

**(69) Stuart J Pocock (1983)**  
***Clinical Trials: A Practical Approach***  
**Chichester: Wiley**

***Preamble***

This book is dedicated to Peter Armitage and Marvin Zelen. It covers all aspects of clinical trials in a comparatively brief but simple, exposition which enables ready access to individual issues without the necessity of extensive reading. It is a suitable marker in the era of clinical trials methodology, as it stands at the border between the initial phase of the understanding and acceptance of clinical trials, and the subsequent phase of sophisticated and complex statistical analysis.

***Aims***

*There is an ever-increasing number of treatment innovations which require proper investigation to see if they are of genuine benefit to patients. The randomized controlled clinical trial has become widely regarded as the principal method for obtaining a reliable evaluation of treatment effect on patients. The purpose of this book is to explain in practical terms the basic principles of clinical trials. Particular emphasis is given to their scientific rationale, including the relevance of statistical methods, though ethical and organizational issues are also discussed in some detail. My intention has been to present the methodology of clinical trials in a style which is comprehensible to a wide audience. I hope the book proves to be especially useful to clinicians and others who are involved in conducting trials and it would be particularly gratifying if this text encouraged more clinicians to undertake or collaborate in properly designed trials to resolve relevant therapeutic issues (Preface, page xi).*

***Contents (xii+266 pages)***

Preface

1. Introduction: the rationale of clinical trials
  - 1.1 Types of clinical trial
  - 1.2 Controlled clinical trials and the scientific method
  - 1.3 An example of a clinical trial for primary breast cancer
2. The historical development of clinical trials
  - 2.1 Clinical trials before 1950
  - 2.2 Clinical trials since 1950
  - 2.3 Cancer chemotherapy in the United States
  - 2.4 Treatment of acute myocardial infarction
  - 2.5 The pharmaceutical industry
3. Organisation and planning
  - 3.1 The protocol
  - 3.2 Administration, staff and finance
  - 3.3 Selection of patients
  - 3.4 Treatment schedules
  - 3.5 Evaluation of patient response
4. The justification for randomized controlled trials
  - 4.1 Problems with uncontrolled trials

- 4.2 Problems with historical controls
- 4.3 Problems with concurrent non-randomized controls
- 4.4 Is randomisation feasible?
- 5. Methods of randomisation
  - 5.1 Patient registration
  - 5.2 Preparing the randomisation list
  - 5.3 Stratified randomisation
  - 5.4 Unequal randomization
- 6. Blinding and placebo
  - 6.1 The justification for double-blind trials
  - 6.2 The conduct of double-blind trials
  - 6.3 When is blinding feasible?
- 7. Ethical issues
  - 7.1 Medical progress and individual patient care
  - 7.2 Informed patient consent
- 8. Crossover trials
  - 8.1 Within-patient comparisons
  - 8.2 The two-period crossover design
  - 8.3 The analysis and interpretation of crossover trials
  - 8.4 Multi-period crossover designs
- 9. The size of a clinical trial
  - 9.1 Statistical methods for determining trial size
  - 9.2 The realistic assessment of trial size
  - 9.3 The inadequacy of small trials
  - 9.4 Multi-centre trials
  - 9.5 The number of treatments and factorial designs
- 10. Monitoring trial progress
  - 10.1 Reasons for monitoring
  - 10.2 Interim analyses
  - 10.3 Repeated significance testing: group sequential designs
  - 10.4 Continuous sequential designs
- 11. Forms and data management
  - 11.1 Form design
  - 11.2 Data management
  - 11.3 The use of computers
- 12. Protocol deviations
  - 12.1 Ineligible patients
  - 12.2 Non-compliance and incomplete evaluation
  - 12.3 Inclusion of withdrawals in analysis
- 13. Basic principles of statistical analysis
  - 13.1 Describing the data
  - 13.2 Significance tests
  - 13.3 Estimation and confidence limits
- 14. Further aspects of data analysis
  - 14.1 Prognostic factors
  - 14.2 The analysis of survival data

- 14.3 Multiplicity of data
- 15. Publication and interpretation of findings
  - 15.1 Trial reports and their critical evaluation
  - 15.2 An excess of false positives
  - 15.3 Combining evidence and overall strategy
- References
- Index

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