Preamble

The publication of the survey of all trials registered at the Information Office of UICC during the period 1972 to early 1975 appeared in two parts. The first part as here and the second part as Controlled Therapeutic Trials in Cancer (R Flamant, C Fohanno (eds)), UICC Technical Report Series, 1978).

Aims

At its meeting in May 1975 the UICC Project on Controlled Therapeutic Trials decided to devote its activities to the improvement of methodology “so that trials are easier to conduct and lead to more valid conclusions”. For this purpose a number of subjects were selected, which were related to the major difficulties encountered both by physicians and statisticians involved in cancer clinical trials. The subjects were distributed among the members of the Project who were advised to invite people from outside to co-operate, should they feel the need for it. A meeting gathering all those who had participated in the various surveys was convened in April 1978 to discuss the results and prepare their publication. Two aspects of the working method deserve special attention. First, a very practical approach has been adopted, which consisted in founding the surveys on trials actually conducted, whether in progress or published. Second, all surveys have given rise to discussions between physicians and statisticians, whose points of view do not always coincide (Introduction, page 1).

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Introduction (R Flamant)
The size of cancer clinical trials: an international survey (SJ Pocock, P Armitage, DAG Galton)

- Introduction
- Survey methods
- The response
- Types of trial
- Pre-specification of sample size
- Pre-specification of periods of accrual and follow-up
- Size of treatment difference considered in design
- Progress of trial so far
- Interim analysis of results
- Method of randomisation
- Publication of results
- Additional comments from investigators
- Multi-centre trials
- Discussion
- References
- Acknowledgments
- Appendix: Survey of the size of clinical trials
Adjustment for prognostic factors in the analysis of clinical studies (EA Gehan)
I. Introduction
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Measuring the quality of life in cancer clinical trials: a sample survey of published trials
(D Bardelli, R Saracci)
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Methodology of controlled prophylactic trials in cancer (Knut Magnus, Anthony B Miller)
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Sample size considerations
Compliance
Adverse effects
Criteria for evaluation of efficacy
Follow-up
Analysis and interpretation
Conclusion
References

Legal and ethical problems in the conduct of therapeutic trials: 1978 (GA Higgins)

Authors
The Chairman of the Project on Controlled Therapeutic Trials (1974-1978) is Dr R Flamant (Institut Gustave-Roussy, Villejuif, France) and the members are Professor P Armitage (Department of Biomathematics, Oxford, UK); Professor EA Gehan (University of Texas System Cancer Center, Houston, Texas, USA); Dr George A Higgins MD (Washington, DC, USA); Dr AA Klimenkov (USSR); Dr Kurt Magnus (Cancer Registry of Norway, Norwegian Radium Hospital, Oslo, Norway); and, Dr R Saracci (University of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, International Agency for Research on Cancer, Lyon, France). The contributors are D Bardelli (Section of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, CNR, Laboratory of Clinical Physiology, University of Pisa, Italy); DAG Galton (MRC Leukemia Unit, Hammersmith Hospital, London); Anthony B Miller (Epidemiology Unit, National Cancer Institute of Canada, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada); and, SJ Pocock (Department of Clinical Epidemiology, Royal Free Hospital, London); DAG Galton (MRC Leukemia Unit, Hammersmith Hospital, London).