria. Family and Preventive Medicine Division, Hospital Italiano de Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
2. Senior Clinical Lecturer/Director of West Midlands Health Technology Assessment Collaboration. Department of Public Health and Epidemiology. The University of Birmingham, Birmingham, United Kingdom.
3. Instituto de Efectividad Clínica y Sanitaria. Maestría en Efectividad Clínica, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Background:

A part of Cochrane Collaboration's mission is to make and disseminate systematic reviews (SR) of healthcare interventions. Since 1998, the Iberoamerican Cochrane Centre translates Cochrane SR into Spanish, which now are available to a great population of Spanish-speaking people through The Cochrane Library Plus. The quality of this important and difficult task should be assessed.

Objectives:

To verify the accuracy of the Spanish translated conclusions of SR in The Cochrane Library Plus.

Methods:

The conclusion is one of the first and more frequent sections read in order to find out the key message of a review. We will assess the level of accuracy of Spanish translated conclusions by two different methods:

1- A back translation will be done by an independent translator native English speaker. The original and back translated conclusions of all 93 new SR retrieved in a restricted search from 2004 to 3/25/2005 in the Cochrane Library Plus will be compared by a staff of the specific Collaborative Review Groups (CRG) and an independent evaluator of another CRG, estimating agreement between assessors by kappa analysis. The instrument to compare conclusions is composed by 4 items (Figure).

2- The original and back translated versions will be assessed by a bilingual panel which will rate the quality of the Spanish versions in terms of conceptual equivalence with the original, and wording clarity.

When inaccuracies were detected, qualitative methods will be applied to explore possible causes.

Results and Conclusions:

They will be presented at the colloquium.

A. Has the meaning of the translated conclusion changed from the original?

Not at all- Negligibly- Slightly- Quite a lot- Very much- Totally-

B. If the conclusion changed, which of the following occurred? (Tick all that apply)

- A positive conclusion has been expressed more strongly
- A positive conclusion has been expressed less strongly
- A negative conclusion has been expressed more strongly
- A negative conclusion has been expressed more weakly
- Information has been missed out
- Information not contained in the original has been added
- The meaning has been changed in some other way. *Please give details:*

C. Can you think of reasons why any changes might have happened?

D. How would you rate the clarity of the wording used?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Not at all Absolutely
Clear clear