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Hinshaw HC, Feldman WH (1944). Evaluation of therapeutic agents in clinical tuberculosis. American Review in Tuberculosis 50:202-213.

Key passages

EVALUATION OF CHEMOTHERAPEUTIC AGENTS IN CLINICAL TUBERCULOSIS¹

A Suggested Procedure

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The patients available for clinical study should be divided into two groups of equal size with comparable disease and every effort should be made to divide the patients so that all accessory factors which bear on the prognosis should be balanced as accurately as is possible in the two groups. It would be a great advantage if some procedure of chance could be resorted to in deciding which patients are to receive treatment with the drug. In our own studies now under way, pairs of patients who had as nearly comparable disease as possible were selected and the toss of a coin decided which member of each pair was to receive treatment with the drug. The remaining one is considered the control. Administration of inert preparations to the control patients to exclude the factor of mental suggestion also would be of some advantage. No one who has wide knowledge of the pathology and clinical course of pulmonary tuberculosis will have any delusion as to the difficulty in carrying out this important factor of control.