

In vitro, In vivo, In print

Purpose of publishing

- To place on record facts & data that add to the existing store of knowledge recorded accurately and efficiently for others to confirm or proceed beyond them
- Review, analyse and interpret existing information and highlight areas of ignorance
- To stimulate & inspire

Target Audience

- Own specialty
- Own profession
- All healthcare professionals

Research Articles

Some journals require registration in a public trials registry – check editorial policy

➤ Introduction

➤ Methods

➤ Results

➤ Discussion

(IMRAD)

Reporting Guidelines

Help the editor and reviewers to locate specific points/ areas in text

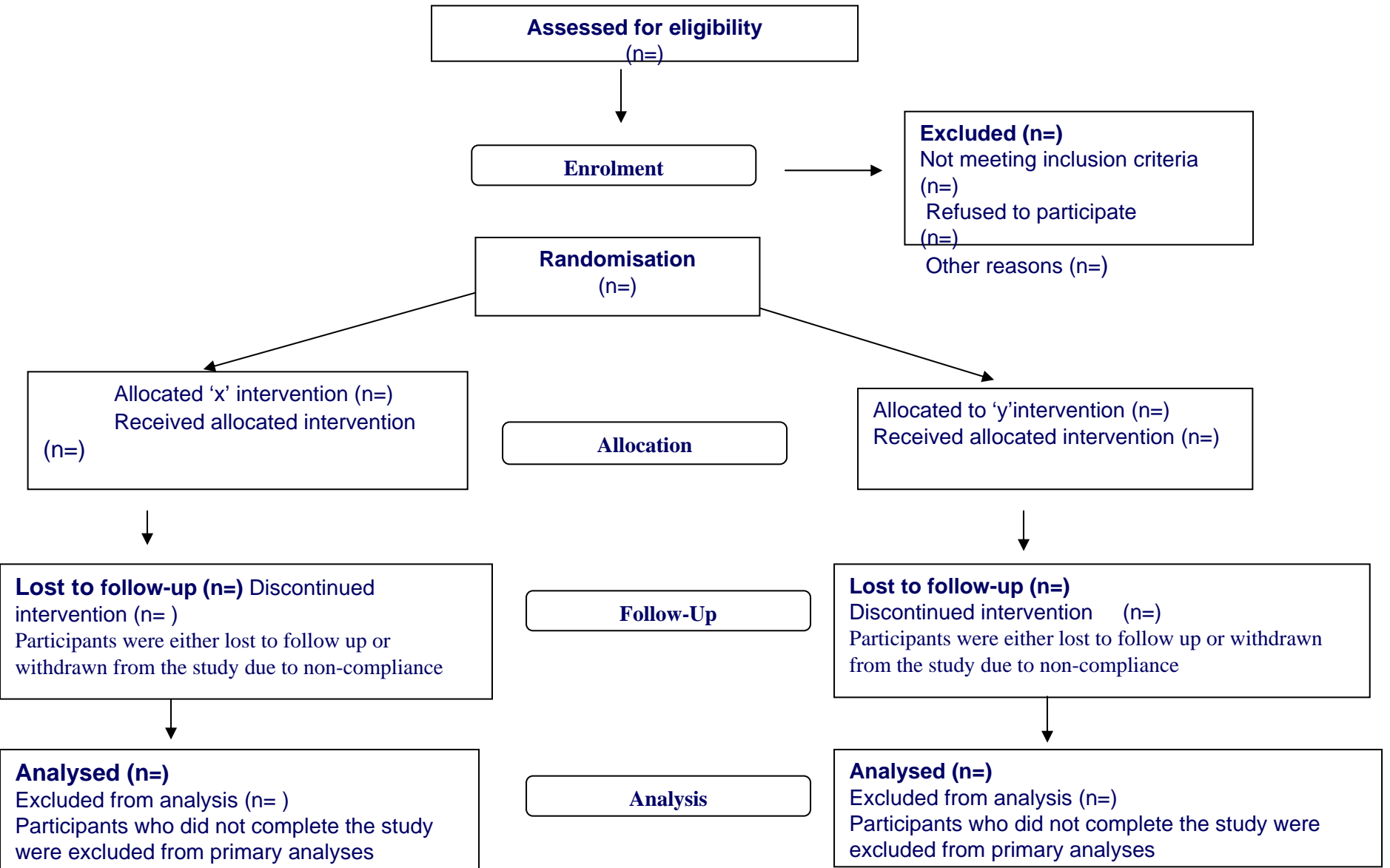
www.consort-statement.org

Provides a list of items to report and a patient flow diagram

PAPER SECTION And topic	Item	Description	Report ed on Page #
<i>TITLE & ABSTRACT</i>	1	How participants were allocated to interventions (e.g., "random allocation", "randomized", or "randomly assigned").	
<i>INTRO</i> Background	2	Scientific background and explanation of rationale.	
<i>METHODS</i> Participants	3	Eligibility criteria for participants and the settings and locations where the data were collected.	
Interventions	4	Precise details of the interventions intended for each group and how and when they were actually administered.	
Objectives	5	Specific objectives and hypotheses.	

Outcomes	6	<u>Clearly defined primary and secondary outcome measures</u> and, when applicable, any <u>methods used to enhance the quality of measurements</u> (e.g., multiple observations, training of assessors).	
Sample size	7	<u>How sample size was determined</u> and, when applicable, <u>explanation of any interim analyses and stopping rules</u> .	
Randomization -- Sequence generation	8	<u>Method used to generate the random allocation sequence, including details of any restrictions</u> (e.g., blocking, stratification)	
Randomization -- Allocation concealment	9	<u>Method used to implement the random allocation sequence</u> (e.g., numbered containers or central telephone), clarifying whether the sequence was concealed until interventions were assigned.	
Randomization -- Implementation	10	<u>Who generated the allocation sequence, who enrolled participants, and who assigned participants to their groups</u> .	

Flow of participants through the study



Title page

- Title
- Authors' names & institutional affiliation (inc dept.)
- Corresponding author's contact details
- Declaration of interest and/or sources of support (grants, equipment, dressings)
- Word count
- Number of figures and tables (use jpegs or equivalent for photos; provide legends for illustrations & tables; ensure they marry up with those listed in text)

Abstract

- Very important! Provides the context/background for the study – also indexed in databases & often only part readers read
- Purpose, method (selection of study subjects observational and analytical methods)
- Main findings (inc statistical significance if approp.)
- Principal conclusions

References

- Vancouver – used most frequently in publishing
- Harvard – generally used for essays
- Avoid; abstracts, personal communications, ‘in press’, ‘data on file’
- Don’t overuse or under-use

Case Reports

- Describes and discusses an instance of disease in *a* patient (case studies generally refer to a few cases with similarities)
- Great value educationally; based around
 - An (unexpected) association between diseases or symptoms (e.g. AIDS & Karposi's sarcoma)
 - An unexpected event during the course of treatment
 - Findings that shed new light on possible pathogenesis
 - Unique or rare features of disease
 - Unique therapeutic approach

Format

- Introduction
- History
- Clinical features (presenting s & s's)
- Investigations
- Differential diagnosis or diagnoses considered
- Treatment & outcome
- Progress
- Discussion:
 - Literature review
 - Arguments
 - Message
 - Recommendations (if any)

Authorship credit

- Substantial contribution to conception, design or acquisition of data
- Analysis and interpretation of data
- Drafting or revising paper and/or final approval of paper
- NOT FOR: data collection, acquisition of funding, making the tea
- Don't agree to be listed as an author unless you are confident you have met the criteria and you are able to defend publicly the content

Conflict of interest

- Where the author or institution has financial or personal relationships that may influence (bias) their actions
- Particularly tricky when co. funded
- Do not enter into agreements that interfere with:
 - access/interpretation/ownership/
 - presentation of data
- State the role & involvement of the sponsors
- 'Negative' results should be published

Confidentiality

- Identifying information must be removed from text and photographs
- Patients must consent, preferably in writing, to being used in case studies/reports
- Remember though, this consent must include all media, particularly if the journal has a website

NB: Always declare information regarding ethical standards, permission and good animal care

Overlapping publications

- Duplicate submission
- Don't submit to more than one journal at a time – waste of people's time
- Redundant publication
- Where a paper substantially overlaps with one already published – can lead to inappropriate weighting of results

Secondary publication

In cases where the wider audience will benefit

- Authors have agreement from both editors
- Primary publication takes place at least a week before secondary
- The paper for secondary publication is for a different audience
- It faithfully reflects the data & interpretation of the original
- The primary publication is referred to in the text

In-fighting

- Study authors may not agree
- Competing submissions may ensue from:
 - co-workers who disagree on the analysis and interpretation of the study
- Those who disagree on the facts & which data should be reported

Plagiarism

Presenting word or ideas without attribution...May be due to:

- Poor writing skills
- Pressure
- Lazy editors
- Falling ethical standards

In general...

- Read the author guidelines
- Know what you want to say before you start
- Know the name (and preferably the gender of the editor)
- Read the journal you are submitting to beforehand

With acknowledgement to <http://www.icmje.org/>

Nobody is perfect

- Something went wrong in jet crash, expert says
- Drunk gets nine months in violin case
- Lung cancer in women mushrooms
- Red tape holds up new bridge
- Kids make nutritious snacks