



## Discussion points:

Reducing uncertainties about the effects of chemoradiotherapy for cervical cancer: individual patient data meta-analysis

*Methodological considerations*

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- What do you think of the methods used for this Cochrane review of individual patient data?
  - Do the benefits of the more powerful analyses that are possible with individual patient data from 15 trials and nearly 3500 women outweigh the potential problems of not having data from ten trials with more than 1100 patients?
  - Reviews of individual patient data will often use unpublished data or data from completely unpublished trials - does this make you more or less confident about their results?
  
- How would you decide whether it is worth seeking individual patient data for a review?
  - What are the advantages and disadvantages of using individual patient data?
  - What additional skills or expertise might be needed to conduct an individual patient data review?
  - Are there circumstances where it would not be worth attempting an individual patient data review?
  - Should an individual patient data review be preceded by a review using published or aggregate data?
  
- What analyses would you like to see in individual patient data reviews?
  - Should subgroup analyses be done as close as possible to the level of individual patients?
  - Do you prefer time-to-event analyses to be reported as hazards ratios, absolute effects at specific time points, or Kaplan-Meier curves?