
How can clinical trialists serve the needs of clinicians and patients more effectively?

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THE CASE FOR ROUTINE AVAILABILITY OF INDIVIDUAL PATIENT DATA



BIOGRAPHY

Professor Doug Altman was founding director of the Centre for Statistics in Medicine in Oxford and in 1998 he was made Professor of Statistics in Medicine at the University of Oxford. In 1997 he received the Bradford Hill Medal for his contributions to medical statistics and a DSc from the University of London. He is a co-convenor of the Statistical Methods Group of the Cochrane Collaboration and statistical advisor to the BMJ. He is author of *Practical Statistics for Medical Research* and co-editor of *Statistics with Confidence*, *Systematic Reviews*, and *Systematic Reviews in Health Care*.

He is a member of the executive of the CONSORT group. His varied research interests include the use and abuse of statistics in medical research, studies of prognosis, regression modelling, systematic reviews and meta-analysis, randomised trials, and studies of medical measurement.

ABSTRACT

Publications of results of randomised trials generally include brief statistical summaries of selected analyses. This form of presentation lacks transparency and precludes any later reanalysis. Further, there is evidence that analyses that are published are often carefully selected and may not represent the full intentions as stated in the protocol. Poor presentation also hampers subsequent systematic reviews. I will review these and other arguments for the routine availability of individual patient data from completed trials.

RELEVANT COMPETING INTERESTS

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