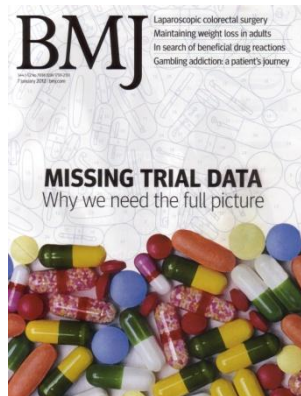




Sharing Clinical Research Data
An Institute of Medicine Workshop
October 4 & 5, 2012
Washington, DC

Fundamentals and Benefits of Sharing Participant-Level Clinical Trial Data

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Clinical Epidemiology Editor, *BMJ*
Associate Professor of Neurology
Harvard Medical School

What I aim to cover

What is it we are thinking of sharing?

Why should we share?

What are the benefits?

What is it we are thinking of sharing?

“Participant level data”

“Raw data”



Patient is not a native English speaker so the birth control questions were confusing to her.

Screening no. <u>012345</u>	Patient initials <u>SYD</u>	Date <u>08/10/2001</u> M M D D Y Y Y Y	SCREENING DAYS -28 TO -8
--------------------------------	--------------------------------	--	--------------------------

DATE INFORMED CONSENT WAS SIGNED: 07/22/2001
M M D D Y Y Y Y

DEMOGRAPHICS

Date of Birth:	SEX: (Check One)	RACE: (Check One)
<u>11/06/1965</u> M M D D Y Y Y Y	☐ Male ☒ Female	☒ White ☐ Black ☐ Asian ☐ American Indian or Alaskan Native ☐ Pacific Islander ☐ Other, Specify: _____

Patient thinks grandmother

ALCOHOL / TOBACCO / CAFFEINE USAGE

DOES THE PATIENT USE ALCOHOL? (USAGE PER DAY)	DOES THE PATIENT USE TOBACCO? (USAGE PER DAY)	DOES THE PATIENT USE CAFFEINE? (USAGE PER DAY)
☐ None ☒ Light usage (0-1 drink) <i>mostly wine</i> ☐ Moderate usage (2 drinks) ☐ Heavy usage (>2 drinks)	☒ None ☐ Light usage (<10 cigarettes) ☐ Moderate usage (10-20 cigarettes) ☐ Heavy usage (>20 cigarettes)	☐ None ☐ Light usage (0-1 drink) ☒ Moderate usage (2-4 drinks) ☐ Heavy usage (>4 drinks)

CHILDBEARING POTENTIAL

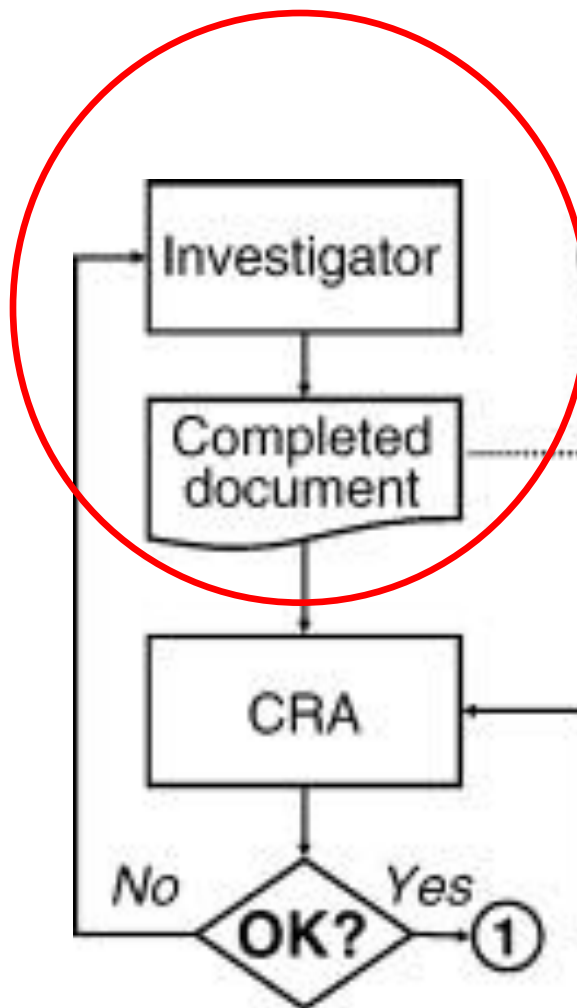
If patient is female, is she of childbearing potential? ☒ YES (Patient's Tanner Score is ≥ 3) ☐ NO	
If NO, complete all items below.	If YES, specify the form(s) of contraception the patient will use throughout the course of the study. Check all that apply:
<i>this was used in 1985-2000</i> ☐ IUD	☐ YES ☒ NO
☐ Oral contraceptives	☒ YES ☐ NO
☐ Contraceptive implant	☐ YES ☒ NO
☐ Contraceptive injection	☐ YES ☒ NO
☒ Condom and spermicide	☒ YES ☐ NO
☐ Diaphragm and spermicide	☐ YES ☒ NO
☐ Abstinence	☐ YES ☒ NO
☐ Other, specify: _____	☐ YES ☒ NO

Occasionally

ACTIVITY INDEX

Activity	Frequency	Intensity	Duration	Notes
Rest	0-1	0-1	0-1	
Light	2-3	2-3	2-3	
Moderate	4-5	4-5	4-5	
Heavy	6-7	6-7	6-7	
Very Heavy	8-9	8-9	8-9	
Extremely Heavy	10-11	10-11	10-11	

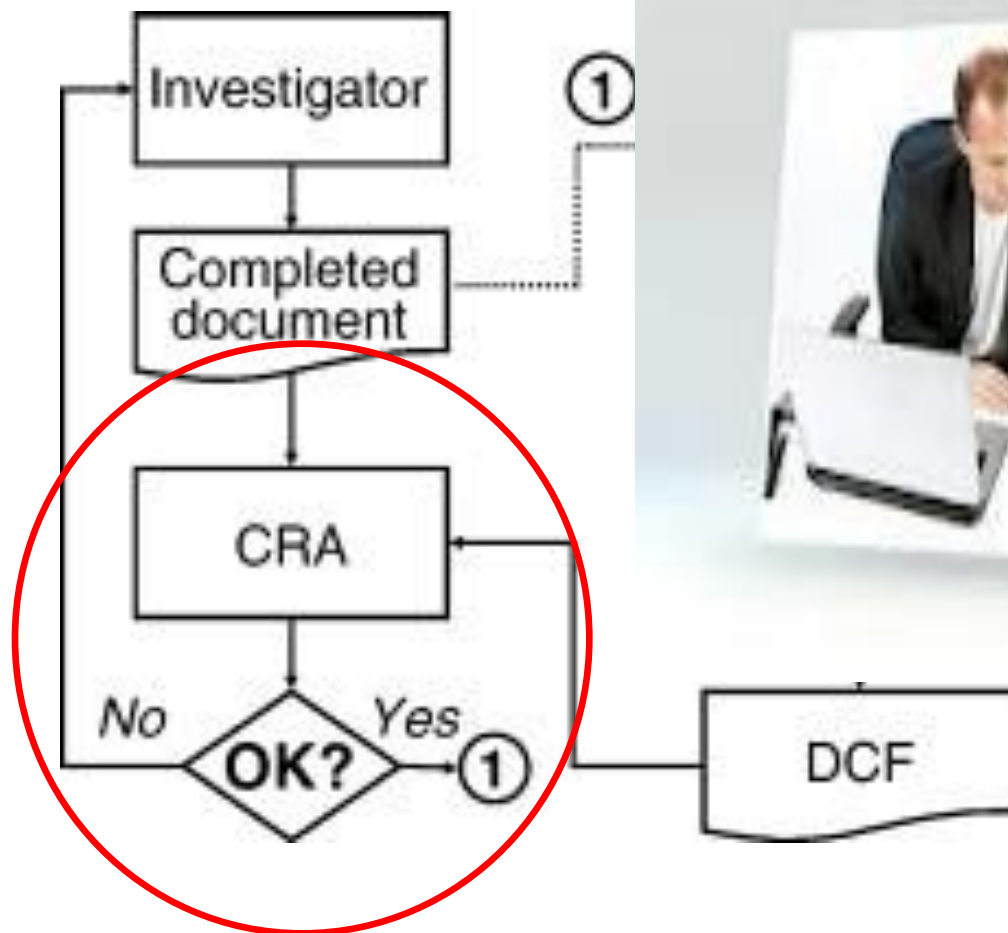
Signature: _____ Date: _____



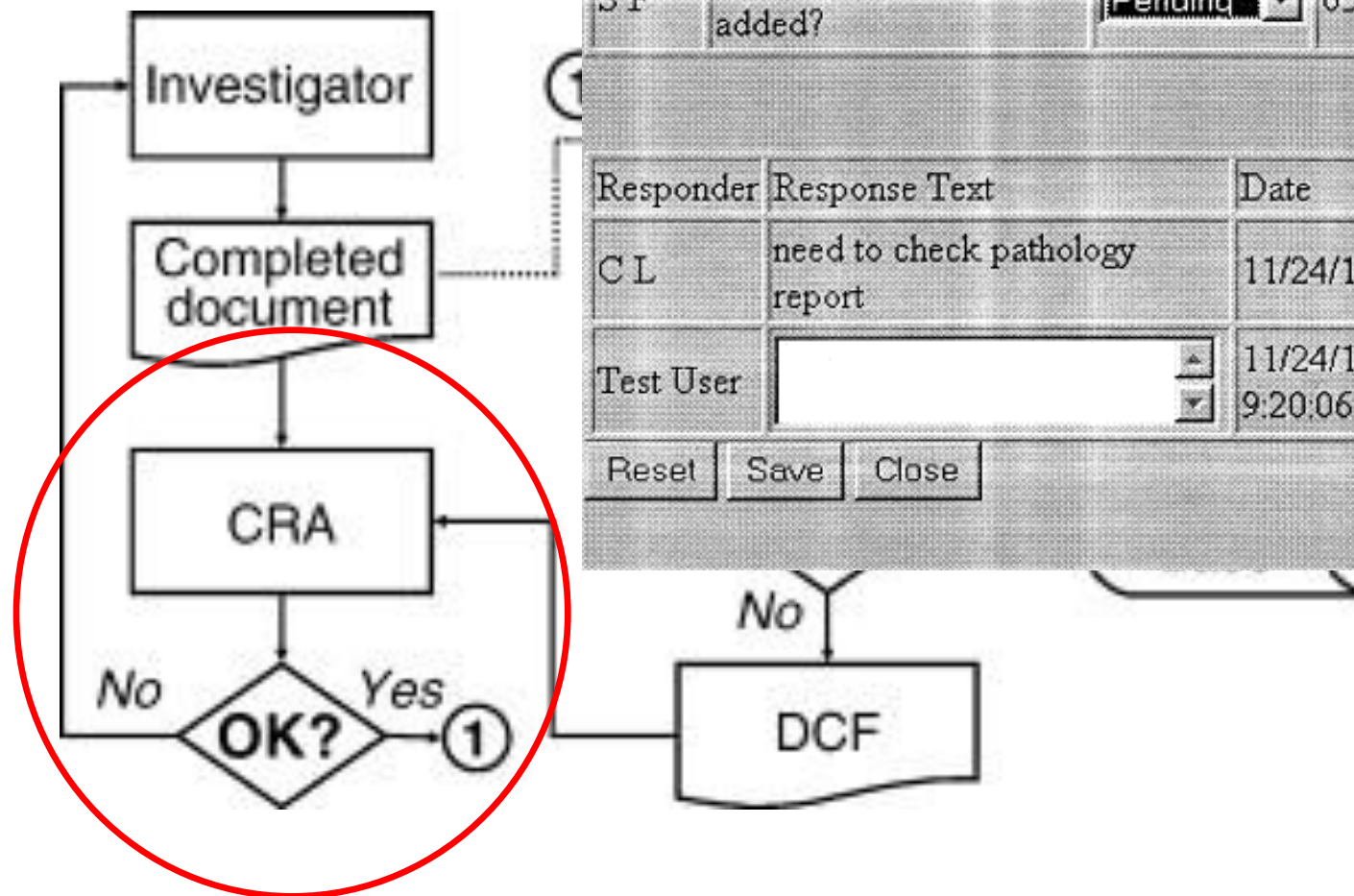
Patient is not a native English speaker so the birth control questions were confusing to her.

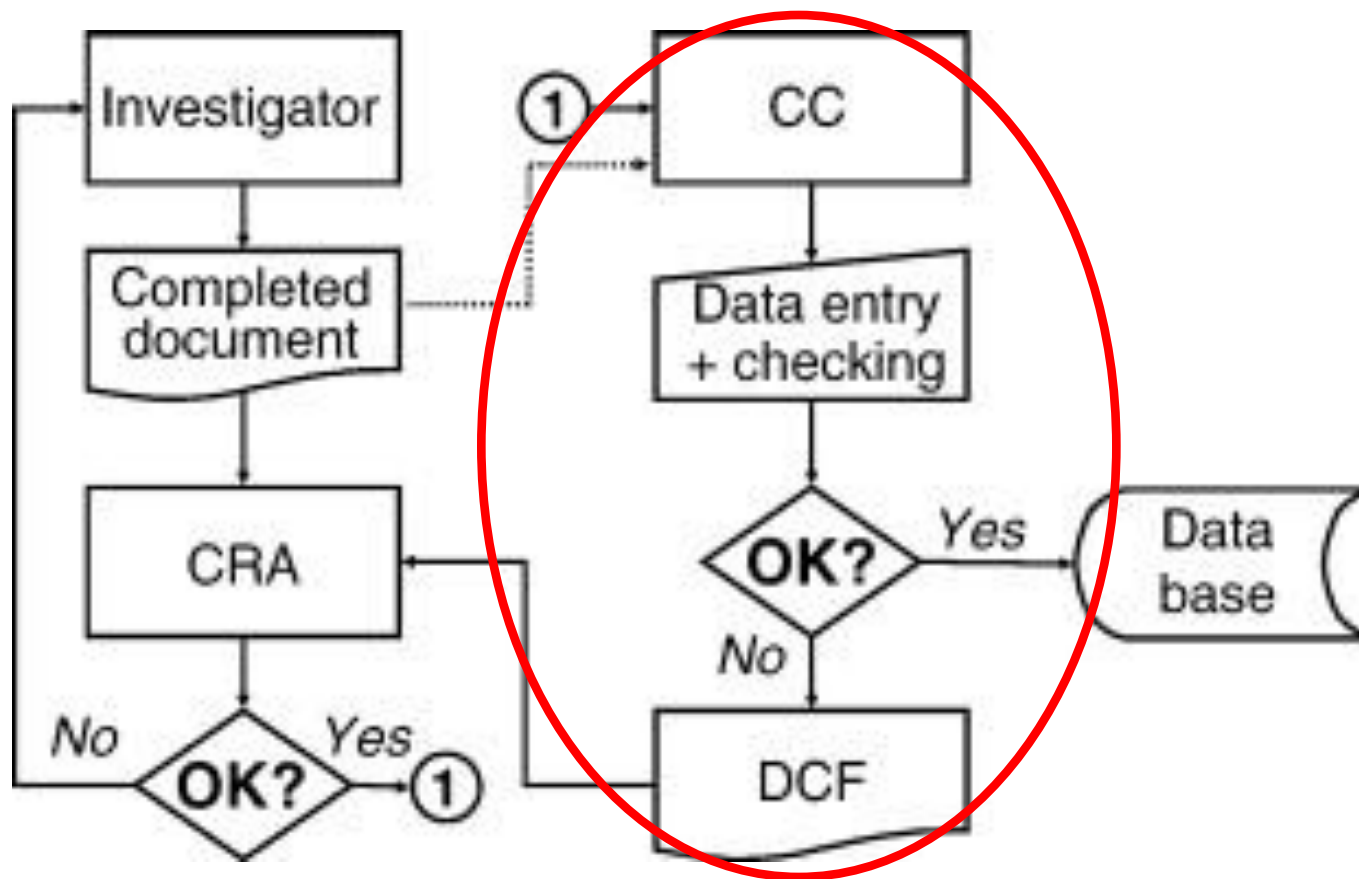
Screening no. <u>012345</u>	Patient initials <u>SYD</u>	Date <u>08/10/2001</u> M M O O Y Y Y Y	Screening DAYS -28 TO -8
DATE INFORMED CONSENT WAS SIGNED <u>07/23/2001</u> M M O O Y Y Y Y			
DEMOGRAPHICS			
Date of Birth: <u>11/06/1965</u> M M O O Y Y Y Y	SEX: (Check One) ☐ Male ☒ Female	RACE: (Check One) ☒ White ☐ Black ☐ Asian ☐ American Indian or Alaskan Native ☐ Pacific Islander ☐ Other, Specify: _____	
ALCOHOL / TOBACCO / CAFFEINE USAGE			
DOES THE PATIENT USE ALCOHOL? (USAGE PER DAY) ☐ None ☒ Light usage (0-1 drink) <i>sterile wine</i> ☐ Moderate usage (2 drinks) ☐ Heavy usage (>2 drinks)	DOES THE PATIENT USE TOBACCO? (USAGE PER DAY) ☒ None ☐ Light usage (<10 cigarettes) ☐ Moderate usage (10-20 cigarettes) ☐ Heavy usage (>20 cigarettes)	DOES THE PATIENT USE CAFFEINE? (USAGE PER DAY) ☐ None ☐ Light usage (0-1 drink) ☒ Moderate usage (2-4 drinks) ☐ Heavy usage (>4 drinks)	
CHILDBEARING POTENTIAL			
☐ NOT APPLICABLE			
If patient is female, is she of childbearing potential? ☒ YES (Patient's Tanner Score is ≥ 3) ☐ NO			
If NO, complete all items below:		If YES, specify the form(s) of contraception the patient will use throughout the course of the study. Check all that apply:	
<i>this was used in 1968-2000</i>		IUD ☐ YES ☒ NO	
		Oral contraceptives ☒ YES ☐ NO	
		Contraceptive implant ☐ YES ☒ NO	
		Contraceptive injection ☐ YES ☒ NO	
		Condom and spermicide ☒ YES ☐ NO	
		Diaphragm and spermicide ☐ YES ☒ NO	
		Abstinence ☐ YES ☒ NO	
		Other, specify: _____ ☐ YES ☒ NO	

Patient thinks grandmother



Kirwan B. Quality management of a large, double-blind, multicenter clinical trial: the ACTION experience. Contemporary Clinical Trials 2008/29(2):259-269.

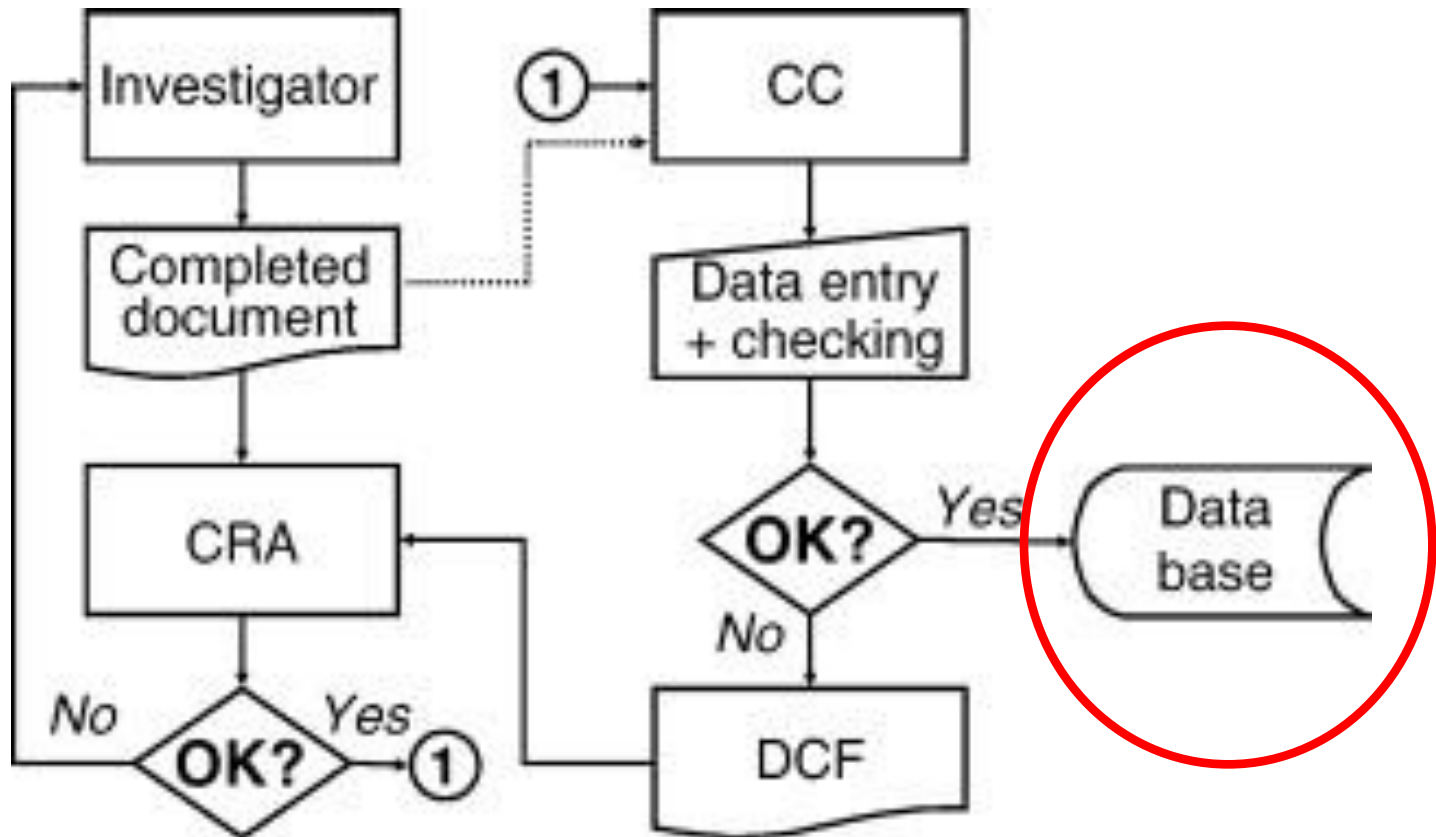




Data flow in the ACTION trial. All investigator-completed documents except Serious Adverse Event (SAE) reports and notification forms were first verified on-site by Clinical Research Associate (CRA). Documents were sent to the Coordinating Centre (CC) for data processing. A Data Clarification Form (DCF) was generated if necessary. SAE reports and notification forms were sent by telefax directly to the CC (dotted arrow).

Kirwan B. Quality management of a large, double-blind, multicenter clinical trial: the ACTION experience.

Contemporary Clinical Trials 2008/29(2):259-269.

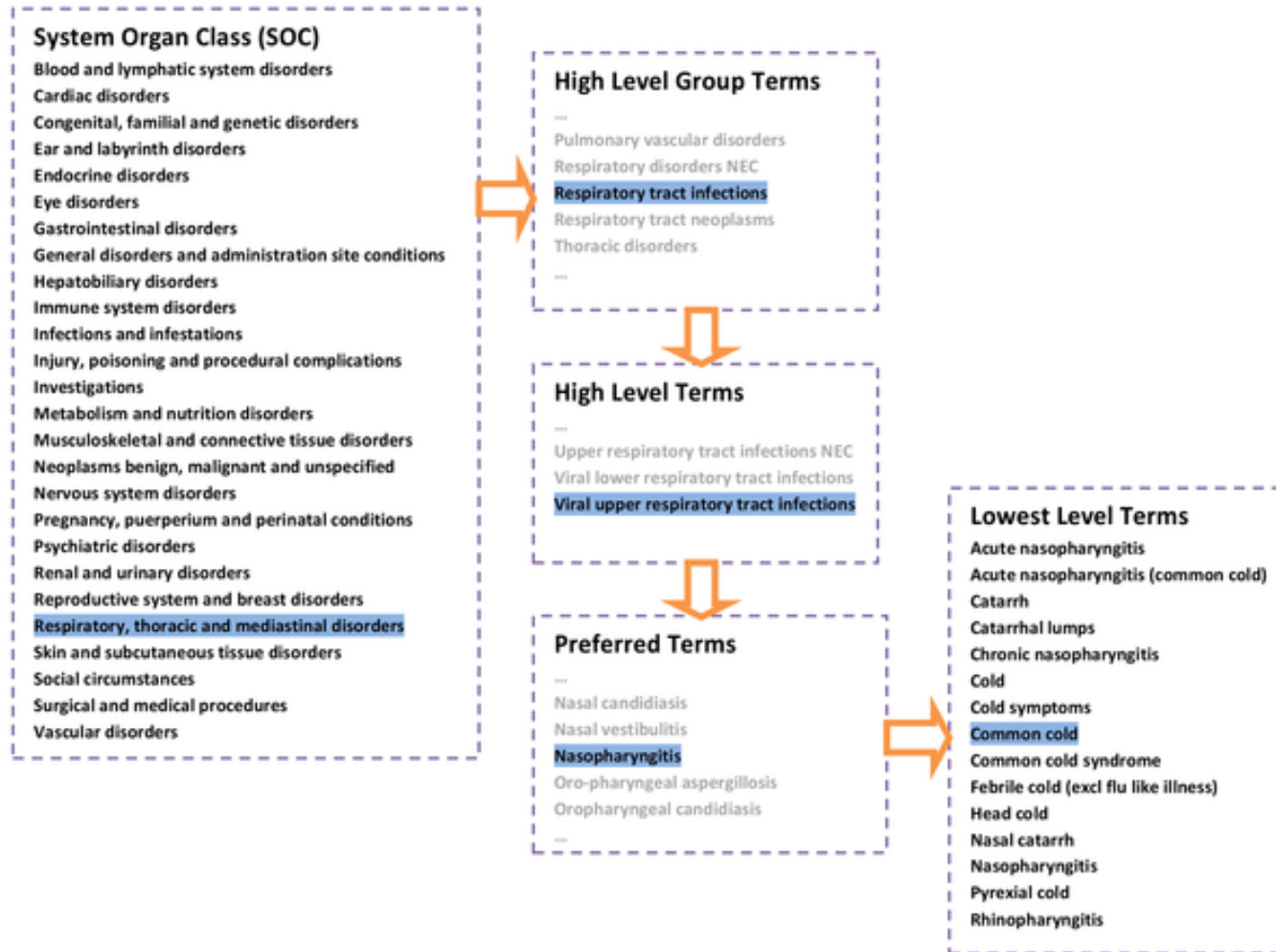


Data flow in the ACTION trial. All investigator-completed documents except Serious Adverse Event (SAE) reports and notification forms were first verified on-site by Clinical Research Associate (CRA). Documents were sent to the Coordinating Centre (CC) for data processing. A Data Clarification Form (DCF) was generated if necessary. SAE reports and notification forms were sent by telefax directly to the CC (dotted arrow).

Kirwan B. Quality management of a large, double-blind, multicenter clinical trial: the ACTION experience.

Contemporary Clinical Trials 2008/29(2):259-269.

Challenges in Coding Adverse Events



The MedDRA 5-level hierarchy demonstrated by using 'common cold' as an example

Schroll JB, Maund E, Gøtzsche PC (2012) Challenges in Coding Adverse Events in Clinical Trials: A Systematic Review. PLoS ONE 7(7): e41174. doi:10.1371



“Raw data about adverse events should mean the original descriptions, exactly as reported narratively by patients or researchers on the case report forms, before any coding or adjudication has taken place for categorization purposes.”

What is it we are thinking of sharing?

“...all data from all randomized clinical trials, including raw anonymized individual participant data that do not allow identification of individual participants, and the corresponding trial protocols to become publicly available free of charge and in easily accessible electronic formats...”



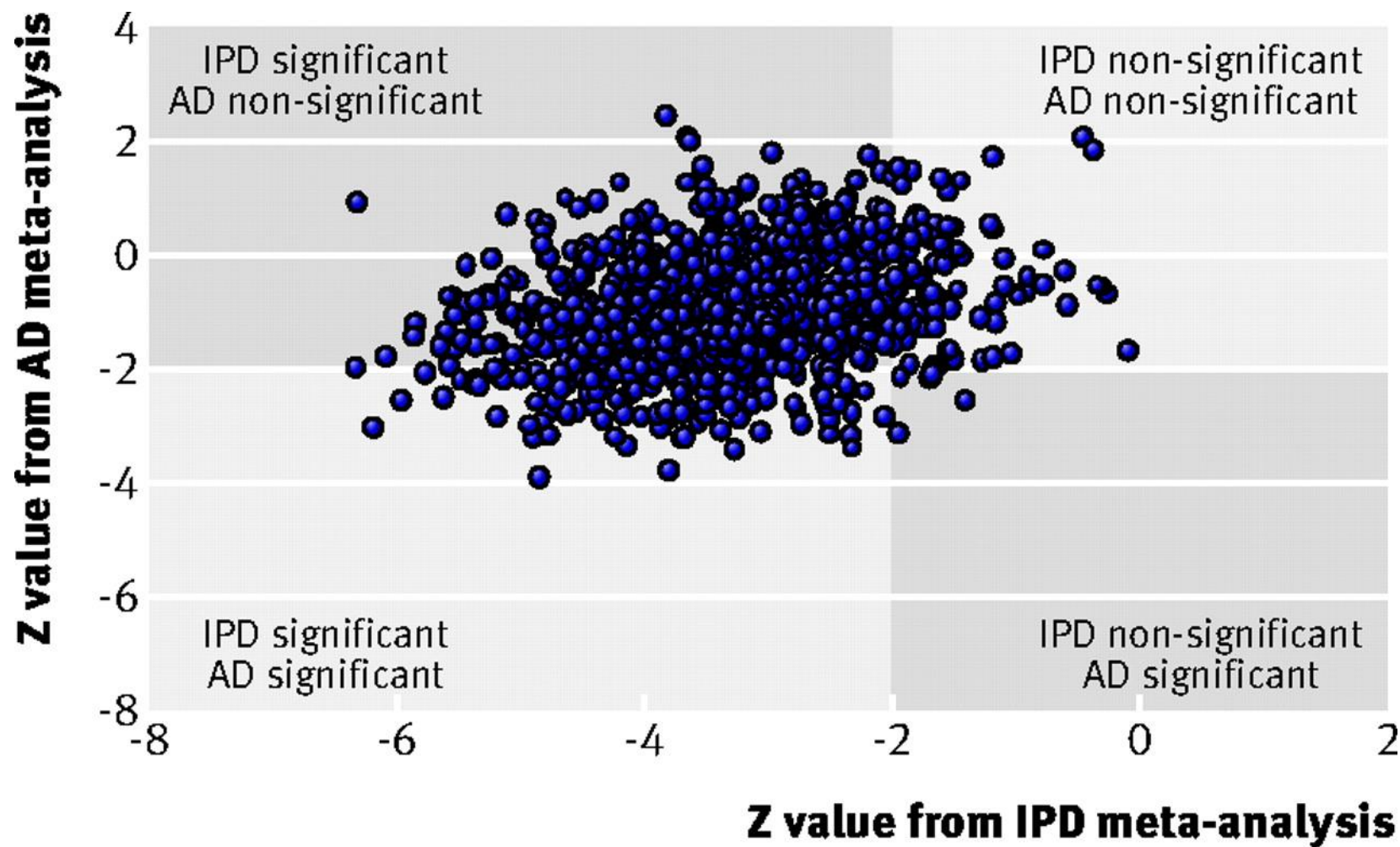
**THE COCHRANE
COLLABORATION**
Preparing, maintaining and disseminating
systematic reviews of the effects of health care

The Cochrane Collaboration. 5 October 2011. Accessed at: <http://www.cochrane.org/about-us/our-policies/support-free-access-to-all-data-from-all-clinical-trials>

Example of individual participant data from 10 hypertension trials that assess effect of treatment versus placebo on systolic blood pressure

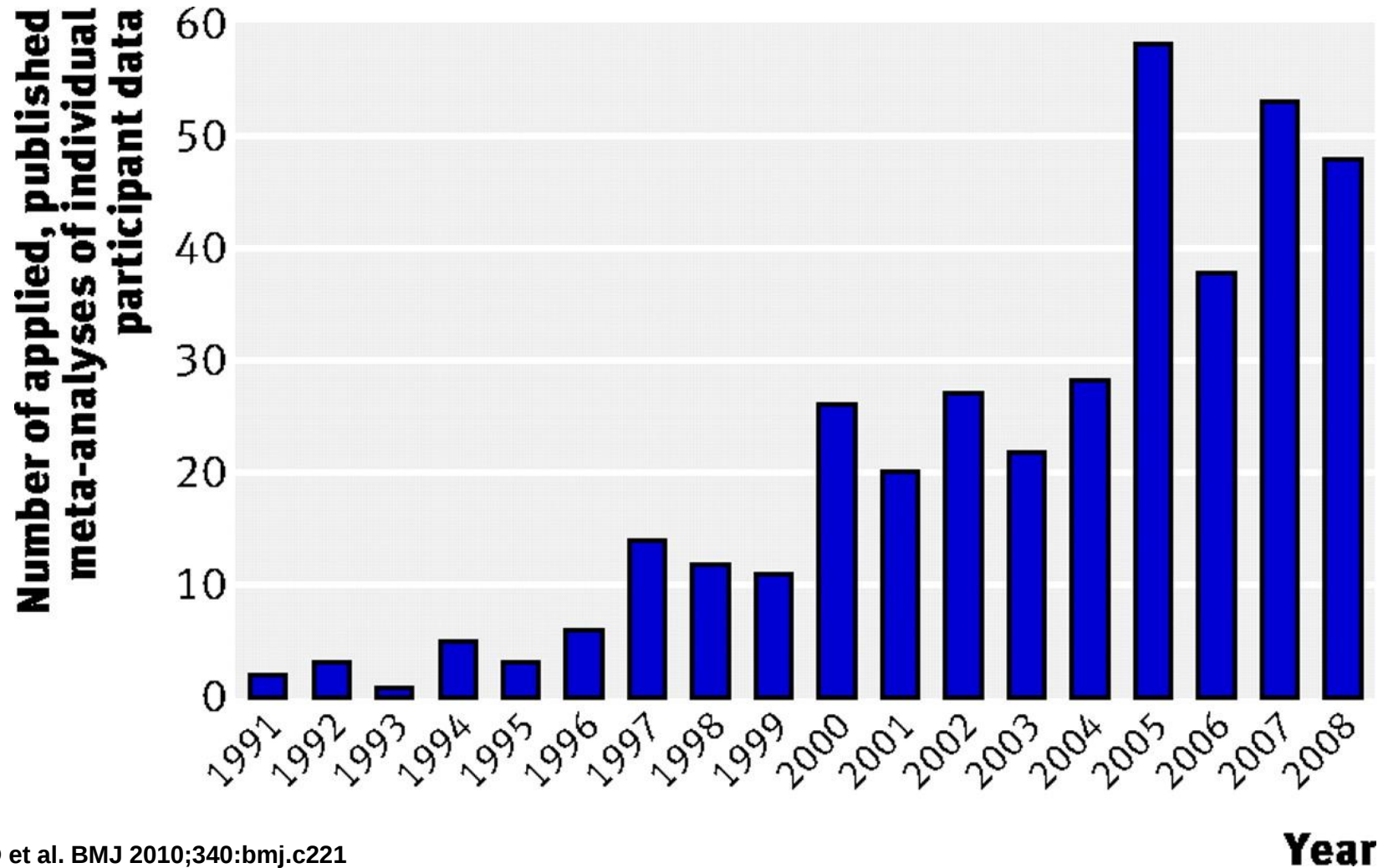
Study ID	Patient ID	Age (years)	Sex (1=male, 0=female)	Treatment group (1=treatment, 0=control)	Systolic blood pressure before treatment (mm Hg)	Systolic blood pressure after treatment (mm Hg)
1	1	46	1	1	137	111
1	2	35	1	0	143	133
...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	1520	62	0	0	209	219
2	1	55	0	1	170	155
2	2	38	1	1	144	139
...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2	368	44	1	0	153	129
3	1	51	1	1	186	166
3	2	39	0	1	201	144
...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3	671	54	0	0	166	141
...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	1	71	0	1	149	128
10	2	59	1	0	168	169
...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	978	63	0	1	174	128

Fig 2 Comparison of the power of meta-analyses to detect a differential treatment effect across two groups of patients when individual participant data (IPD) or aggregate data (AD) are used.

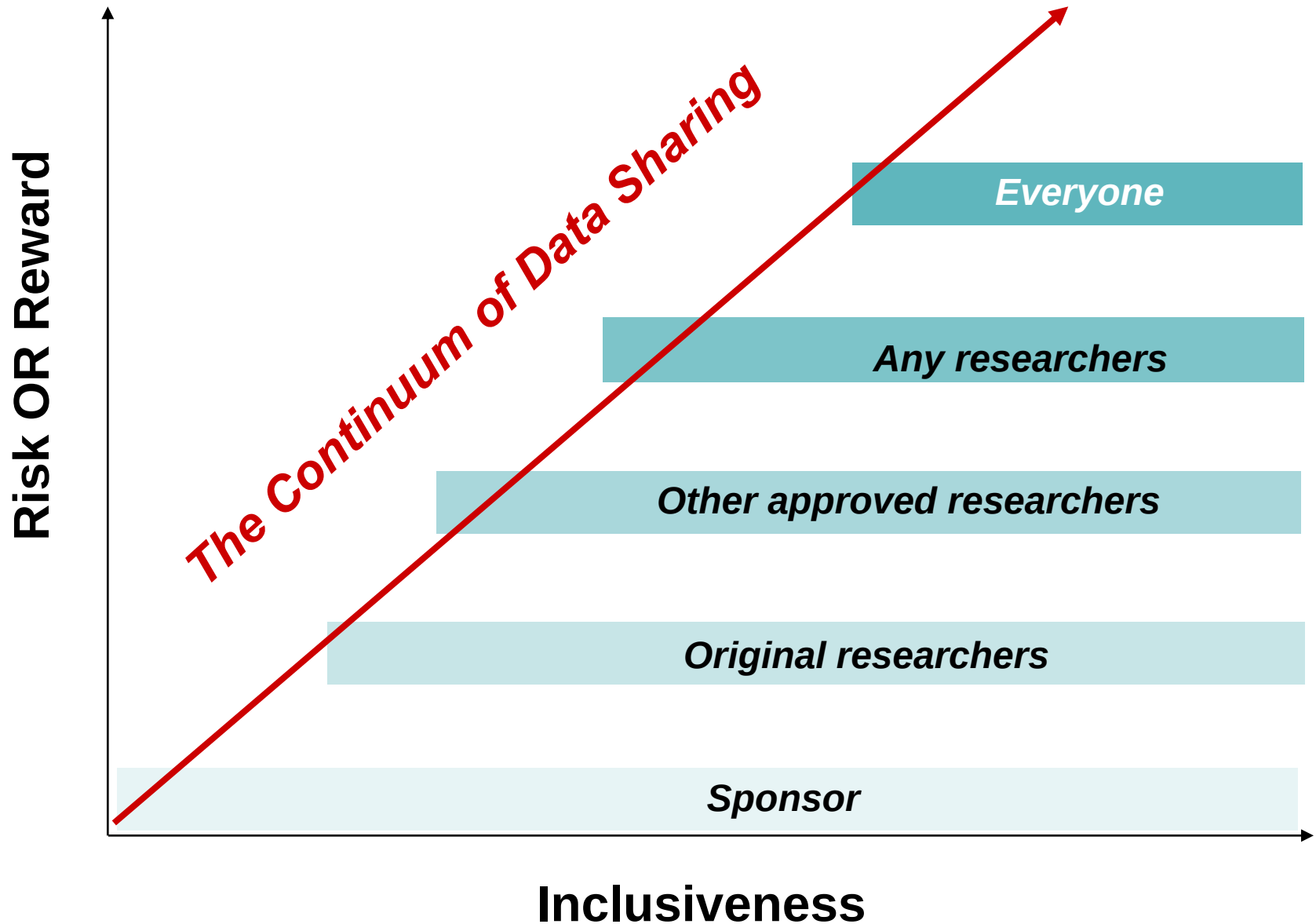


Riley R D et al. BMJ 2010;340:bmj.c221

Fig 1 Number of distinct, applied meta-analyses of individual participant data published up to March 2009, as identified by a systematic review of Medline, Embase, and the Cochrane Library.



What does “sharing” mean?



Phrases that resonate throughout their statements

- Research is a public good
- Restoration of trust
- Respect for research participants
- Higher quality science
- Faster progress
- Avoid duplication
- Better value for money

ORGANISATION
FOR ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION
AND DEVELOPMENT



THE COCHRANE
COLLABORATION



wellcome^{trust}



Larry Page, the founder of Google, has called on scientists to make more of their research available. **“We have to unlock the wealth of scientific knowledge and get it to everyone.”**

Reasons and Benefits: Main Themes

Ethical and Moral

- To fulfill obligations to research participants
- Minimize known risks and potential harm from unnecessary exposure to previously tested interventions
- Medical research is a public good

Practical and Scientific

- Detect and deter selective or inaccurate reporting of research
- To ensure access to valid information about previously performed trials and avoid duplication
- Accelerate research and enhance collaboration by making knowledge available
- Restore trust in the clinical research enterprise

Very similar to the arguments for trial registration!

Obligations to Research Participants

People participate in clinical research at least in part in the expectation that it might benefit others in the future.

“Patients who put themselves at risk to provide these data earn our respect for their participation...”

-- Jeff Drazen

A Duty to Future Research Participants



Might the adverse effects of TGN1412 have been predicted if unpublished information had been available?

Chalmers, I. The Lancet, [Volume 368, Issue 9554](#),
Pages 2206 - 2207, 23 December 2006

Medical research is a public good

“The development of new therapies is, in the end, a group endeavor: taxpayers support basic research, companies fund trials, academic medical centers provide the space and equipment, and scientists conduct the research.”



**You
Didn't
Build
That!**

Kimmelman J, London A.
<http://scienceprogress.org/2010/06/clinical-trials-and-the-common-good/>

BMJ

344:1-52 No 7838 ISSN 1759-2151
7 January 2012 | bmj.com

Laparoscopic colorectal surgery
Maintaining weight loss in adults
In search of beneficial drug reactions
Gambling addiction: a patient's journey

MISSING TRIAL DATA

Why we need the full picture

EDITORIALS

Editorials are usually commissioned. We are, however, happy to consider and peer review unsolicited editorials
See <http://resources.bmj.com/bmj/authors/types-of-article/editorials> for more details

Missing clinical trial data

A threat to the integrity of evidence based medicine

Richard Lehman senior research fellow, Department of Primary Care, University of Oxford, Oxford OX1 2ET, UK
Elizabeth Loder clinical epidemiology editor, BMJ, London WC1H 9PR, UK eloder@bmj.com

Clinical medicine involves making decisions under uncertainty. Clinical research aims to reduce this uncertainty, usually by performing experiments on groups of people who consent to run the risks of such trials in the belief that the resulting knowledge will benefit others. Most clinicians assume that the complex regulatory systems that govern human research ensure that this knowledge is relevant, reliable, and properly disseminated. It generally comes as a shock to clinicians, and certainly to the public, to learn that this is far from the case.

The linked cluster of papers on unpublished evidence should reinforce this sense of shock. These articles confirm the fact that a large proportion of evidence from human trials is unreported, and much of what is reported is done so inadequately. We are not dealing here with trial design, hidden bias, or problems of data analysis—we are talking simply about the absence of the data. And this is no academic matter, because missing data about harm in trials can harm patients, and incomplete data about benefit can lead to futile costs to health systems. Moreover, researchers or others who deliberately conceal trial results have breached their ethical duty to trial participants.

The linked articles look closely at the extent, causes, and consequences of unpublished evidence from clinical trials. Hart and colleagues incorporated unpublished evidence into existing meta-analyses of nine drugs approved by the US Food and Drug Administration in 2001 and 2002.¹ These reanalyses produced identical estimates of drug efficacy in just three of 41 cases (7%); in the remaining cases, estimates of drug efficacy were evenly split between more (19/41) and less (19/41). It is sometimes assumed that incorporation of missing data will reduce estimates of drug benefits, but this study shows that “publication bias” can cut both ways



Missing data about harm in trials can harm patients, and incomplete data about benefit can lead to futile costs to health systems

describes in the Research Methods and Reporting section, prior registration of all trials became a condition for later publication.² Chan details the ways in which authors of systematic reviews can search for unpublished evidence, and he strikes an optimistic note when he states that “Key stakeholders—including medical journal editors, legislators, and funding agencies—provide enforcement mechanisms that have greatly improved adherence to registration practices.”

However, two studies we publish give little cause for optimism that this adherence extends to timely sharing of trial results. A survey of publicly funded research in the United States

US Food and Drug Administration Amendments Act of 2007 made publication of a results summary on ClinicalTrials.gov within 12 months mandatory for all eligible trials in the US “initiated or ongoing as of September 2007”—Prayle and colleagues examine the extent to which this has happened.³ The tally stands at 22%. When the word “mandatory” turns out to mandate so little, the need for stronger mechanisms of enforcement becomes very clear.

Most clinical interventions in current use, however, are based on trials carried out before the era of mandatory registration, and here the task of data retrieval by systematic reviewers and national advisory bodies becomes impossible. Wieseler and colleagues show that the different documents available to researchers and regulators—internally produced study reports, study findings published in peer reviewed journals, and results posted in results registries—supplement each other, but that reporting quality is highest in study reports. However, the effort required to find and collate these sources can be prodigious and seldom guarantees completeness.⁴ In their just published Cochrane review update on antiviral treatments for influenza, Jefferson and colleagues describe a painstaking search for information from undisclosed trials stretching over several years.⁵

There is an “Alice in Wonderland” feel to these investigators’ efforts—acting on the public’s behalf, searching over hill and dale and among the paperwork of regulatory bodies and drug companies to put together pieces of data that should have been freely available in the first place. Even when data on individual participants are made available, they form only part of the jigsaw, and Ahmed and colleagues describe the problems of fitting in such data when the whole picture is not known.⁶

Finally, to find the randomised clinical trials that have been published in the medical literature, nearly every student, clinician, or researcher turns first to Medline among the biomedical databases. But Wieland and colleagues find that

“This may require the global organisation of a suitable shared database for all raw data from human trials...Concealment of data should be regarded as the serious ethical breach that it is, and clinical researchers who fail to disclose data should be subject to disciplinary action by professional organisations. This may achieve quicker results than legislation in individual countries, although this is also desirable.”

Effect of reporting bias on meta-analyses of drug trials: reanalysis of meta-analyses

Beth Hart,¹ Andreas Lundh,² Lisa Bero¹

● EDITORIAL by Lehman and Loder

¹Department of Clinical Pharmacy, Institute for Health Policy Studies, University of California, San Francisco, 3333 California St, Suite 420, San Francisco, CA 94118, USA

²Nordic Cochrane Centre, Rigshospitalet and University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark

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Cite this as: *BMJ* 2012;344:d7202
doi: 10.1136/bmj.d7202

This is a summary of a paper that was published on bmj.com as *BMJ* 2011;343:d7202

STUDY QUESTION

What effect does inclusion of unpublished trial outcome data obtained from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have on the results of meta-analyses of drug trials?

SUMMARY ANSWER

In general, the effect of including unpublished FDA trial outcome data varies by drug and outcome.

WHAT IS KNOWN AND WHAT THIS PAPER ADDS

When unfavourable results of drug trials are not published, meta-analyses and systematic reviews that are based on only published data may overestimate the efficacy of drugs. Addition of unpublished trial outcome data to published meta-analyses changed their results; the direction of the effect varied by drug and outcome.

Selection criteria for systematic reviews

We identified eligible systematic reviews containing at least one randomised controlled trial by searching Medline, Embase, and Cochrane Library in November 2010. We included systematic reviews that were done after FDA approval of drugs with unpublished FDA outcome data, were in English, had outcomes and comparisons the same as for the trials with unpublished data, and had participants' characteristics consistent with the approved indications for the drug. We excluded systematic reviews in which included trials were nested or that combined trials across mul-

tipl drug classes. We also excluded systematic reviews that used non-standard meta-analytic techniques (such as Bayesian or network meta-analyses) or that used inappropriate or invalid methods for calculation of summary statistics (such as unweighted pooled analyses).

Primary outcome(s)

The main outcome was the effect of including unpublished FDA trial data on the summary estimates of meta-analyses of drug trials.

Main results and role of chance

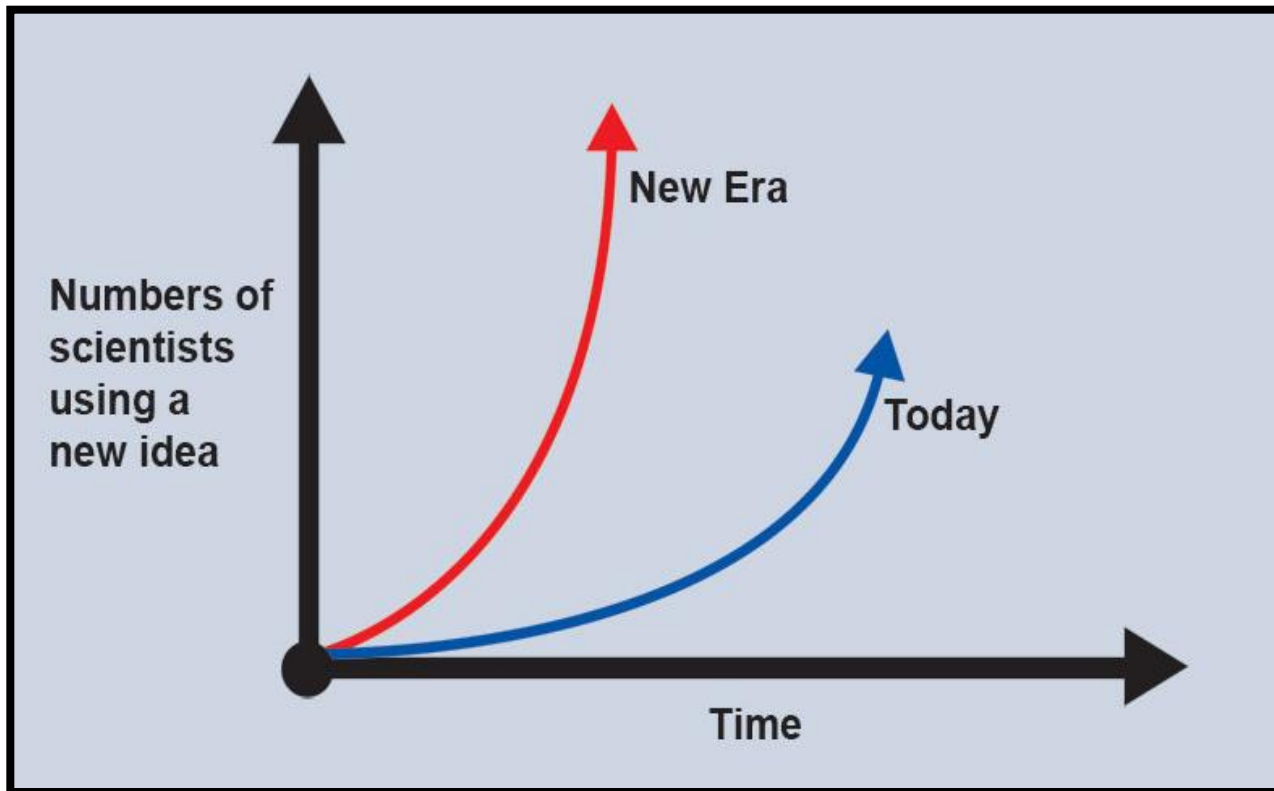
We reanalysed 42 meta-analyses (41 efficacy outcomes, one harm outcome) for nine drugs across six drug classes. Overall, addition of unpublished FDA trial data caused 46% (19/41) of the summary estimates from the meta-analyses to show less efficacy of the drug (range 1-53% change in summary estimate), 7% (3/41) to show identical drug efficacy, and 46% (19/41) to show greater drug efficacy (2-166% change in summary estimate).

Bias, confounding, and other reasons for caution

We were able to identify systematic reviews for only nine of the 24 drugs for which unpublished FDA trial outcome data were available. One reason for the lack of relevant systematic reviews may be that reviewers are unaware of unpublished outcomes and so do not include these outcomes in their protocols. Therefore, selective reporting of FDA trial outcomes could affect systematic reviews by influencing the research questions that are asked, as well as the methods used to answer them.

Addition of unpublished FDA trial data caused 46% of the summary estimates from the meta-analyses to show lower efficacy of the drug, 7% to show identical efficacy, and 46% to show greater efficacy.

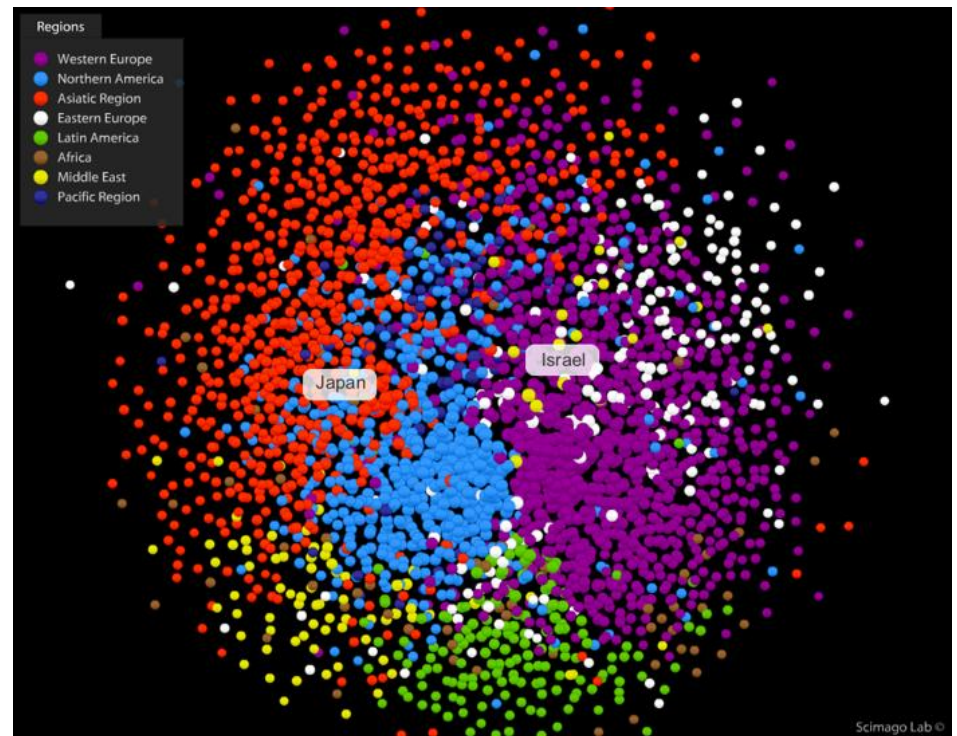
Accelerate research



**Compressing
decades to
years,
years to
months,
and months
to days**

Spence K. USDOE OSTI. Presentation at Fesabid 2007, the 10th Spanish Conference on Documentation June 12–13, 2007

Collaboration and cooperation among scientists



<http://olihb.com/2011/01/23/map-of-scientific-collaboration-between-researchers/> and <http://www.scimagolab.com/blog/2011/institutional-collaboration-in-global-science/>

Benefits: Citizen Science

“The next
~~Beethoven~~
Pasteur will
from
~~Colorado~~
Maryland
come...”



The Maryland native, who won \$75,000 at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in May for his creation, cites **search engines and free online science papers** as the tools that allowed him to create the test...."

Benefits of Sharing:

Restore trust in the clinical research enterprise

“The clinical research enterprise faces its greatest crisis ever: widespread distrust. Without public and patient support, there can be no translation of innovations into medical therapies. In the absence of study volunteers, clinical trials cannot be conducted and, ultimately, public health advances cannot be realized. An alarmingly low 4 to 6% of ELIGIBLE patients participate in US-based clinical trials annually.”



Medical heroes can be found in everyday places



Advances in clinical research are the basis for the discovery of new medical treatments.
To learn about clinical research, visit www.cisr.org or call 1-877-888-0000.
Together we can make a difference.

Benefits of Sharing:

Restore trust in the clinical research enterprise

A Randomized Study of How Physicians Interpret Research Funding Disclosures

Aaron S. Kesselheim, M.D., J.D., M.P.H., Christopher T. Robertson, Ph.D., J.D.,
Jessica A. Myers, Ph.D., Susannah L. Rose, Ph.D., Victoria Gillet, B.A.,
Kathryn M. Ross, M.B.E., Robert J. Glynn, Ph.D., Steven Joffe, M.D.,
and Jerry Avorn, M.D.

CONCLUSIONS

Physicians discriminate among trials of varying degrees of rigor, but industry sponsorship negatively influences their perception of methodologic quality and reduces their willingness to believe and act on trial findings, independently of the trial's quality. These effects may influence the translation of clinical research into practice.

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[Information](#)
[Depositing Data](#)
[Using Data](#)
[Dryad Partners](#)
[Journal Archiving Policy](#)
[About Dryad](#)
[Dryad Blog](#)
[Dryad Documentation](#)

Data from: Efficacy and safety of four weeks' treatment with combined fluticasone furoate/vilanterol in a single inhaler given once daily in COPD: a placebo-controlled randomised trial

When using this data, please cite the original article:

Lötval J, Bakke PS, Bjermer L, Steinshamn S, Scott-Wilson C, Crim C, Sanford L, Haumann B (2012) Efficacy and safety of four weeks' treatment with combined fluticasone furoate/vilanterol in a single inhaler given once daily in COPD: a placebo-controlled randomised trial. *BMJ Open* 2(1): e000370. doi:10.1136/bmjopen-2011-000370

Additionally, please cite the Dryad data package:

Lötval J, Bakke PS, Bjermer L, Steinshamn S, Scott-Wilson C, Crim C, Sanford L, Haumann B (2012) Data from: Efficacy and safety of four weeks' treatment with combined fluticasone furoate/vilanterol in a single inhaler given once daily in COPD: a placebo-controlled randomised trial. Dryad Digital Repository. doi:10.5061/dryad.7p1r30q5

[Cite | Share](#)


Dryad Package Identifier doi:10.5061/dryad.7p1r30q5 97 views

Abstract

BACKGROUND: Fluticasone furoate/vilanterol (FF/VI) is a novel corticosteroid/long-acting β_2 agonist combination in development for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and asthma. **TRIAL DESIGN:** A multicentre, double-blind, parallel-group, placebo-controlled study. **METHODS:** Patients with moderate-to-severe COPD treated with placebo or FF/VI 400/25 μ g OD for 4 weeks. Study objectives were to assess the safety and efficacy of FF/VI compared with placebo in terms of change from baseline in weighted mean (wm) heart rate 0–4 h postdose, trough forced expiratory volume in one second (FEV₁) (23–24 h postdose; day 28). Patients were randomised to placebo in a 2:1 ratio; all patients and investigators were blinded to treatment. **RESULTS:** 60 patients (mean age 64 years) were randomised to placebo (n=20), and all contributed data to the analysis. Mean trough FEV₁ per cent predicted was comparable between placebo and FF/VI (60.1% vs 60.1%). The wm heart rate 0–4 h postdose was similar in the placebo and FF/VI groups (difference: 0.6 beats per minute; 95% CI –3.9 to 5.1). More patients in the FF/VI group (68%) compared with the placebo group (5%) reported common drug-related AEs in the FF/VI group were oral candidiasis (5%). There were no clinically relevant effects on laboratory values, potassium, or on vital signs or ECGs/Holters. The FF/VI group showed improvements compared with placebo in trough FEV₁ (mean difference 236 ml). **CONCLUSION:** FF/VI is safe and improves lung function compared with placebo in patients with moderate-to-severe COPD.

Keywords Chronic airways disease, RESPIRATORY MEDICINE, THORACIC DISEASE

Date Deposited 2012-01-26T16:43:37Z

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FF-VI_348_study_Dryad-DATA 19 downloads [View File Details](#)

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[Research](#)


Efficacy and safety of 4 weeks' treatment with combined fluticasone furoate/vilanterol in a single inhaler given once daily in COPD: a placebo-controlled randomised trial

J Lötval, ¹ P S Bakke, ² L Bjermer, ³ S Steinshamn, ^{4,5} C Scott-Wilson, ⁶ C Crim, ⁶ L Sanford, ⁷ B Haumann ⁷

To cite: Lötval J, Bakke PS, Bjermer L, *et al.* Efficacy and safety of 4 weeks' treatment with combined fluticasone furoate/vilanterol in a single inhaler given once daily in COPD: a placebo-controlled randomised trial. *BMJ Open* 2012;2:e000370. doi:10.1136/bmjopen-2011-000370

► Prepublication history for this paper is available online. To view these files please visit the journal online (<http://bmjopen.bmj.com>).

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Accepted 9 December 2011

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ABSTRACT

Background: Fluticasone furoate/vilanterol (FF/VI) is a novel once-daily (OD) inhaled corticosteroid/long-acting β_2 agonist combination in development for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and asthma.

Trial design: A multicentre, randomised, double-blind, parallel-group, placebo-controlled study.

Methods: Participants were patients with moderate-to-severe COPD treated with placebo or FF/VI 400/25 μ g OD for 4 weeks. Study objectives were to assess the safety and efficacy of FF/VI 400/25 μ g OD administered for 4 weeks via a novel dry powder inhaler. Co-primary end points were change from baseline in weighted mean (wm) heart rate 0–4 h postdose at day 28 and the incidence of adverse events (AEs). Secondary end points included change from baseline in trough forced expiratory volume in one second (FEV₁) (23–24 h postdose; day 29) and wm FEV₁ (0–4 h postdose; day 28). Patients were randomised to receive FF/VI 400/25 μ g or placebo in a 2:1 ratio; all patients and investigators were blinded to active or placebo treatment.

ARTICLE SUMMARY

Article focus

■ Is the once-daily inhaled corticosteroid/long-acting β_2 agonist (ICS/LABA) combination FF/VI efficacious with a favourable safety and tolerability profile in COPD?

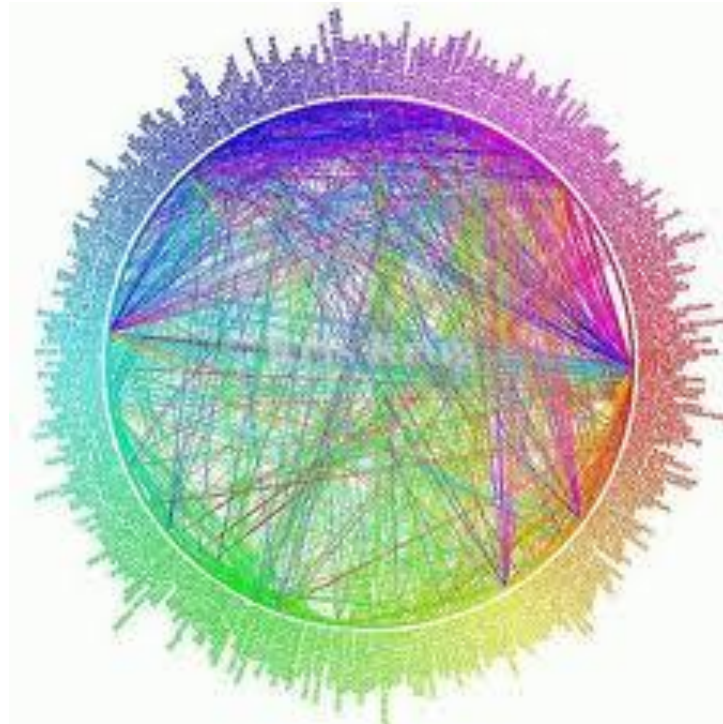
Key messages

■ In patients with moderate-to-severe COPD, FF/VI 400/25 μ g once daily improved lung function. AEs frequently experienced with other ICS/LABA combinations were generally reported at similar frequencies in the placebo and active treatment arms.

Strengths and limitations of this study

■ This paper is the first to present clinical data on inhaled FF/VI combination therapy in patients with chronic obstructive lung disease. Given the 4-week duration of this study, there was no end point or surrogate marker to specifically address the relative clinical effects of FF in COPD (such as

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