

Supplement Table 1: Predictor variables in the two trial registries

The tables below show the predictor variables available for the two trial registries that were used in the multiple regression models.

The “categories” column gives the categories for factors.

The “mandatory” column indicates whether the variable has to be completed on the databases.

The “log” column indicates whether the variable was log-transformed (base 2).

Study status was only used for the models of actual sample size and not the target sample size, this is because the study status was likely to change after the target sample size was set.

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Variable	categories	mandatory	log
Trend per 5 years		Yes	No
Gender	All, Male, Female	Yes	No
Maximum age limit		Yes	No
Minimum age limit		Yes	No
Healthy volunteers	No, Yes	Yes+	No
Behavioral	Yes, No	Yes	No
Biological	Yes, No	Yes	No
Combination	Yes, No	Yes	No
Device	Yes, No	Yes	No
Diagnostic	Yes, No	Yes	No
Dietary	Yes, No	Yes	No
Drug	Yes, No	Yes	No
Genetic	Yes, No	Yes	No
Procedure	Yes, No	Yes	No
Radiation	Yes, No	Yes	No
Other	Yes, No	Yes	No
Double the number of primary outcomes		Yes	Yes
Double the number of secondary outcomes		No	Yes
Double the number of conditions		Yes	Yes
Double the number of arms		Yes	Yes
Lead sponsor	Other, NIH, Industry, U.S. Fed	Yes	No
Longitudinal	Yes, No	No	No

Variable	categories	mandatory	
Phase	Phase 3, Phase 2/Phase 3, Phase 2, Phase 1, N/A, Phase 4, Phase 1/Phase 2, Early Phase 1	Yes	No
Purpose	Treatment, Prevention, Diagnostic, Screening, Device Feasibility, Basic Science, Other, Health Services Research, Supportive Care	Yes+	No
Masking	Triple, None, Double, Single, Quadruple, Missing	Yes+	No
Assignment	Parallel, Factorial, Single Group, Crossover, Sequential, Missing	Yes	No
Allocation	Randomized, N/A, Non-Randomized	Yes+	No
Adaptive_trial	Yes, No	No	No
Status	Completed, Withdrawn, Terminated, Recruiting, Active, not recruiting, Unknown status, Suspended, Enrolling by invitation, Not yet recruiting, Unknown status [Previously: Active, not recruiting], Unknown status [Previously: Enrolling by invitation]	Yes	No

+ = Mandatory after January 2017

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Variable	categories	mandatory	
Trend per 5 years		Yes	No
Gender	All, Females, Males	Yes	No
Maximum age limit		Yes	No
Minimum age limit		Yes	No
Control	Uncontrolled, Active, Placebo, Dose comparison, Historical	Yes	No
Double the number of primary outcomes		Yes	Yes
Double the number of secondary outcomes		Yes	Yes
Area	Cancer, Neurological, Cardiovascular, Stroke, Respiratory, Other, Human Genetics and Inherited Disorders, Reproductive Health and Childbirth, Blood, Infection, Inflammatory and Immune System, Skin, Musculoskeletal, Oral and Gastrointestinal, Alternative and Complementary Medicine, Public Health, Injuries and Accidents, Renal and Urogenital, Metabolic and Endocrine, Anaesthesiology, Diet and Nutrition, Mental Health, Surgery, Physical Medicine / Rehabilitation, Eye, Ear, Emergency medicine	Yes	No
Number of funders		Yes	No
Healthy volunteers	No, Yes	Yes	No
Allocation	Non-randomised trial, Randomised controlled trial	Yes	No
Phase	Phase 2, Phase 3, Phase 1 / Phase 2, Phase 3 / Phase 4, Phase 4, Phase 2 / Phase 3, Phase 1, Not Applicable, Phase 0	Yes	No
Endpoint	Safety/efficacy, Efficacy, Safety, Bio-equivalence, Pharmacokinetics, Pharmacodynamics, Bio-availability, Pharmacokinetics / pharmacodynamics	No	No
Purpose	Treatment, Prevention, Educational / counselling / training, Diagnosis	Yes	No
Masking	Open (masking not used), Blinded (masking used)	No	No
Assignment	Single group, Parallel, Factorial, Crossover, Other	No	No

Variable	categories	mandatory	
Intervention	Treatment: Drugs, Rehabilitation, Prevention, None, Treatment: Other, Treatment: Surgery, Diagnosis / Prognosis, Other interventions, Treatment: Devices, Behaviour, Lifestyle, Early detection / Screening, Not applicable	Yes	No
Study status	Completed, Active, not recruiting, Recruiting, Not yet recruiting, Stopped early, Withdrawn, Suspended	Yes	No