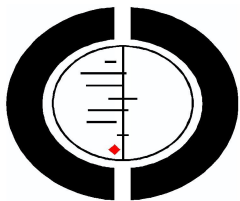


PRAGMATIC RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIALS IN HEALTHCARE



Identifying trials conducted in low and middle income countries



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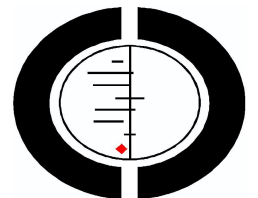
Practihc is funded by the EU Fifth Framework. The author accepts full responsibility for this talk.

What is Practihc?

- Pragmatic Randomised Trials in Health Care Systems
- Funded by the European Commission's 5th Framework Programme for international collaboration with Developing Countries
- An international research and technology development (RTD) network to facilitate information for action on priority health problems

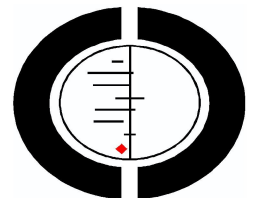


PRAGMATIC RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIALS IN HEALTHCARE



What is the purpose of the project?

- To improve partner countries health systems by increasing their capacity to evaluate health care delivery systems, specific health policy, public health and clinical choices and identify those options which are effective



Practihc Project:

- **Deliverable 2.1: Database of DC RCT's:**
 - **To identify controlled trials undertaken in low to middle income countries and asses to identify how they address the public health needs of those countries**

Searching:

- **Cochrane Library Issue 4 2003 downloaded into Procite**
 - **378160 records**
- **Following country specific search**
 - **32103 records**
- **Following de-duping**
 - **30558 records**

Searching (continued):

- **Additional countries searched for to adjust for changes over time:**
 - i.e.
 - **1991**
 - **Malta; Greece; Barbados; Netherlands Antilles; New Caledonia; Portugal; Guam; Antigua; Bahrain; Equatorial Guinea; Macao; China; Niger; Slovenia; Puerto Rico**
 - **1995**
 - **Malta; Greece; Barbados; Antigua; Bahrain; Equatorial Guinea; Macao; China; Niger; Slovenia; Puerto Rico**
 - **2000**
 - **Palau; Antigua; Bahrain; Equatorial Guinea; Macao; China; Niger; Slovenia; Puerto Rico**

Searching (continued):

- **Sample years 1991, 1995 and 2000 manually searched:**

| • Year | Total | After screening | Removed |
|--------|-------|-----------------|---------|
| • 1991 | 1082 | 605 | 44% |
| • 1995 | 2082 | 1700 | 18% |
| • 2000 | 2374 | 1895 | 20% |

– 365 more possible trials were identified for the relevant years in Issues 1-4, 2004.

Content of those removed

- Mexico in title 284 (searched for Mexico in abstract and Address – these were of often conferences)
- Perugia (Italy), New Mexico (USA), Georgia (USA), Indiana (USA) etc., etc.
- Review in title 131 (searched for [Review] in title)
- Rats , guinea pigs, sheep, cats, dogs, mice, mouse, cows and even horses all put in a show, making quite a menagerie



Other records removed

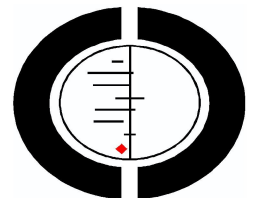
- **1289 (16%) had no participants from a low or middle income country.**
- **Of the citations in 1991, 1995 and 2000, 1008 (13%) were clearly not RCT or possible RCT**

Additional sources – everywhere you care to look



Additional sources: examples

| | | |
|---|------|------|
| Chinese Medical Journals Database (should be ~ 200 more if Chinese language used) | 780 | 13% |
| COCHRANE Lib | 4544 | 75% |
| HIV/AIDS Publication Database of Thailand | 2 | 0% |
| Hungarian database | 4 | 0% |
| Index Medicus for WHO Eastern Mediterranean | 34 | 1% |
| IndMED | 65 | 1% |
| KoreaMED | 105 | 2% |
| LILACS | 301 | 5% |
| PARSMEDLINE | 8 | 0% |
| PASCAL | 75 | 1% |
| Scientific and Technical Egyptian Bibliographic Database (STEB) | 41 | 1% |
| serendipity//Drew | 1 | 0% |
| Thai Index Medicus | 8 | 0% |
| Thai Thesis Online | 4 | 0% |
| Thai Thesis Online | 1 | 0% |
| UKRAINIAN | 57 | 1% |
| TOTAL | 6030 | 100% |



-
- **Hundreds of records from the additional sources were not in CENTRAL**

Examples of searches: where possible home languages were used

- **Chinese search: ((随机对照试验 or 对照 or 对照 or 对照 or 对照 or 对照 or 对照 or 对照 or 对照 or 对照) and (随机 or 对照 or 对照 or 对照))).**
 - **In CAJ Chinese phrases identified 30% more records compared with English alone.**

Some results – in a schizophrenia sub-set....

- ...the studies found solely by using Chinese phrases seem similar to those identified by using English in terms of size, interventions and outcomes – these are studies of relevance to the care of people the world over.
-now over **one third** of the Schizophrenia Group's Register is from China
- ...these records cannot be put on CENTRAL (language, licensing & copyright)

Conclusion

- **CENTRAL's utility is decreased by duplication, animal studies and material that is clearly not even CCTs**
- **CENTRAL is considerable, but it is *not* comprehensive and is likely to be biased in its coverage**
- **Many new accessible databases exist**
- **These databases may have particular value for specific groups – database from the**
 - **Ukraine – Heart Group**
 - **India – Anaesthetics**
 - **Thailand – HIV/AIDS**
 - **China – everyone**

