

**(5) LJ Witts (ed) (1959)**

***Medical Surveys and Clinical Trials: some methods and applications of group research in medicine***

**London: Oxford University Press**

***Preamble***

This is the first (multi-author) textbook to include “Clinical Trials” in the title.

***Aims***

*During the present century a new technique of clinical research has been developed. It consists in the study of disease not in individual patients but in groups. These groups may be small or large but they are usually big enough to justify the use of statistical methods. The subject has affinities with social medicine on the one hand and medical statistics on the other and it has been variously referred to as field research, population pathology, and epidemiology. All these terms are too restricted or have unsuitable connotations for our purpose and we have therefore preferred to speak of group research when referring to the technique which underlies medical surveys and clinical trials. Our object has been to define a field of clinical research and illustrate the unity of the concepts and methods employed in it (Preface, page ix).*

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