

Software for network meta-analysis

Network meta-analysis is a relatively new method, and until recently network meta-analysis models had to be programmed in general-purpose statistics software such as WinBUGS. However, more user friendly software is now becoming available. Such software removes the need for manual programming of the models and offers specific functionality aimed at interpretation of network meta-analyses.

The workshop will start with a general overview of the available software. The remainder of the workshop will then focus on the GeMTC software developed by us at the University Medical Center Groningen.

Participants will work with the software to perform network meta-analysis of an example data set. They will become familiar with several options for assessing heterogeneity and inconsistency. Attention will be paid to interpreting the various outputs (e.g. random effects variance, rank probabilities) and the potential for erroneous interpretation of some of these metrics. We will also discuss the pros and cons of various visualizations of the results.