# Presenting ‘Effects of interventions’ in a Cochrane Review: Exercise (for Trainers)

**Learning objective:**

After this exercise, learners should be able to identify the key elements to be reported in the ‘Effects of interventions’ subheading of the Results section. This learning will help them in writing the Results of their Cochrane Reviews.

**Instructions for trainers:**

Distribute printouts of the exercise (Word file), the accompanying forest plot (PDF) and the handout ‘Tips for writing up the results of the review’ (PDF). The first seven tips from the handout are corresponding to the seven questions in the exercise, so the learners can read them as they are going through the exercise and answering the questions.

The exercise is based on the excerpt adapted from a Cochrane Review (*Santesso N, Carrasco-Labra A, Brignardello-Petersen R. Hip protectors for preventing hip fractures in older people. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2014, Issue 3. Art. No.: CD001255*).

The exercise can be done individually, in pairs, or in small groups.

The following (in bold) are suggested answers to the questions.

1. Have the authors presented effect estimates together with a measure of statistical uncertainty?

**They have reported rate ratios with 95% confidence intervals: ‘RateR 1.02, 95% CI 0.90 to 1.16’.**

1. Have the authors presented number of studies and participants contributing to the outcome?

**Only the number of studies (‘Sixteen studies’), but not the number of participants in the overall analysis were reported in this example.**

1. Have the authors presented the estimates both as relative and absolute effect?

**'RateR 1.02, 95% CI 0.90 to 1.16’ represents the relative effect, and ‘10 more falls per 1,000 people’ and ‘60 more falls per 1,000 people’ represent the absolute effect. They could have also reported confidence intervals around those absolute effects but did not.**

1. Have the authors clearly indicated the direction of the effect?

**The direction is indicated by the use of words ‘fewer’ and ‘more’ (‘from 50 fewer to 80 more’; ‘from 300 fewer to 480 more’).**

1. Have the authors commented on the certainty of evidence?

**They indicated that ‘the overall certainty of evidence is moderate, downgraded one level due to high risk of bias’. It might have been helpful to indicate what were the specific concerns/domains for high risk of bias.**

1. Have the authors reported the effect estimates from the studies not included in the meta-analysis? (*If yes, write down here what they have reported):*

**The authors briefly reported the findings of two studies (O’Halloran 2004, Kannus 2000) that were not included in the meta-analysis. It might have been helpful to also indicate whether the results were consistent with the meta-analysis result.**

1. Have the authors reported the results of subgroup or sensitivity analyses for this outcome? (*If yes, write down here what they have reported):*

**No, the authors have not presented the results of subgroup or sensitivity analyses here They may not have conducted any. If they had, they should have reported it here.**