(68) John Whitehead (1983)
The Design and Analysis of Sequential Clinical Trials
Chichester: Ellis Horwood

Preamble
This was only the second text on sequential clinical trials to be published during the thirty-six years period from 1948 to 1983. Its predecessor *Sequential Medical Trials* by Peter Armitage first appeared in 1960 (see no. (6) above) with a second edition in 1975 (see no. (32) above). Like its predecessor, Whitehead's book also went to a second edition published in 1992, and beyond to a revision in 1997. Originally it appeared in the Ellis Horwood *Series in Mathematics and its Applications* (Series Editor: Professor GM Bell (Chelsea College, University of London)) devoted mainly to technical texts in pure and applied mathematics; the revised second edition moved to the Wiley *Statistics in Practice* Series (Editor: Vic Barnett).

Aims
Most clinical trials recruit patients over a period of several months or years, and the results of the trial accumulate steadily throughout its duration. For ethical reasons the trial should involve the smallest number of patients necessary for it to reach a conclusion. The trial designs which form the subject of this book have been created with these features of clinical trials in mind. My objective has been not only to describe such designs but also, by providing extensive tables, to facilitate the choice of a suitable design and the eventual analysis of a sequential trial. Although some of the methods described here have been known for many years, few clinical trials have yet made use of them. The principal readership of this work will inevitably be medical statisticians, although an attempt has been made to separate the most theoretical passages from the rest of the text in order to encourage study by interested clinicians. It is also hoped that the book will prove useful for students of clinical trials and of sequential analysis (Preface, page 11).

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