

Cochrane Skin and COUSIN: Linking core outcomes and systematic reviews

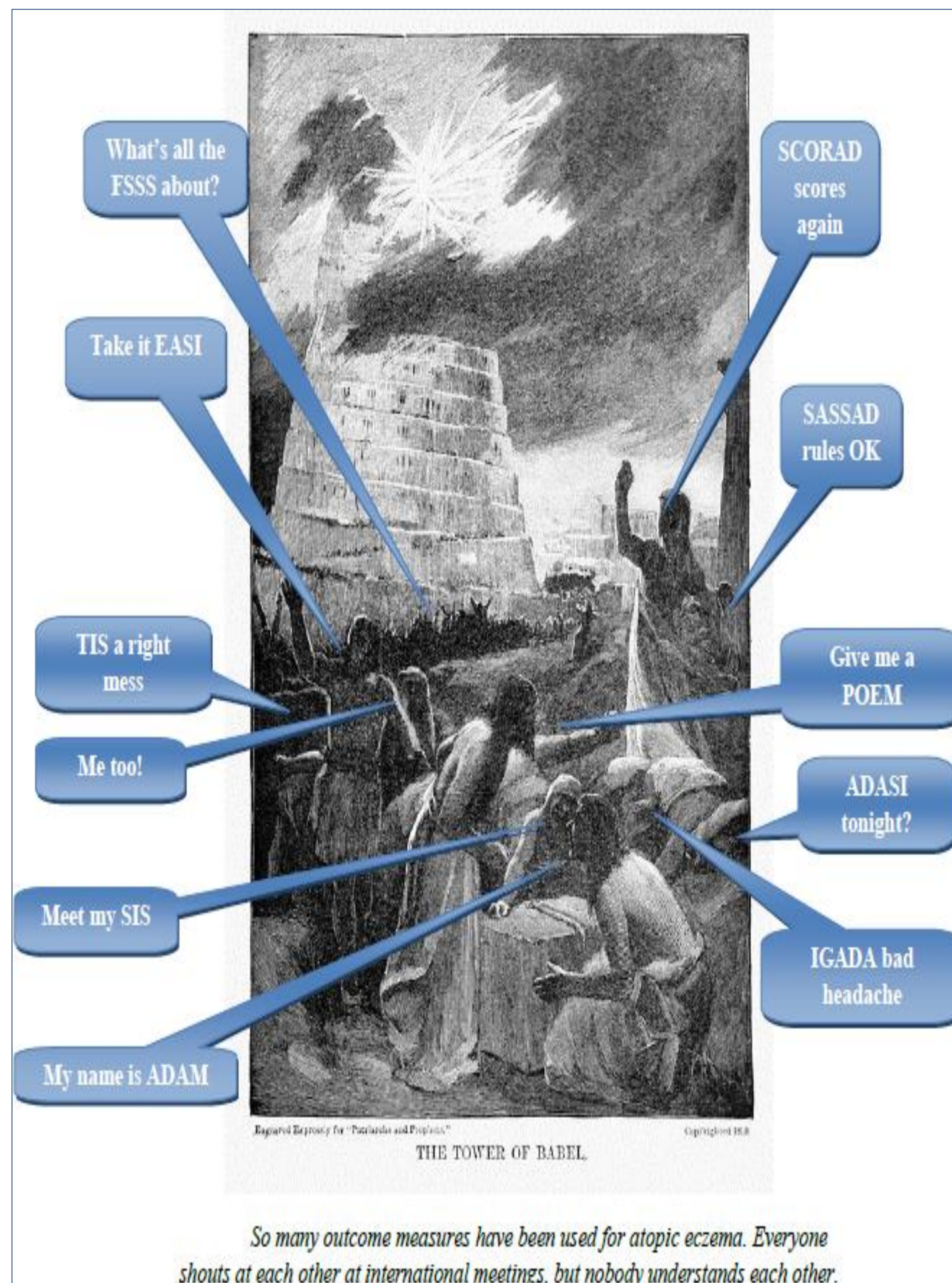
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Background: Cochrane Skin Core Outcome Set Initiative (CS-COUSIN) = Center for Evidence-based Healthcare in Dresden and Cochrane Skin collaboration to develop dermatology core outcome sets (COS) to standardise clinical trial outcome measures. Find out more on the website cs-cousin.org.



- **Aim:** to promote evidence-informed health decision-making
- **Method:** producing high-quality, relevant, accessible systematic reviews
- **Impact:** internationally recognised benchmark for high-quality information about health care effectiveness in dermatology



Cartoon lampooning the many outcome measures for eczema (Hywel Williams)



Core Outcome Set Initiative

"Our mission is to develop and implement core outcome sets in dermatology in order to improve and standardise outcome measurement in clinical trials and to make trial evidence more useful."

- Developing clinically relevant and patient-centred sets of dermatological trial outcomes
- Improving the quality and interpretability of systematic reviews
- Helping researchers make a clinical difference



Observations: Very often, predefined outcomes in skin reviews are not reported in included studies.

Very few Cochrane Skin reviews include a meta-analysis, and when possible, it is usually only for a few trials.

COS will aid comparability in systematic reviews.



CS-COUSIN 2018 Amsterdam meeting attendees

Key Messages: clinical trials report outcomes of great variability, which impacts the capacity of systematic reviews to synthesise data into something useful and comparable.

CS-COUSIN:

- provides processes and documents to support COS development
- provides methods advice to COS groups (which other Cochrane Groups might wish to use)
- develops standards for instrument development
- advances patient involvement methods
- keeps abreast of methodological advances in COS

Currently there are 17 groups working on outcome sets in dermatology.

There is a need to expand this initiative outside of Cochrane and focus on dissemination to ensure implementation.



HOME (Harmonising Outcome Measures for Eczema) Core Outcome Set:

- Clinical signs (Core Outcome Instrument: [EASI](#))
- Symptoms (Core Outcome Instrument: [POEM](#))
- Long term control
- Quality of Life