

Experimental Studies

In contrast to observational studies, experimental studies involve the **experimenter allocating subjects to different exposures** and then observing differences in disease (or other health) outcomes between exposure groups. Generally, they are time-consuming & expensive, therefore, in experimental studies we compare intervention groups and control groups.

Principles

1. The individuals (or communities) will be assigned to the drug or intervention randomly → ensuring that the groups are very similar except for the intervention → removing much of uncertainty of observational studies.
2. Follow up
3. Incidence
4. Temporality is clear, no confounding / bias
5. They have a Gold standard to compare against

Examples

- Some patients who already have a disease will be, allocated a new treatment (for example new drug or new type of surgery), and others will be allocated the standard treatment or placebo (clinical trials).
- To study the effect of a possible preventive measure on people who do not yet have a particular disease (intervention trial).
- A special type of intervention trial is the study of the effect of a possible intervention on whole community. For example, one (or more) community will get the intervention (e.g. water fluoridation or a vaccination programme) and other(-s) will not.

Links

Related articles

- Descriptive Studies
- Analytical Studies

External links

Sources

References

Bibliography

- BENCKO CHARLES UNIVERSITY, PRAGUE 2004, 270 P, V, et al. *Hygiene and epidemiology. Selected Chapters*. 2nd edition. Prague. 2008. ISBN 9788024607931.

Further reading



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