

Clinical Trial Data Sharing: Uses and Challenges in Implementation

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Acknowledgement

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- Visit <https://www.sharectd.eu/>



Funded by
the European Union



SHARE • CTD
Cooperate to share and gain

Clinical Trial Data....

are generated with a large investment of

- Economic resources
- Time
- Burden and risk patients are taking when entering a clinical trial

Therefore, „hiding“ the data is considered

- unethical
- non-scientific
- non-economical

Whether it is intended or not should not matter!

Should we not have access to any data due to freedom of information acts anyhow?

One can request any document from any EU institution, e.g from EMA



- 2010 EMA access-to-documents policy. EMA has released millions of pages in response to such requests. <http://www.bmj.com/content/342/bmj.d2686?tab=responses>

Ten years ago (22/11/2012) at the EMA Workshop on clinical-trial data and transparency an avalanche was set off ...

Guido Rasi, Executive Director of European Medicines Agency (EMA):

“...we are not here to decide if we publish clinical-trial data, but how!”

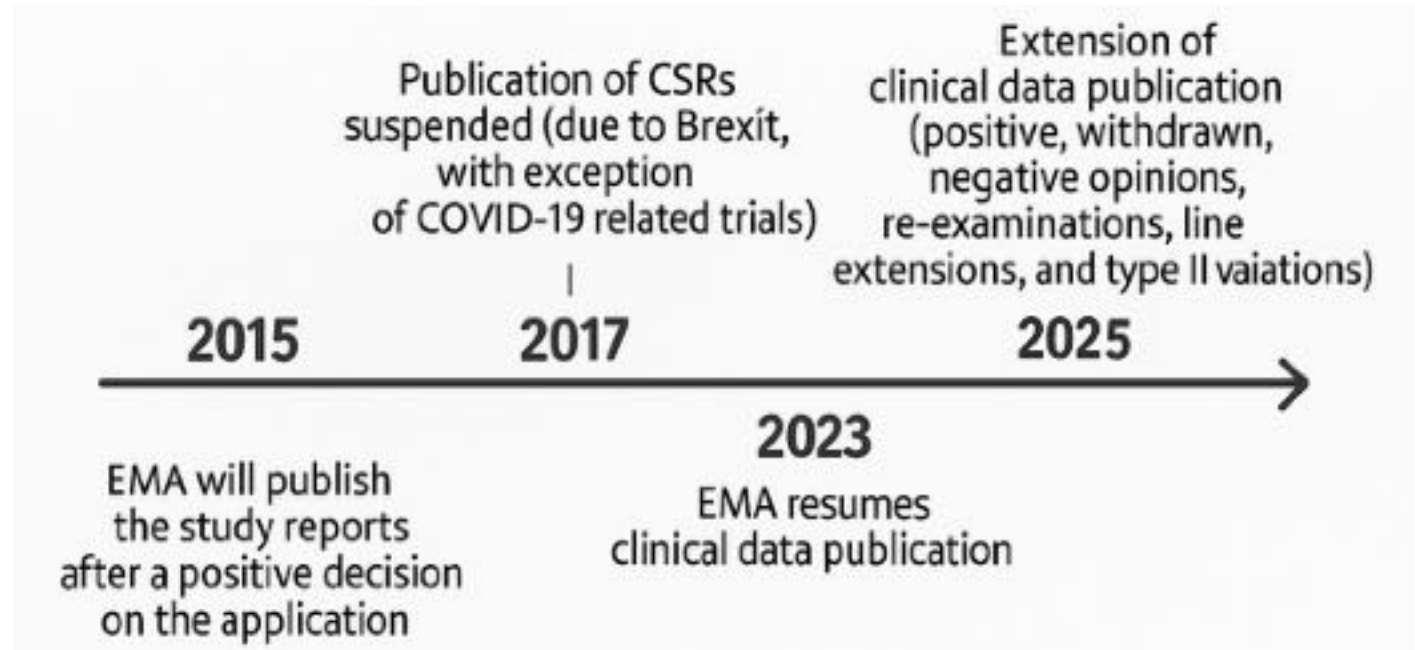


Open access to Clinical Study Report (CSR): designates the entirety of elements submitted as study reports in CTD Module 5, following the format of the ICH E3 document

Controlled access to Raw CT data (meaning individual patient data sets, individual patient line-listings, individual Case Report Forms (CRFs), and documentation explaining the structure and content of data sets

European Medicines Agency policy on publication of clinical data for medicinal products for human use

- **Phase 1: Publication of Clinical Study reports (CSRs)**



- **Phase 2: Sharing of individual participant data (IPD) (pending)**
 - 07/2022 Information about the raw data proof-of-concept pilot for industry
 - 03/2023 Q&A about the raw data proof-of-concept pilot for industry

<https://clinicaldata.ema.europa.eu/>

<https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/human-regulatory-overview/marketing-authorisation/clinical-data-publication>

CT Regulation No 536/2014

- “... in general the data included in a clinical study report should **not be considered commercially confidential** once a marketing authorisation has been granted ...”.
- **All information submitted to EMA shall be in principle publically accessible** unless the confidentiality can be justified based on protection of commercially confidential information, personal data, confidential communication in relation to the preparation of the assessment report, (...).
- The regulation does not distinguish between academic or industry sponsored trials

Further Clinical Trial Data Transparency Initiatives

- **FDA Transparency Initiative**

Availability of Masked and De-identified Non-Summary Safety and Efficacy Data

- **ICMJE's data sharing policy**

Since 2018 data sharing statement, for trials starting after January 2019 data sharing plan in the trial's registration.

- **Individual Pharmaceutical Industry Initiatives**

GSK data transparency initiative, Roche global policy on sharing of clinical trial data, ...

Researchers may receive access to raw data after requests have been reviewed by an independent panel of experts

- **Data Sharing platforms**

Clinical Study Data Request (CSDR), Yale University Open Data Access (YODA) Project, Vivli,...

- **Project Data Sphere**

Sharing of comparator arm data from historic cancer clinical trials

- **Cochrane Collaboration statement on access to clinical trial data**

"All data from all randomised clinical trials, including raw anonymised individual participant data that do not allow identification of individual participants, and the corresponding trial protocols, to become publicly available free of charge and in easily accessible electronic formats"

- **Joint Statement of EFPIA and PHRMA**

Principles for Responsible Clinical Trial Data Sharing

-

Academia

EMA

**Public Funding
Agencies**

**Learned
Societies**

Physicians

Researcher

HTA

OPEN ACCESS TO DATA

What are the opportunities, challenges and risks
of sharing clinical trial data?

Investigators

**National
Competent
Authorities**

**Journal
Editors**

Industry

Pharmacovigilance

Patients

**Ethics
Committees**

Who owns the data?

The sponsor, the patients in the trial, or the public and future patients?

- The **sponsor** has invested considerable resources to generate the data (and seeking research data from sponsors was in general considered as „**industrial espionage**“; „**research parasites**“, ..)
- **Patients** have taken risks and burdens to participate in the trial.
- The **public** who eventually has to pay for the drug (and patients who are treated with it)?

Stakeholder's Interests in Data Sharing

- **Patients and Trial Participants**

- Efficient use of data, e.g., for more robust research synthesis, comparative effectiveness, better evidence for treatment choice
- Privacy (through de-identification and governance)
- Patients must consent to the sharing of their data

- **(Academic) Researcher**

- Enhance knowledge in medicine
- Academic career path
- Scientific metrics: # publications as first/last author), IF, H-factor, grants, ...
- Becoming a data hub related to interesting research questions on which academic careers can be built.

Mansmann et al. 2023
Koenig et al. 2014

Stakeholder's Interests in Data Sharing. (II)

- **Public:**
 - Trust in study results, if findings are reproducible
 - Quality of re-analysis
 - Control of the risk of „false positives“ of multiple reanalyses of CT-data.
- **Regulators and HTA's**
 - Transparency of decision making
 - Allows comparative effectiveness research based on IPD data
 - Safety assessments
- **Data Requesters**
 - Provision of useable data and meta data
 - Fast access to data, high data quality and complete documentation
 - No unnecessary administrative burden

Mansmann et al. 2023
Koenig et al. 2014

Stakeholder's Interests in Data Sharing (III)

Investigators and intervention holders running CTs

- Appropriate time schedule when data has to be shared
- Legal compliance (e.g., GDPR)
- Industry
 - Protection of commercial interests
 - Extrapolatory research, e.g., to tailor endpoints, populations, trial designs,...
- Academia
 - Publication of data in registries is not considered as prior publication.
 - Source of the data must be referenced
 - Authors of secondary analyses must explain completely how theirs differ from previous analyses.
 - Should dose using data collected by others seek collaboration with those who collected the data?
 - How can alternative means of providing credit established?
 - Is it ok if someone else publishes „your“ data?

Life as (Academic) Researcher Publish or Perish



Comic from http://science2enlighten.blogspot.co.at/2012_07_01_archive.html

Incentives to Promote Data Sharing

- DORA (San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment) (2013):

”Our recommendations therefore focus primarily on practices relating to research articles published in peer-reviewed journals but can and should be extended by recognizing additional products, such as datasets, as important research outputs. “

<https://sfdora.org/>

- Reputation
- Legal Requirements
- External feedback on own clinical trials.

Do we know which trials are currently conducted?

- Pre-registration for drug trials mandatory
- Medical studies require approval by an ethics committee before start

Is this information publically accessible?

- Trials are registered at public registries (WHO, ClinicalTrial.Gov, Since 2023 all EU-Drug Trials in CTIS (formerly EudraCT, ...)
<https://euclinicaltrials.eu>
- Depending on the registry more or less information on a trial is available



If they are published ...

... inconsistencies between published results and protocols / trial registry data

e.g., Goldacre (2019)

... essential information is often missing

Wieseler, Beate, et al. PLoS medicine 10.10 (2013)

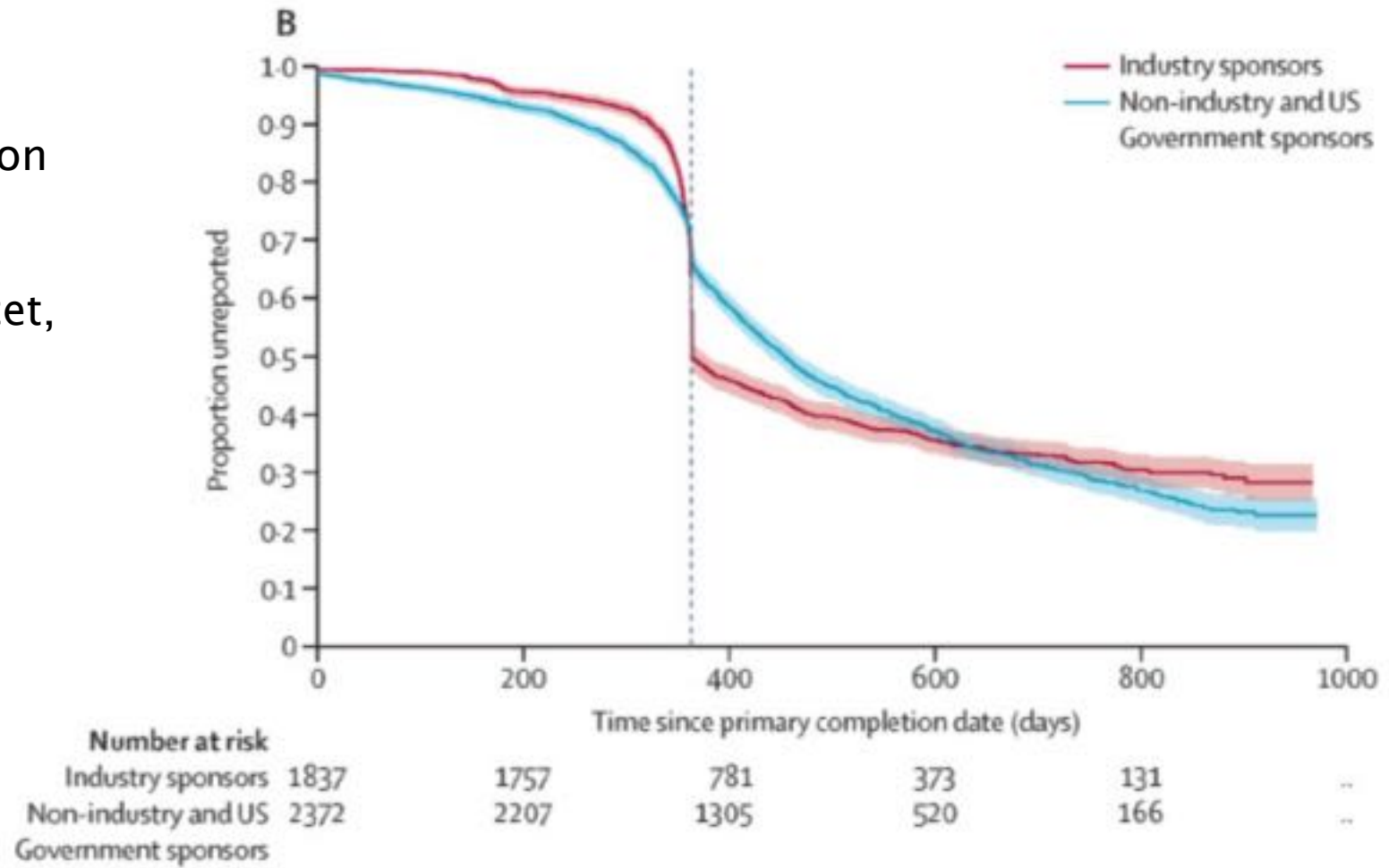
Potential consequences:

- distorted information base on the risks and benefits of therapies
- impaired meta-analyses
- clinical trials may be unnecessarily repeated

After they have been conducted, do we know the results?

Trials on ClinicalTrials.gov
03/2018- 09/2019 with
obligation to report results on
ClinicalTrials.gov

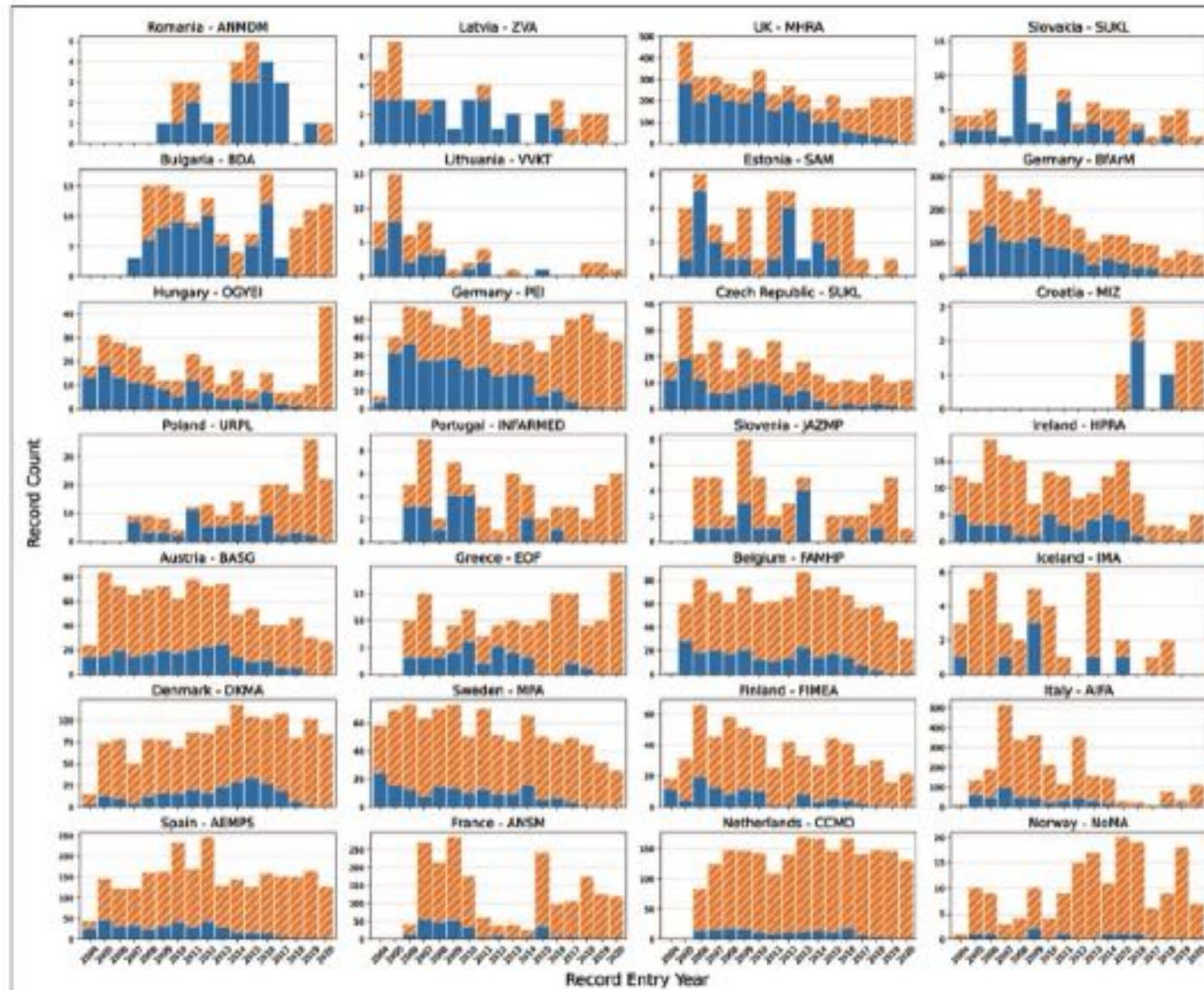
DeVito, N. J., et al. The Lancet,
2020



Results Reported in the European Union Clinical Trials Register

Trials in the EU Clinical
trial register
Data cutoff 01/12/2020

De Vito, Goldacre,
Clinical Trials (2022)



Potential reasons for non-publication

- Results not important, study negative, similar findings already published
- Journal rejection, fear of rejection (publication bias)
- Competing interests (e.g. financial CoI)
- Lack of time, losing interest
- Low priority
- Disagreement
- Poor project management
- Moving to another institution

Secondary Research Based on Individual Patient Data

- **Reproducible Research**

- Confirm sponsor's analysis
- Validating the original study results and investigating their robustness
- Transparency of regulatory decision making
- no prospective „validation protocol“ necessary
- Provides incentives for high quality datasets

*Trust &
accountability*

- **Evidence synthesis**

- IPD -Meta-analyses

Evidence

- **Study planning & analysis**

- Information on the distribution of endpoints
- Information on placebo effects
- Information on the natural course of the disease
- Enables development of tailored study designs and statistical methodology
- Historic control groups

Planning

Two main types of secondary research in relation to open access to clinical trial data

- **Methods development and validation**

- Demonstrate the use of new analysis methods based on IPD
- Investigate the performance of analysis methods in simulation studies based on re-sampling
- Development of endpoints (e.g., scores), assessment tools

Methods

- **Investigation of new research questions**

- Exploratory research (Biomarkers, disease models, ...)
- Different levels of evidence: from „quasi prospective research“ (with SAP written without any knowledge on results of the trial) to full data mining

*Exploration
& discovery*

How to assess the risk of „false positives“ of multiple retrospective analyses of clinical trial data?

Vickers A. Trials 2006;7:15
doi:10.1186/1745-6215-7-15

Burger et al. 2021

First experiences with <https://clinicalstudydatarequest.com/>

- **Good news, some fears seem unfounded:**
- *“It will be difficult to get the data”*
 - Commerical veto never executed
 - 144/177 granted access (33 withdrawn)
- *“data will mainly be used by researchers to disprove against pharma”*
 - Focus on new studies (144 proposals)
 - Only 3 for re-analysis of original results
- **Bad news, outcome disappointing**
 - Few requests, few publications

Data Sharing — Is the Juice Worth the Squeeze?

Brian L. Strom, M.D., M.P.H., Marc E. Buysse, Sc.D., John Hughes, B.Sc., and Bartha M. Knoppers, Ph.D.

The past few years have seen considerable interest in the sharing of patient-level data from clinical trials. There is a clear and logical “ethical and scientific imperative” for doing so, to permit activities ranging from verification of the original analysis to testing of new hypotheses. This interest has resulted in many publications and meetings, attention from the Institute of Medicine,¹ proposed changes in journals’ policies,² and enormous effort from pharmaceutical sponsors and other groups to provide access to patient-level data.³ It is critical that we learn from these early experiences as we move forward.

Beginning in May 2013, GlaxoSmithKline made available to investigators the patient-level data and study documents from more than 200 trials that had started since January 1, 2005; the later addition of others resulted in access to data from more than 1500 trials sponsored by GlaxoSmithKline, including all their global intervention trials since the formation of GlaxoSmithKline in 2000. Beginning in January 2014, requests for data could be made through a public website, clinicalstudydatarequest.com (CSDR), and were subject to approval by an independent review panel.⁴ Other trial sponsors joined CSDR.

In March 2015, the Wellcome Trust took over running the independent review panel for CSDR, in an attempt to increase participation even further; a small number of sponsors were given the right to veto data requests for commercial reasons, although such vetoes were strongly discouraged. Wellcome recruited a new panel, which started reviewing proposals in December 2015. As the members of the original independent review panel, we can report on the first 2 years of applications for access to data and on the results of a brief survey about project status that was sent to the lead investigators of all approved protocols, as well as a survey of sponsors about publications of which they were aware. At the time, data from 3046 trials were available through the website, from Amgen, Bayer, Boehringer Ingelheim, Daiichi Sankyo, GlaxoSmithKline, Lilly, Novartis,

Koch, Sanofi, Takeda, UCB, and VIV Healthcare.

Overall, 177 research proposals were submitted between May 7, 2013, and November 14, 2015. The panel had 30 working days within which to complete their reviews; all reviews were completed before December 31, 2015. Access was granted for 144 of these proposals; 33 were withdrawn after the panel requested additional details, and in all but 6 of those cases a new proposal was submitted because data from additional studies were needed. In 58 cases, the panel required the requesters to improve their lay summary. These 177 proposals included requests for data from 237 studies not yet in the system; access was granted to data from 179 of these. The commercial veto option was never exercised.

Most proposals (140) were for a new study and publication, with confirmation of original studies’ results (3) being quite uncommon. Statistical methods ranged widely and included predictive models (65), meta-analysis (28), survival analysis (15), and some of new analysis methods (14). The most

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A FULLY OPEN ACCESS ARTICLE | OCTOBER 27, 2016

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<http://www.nejm.org/doi/pdf/10.1056/NEJMp1610336> (2016)

More recent usage data of IPD repositories

Metrics of CSDR, YODA and Vivli websites					
Platform	Metrics date	Available studies	No of requests	No of requests agreed	No of publications
CSDR	01/04/2024	3042	757	484	129
YODA*	01/06/2025	491	498	472	176
Vivli	28/02/2025	7718	1396	713	400

CSDR, YODA (metrics concern Johnson & Johnson studies), Vivli websites

Who requests data sets and what are the uses?

Table 4. Characteristics of approved data requests, N (%).

	BioLINCC ^a	CSDR ^b (N = 313)	Project Data Sphere ^c	SOAR-BMS ^d (N = 30)	Vivli ^e (N = 84)	YODA ^f (N = 159)
Countries of origin of primary requestor, N (%)						
The United States and Canada	–	133 (42.5)	–	15 (50.0)	32 (38.1)	94 (59.1)
Europe	–	120 (38.3)	–	11 (36.7)	33 (39.3)	48 (30.2)
All others	–	60 (19.2)	–	4 (13.3)	19 (22.6)	17 (10.7)
Institution of origin of primary requestor, N (%)						
Academic institutions and hospitals	–	299 (95.5)	–	30 (100)	78 (92.9)	154 (96.9)
Other	–	14 (4.5)	–	0	6 (7.1)	5 (3.1)
Purposes for each approved request, N (%)						
Secondary analyses and/or development/validation of methods	–	262 (83.7)	–	22 (73.3)	63 (75.0)	111 (69.8)
Systematic reviews and/or meta-analyses	–	45 (14.4)	–	7 (23.3)	16 (19.0)	47 (29.6)
Re-analysis/corroboratorion of results	–	3 (1.0)	–	0	0	1 (0.6)
Unclear	–	3 (1.0)	–	1 (3.3)	5 (6.0)	0

BioLINCC: Biological Specimen and Data Repository Information Coordinating Center; CSDR: ClinicalStudyDataRequest.com; SOAR-BMS: Supporting Open Access to Researchers–Bristol Myers Squibb; YODA: Yale Open Data Access Project.

Data cut offs (8/2020-10/2020)

Vazquez et al., Clinical Trials, 2021

Patient level data are of particular value in small populations...

- to support research on orphan drugs, personalized medicines, drug development for children, ...
- Identification of patient subgroups
- serve as historical controls
- inform priors for Bayesian analyses
- Support the choice of tailored statistical models (selection of covariates, time points, ...)
- However, even though small populations research may benefit most, it also poses the highest risk with regards to patient privacy.

Koenig et al. Biometrical Journal 2014
Bauer and Koenig, Nature RDD 2014

General Challenges of Data Sharing Implementation

- **Patient privacy**
 - „Proportionate“ De-identification of data
 - Legal obligations of data requester
 - Linkage to other data sets (insurance data, mobility data)
- **Ensuring the quality of re-analysis**
 - A pre-specified analysis plan increases the credibility (as for all clinical studies).
 - Interpretation as retrospective analysis
 - Addressing spurious findings due to multiplicity of exploratory analyses (e.g., on safety)
- **Protecting Researcher/Sponsor's Interests**
 - Suitable timing of data release
 - Credits to data-generator (e.g., co-authorship in publication?)

Statistical Challenges of Research based on Shared Data

- Potential bias due to **knowledge of outcome data** of already published trials
 - SAP is written based on published data
 - Criteria for the selection of trials are defined based on (some) information on the data.
- Potential bias if **data availability is related to the outcome data**
 - Trial registration enables to assess completeness
 - Transparency of data request processes

Potential bias depends on the amount of information available related to study objectives.

What means Pre-specification in the Analysis of Shared Data?

- No real pre-specification is possible as this is secondary research
- Information on the data available at the planning stage is important to assess potential bias.
- Verification of which information was available maybe difficult
- How much cherry-picking was going on in the background?

Standardisation of Secondary Research

- E.g., for IPD meta-analyses similar definition of endpoints and time points would be required
- Selection of data sets should be well defined
- For a trustworthy analysis in secondary research, the SAP should be developed independently of any knowledge of the data (even the original publications)

Would perpetual collaborative platform trials resolve these issues?

Collaborative Platform Trials

- Multi-armed trials, experimental arms from different sponsors, shared control
- Treatments may enter and leave the platform over time
 - Recovery, Remap-Cap, Stampede
- Master Protocols include already outlined analyses strategy of future arms

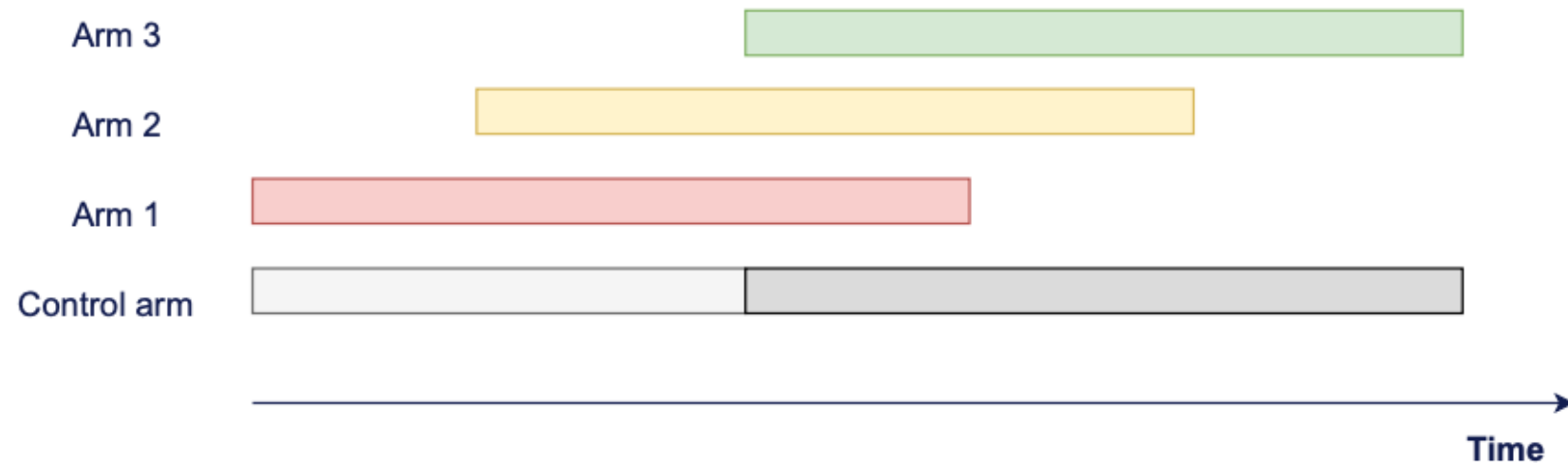


Issues of Data Sharing in Platform Trials

- Head to head comparisons are possible in PT trials but may not be in the interest of commercial sponsors
- Sharing of data from experimental arms
 - may be required for certain statistical analysis as non-concurrent controls, missing value imputation
 - can facilitate the planning of future arms (data on recruitment, covariate distributions, drop out mechanisms)
 - Sharing of data of control arms is less controversial
- Is sharing of control arm data less controversial?

Example: Non-concurrent controls

Can we incorporate control data of patients recruited before an experimental arm joined the platform?



Bofill Roig et al. BMC Methods
(2022)

Non-Concurrent controls = Historical controls in RCT?

Non-concurrent and historical controls share several sources of potential bias

When using historical data for comparisons in clinical trials we accept that strict T1E control is not possible.

Eichler et al. 2016

So in platform trials?

Non-concurrent controls...

- are collected within a framework which has many features standardized (same infrastructure, assessment of endpoints, monitoring, ...) and all changes are well documented.
- patients are randomized and blinding is possible

Time Trends due to External and Internal Factors

- **External**, e.g.,
 - Changes in standard of care
 - Patient population
 - Pandemics
- **Internal**
 - Change in **recruiting centers**: an analysis stratified by center is no longer possible if centers enter or leave the platform.
 - Change in **recruitment strategies**, e.g. if promising treatments enter the platform.
 - Change in **inclusion/exclusion criteria** because of other experimental treatments under investigation
 - Change in **assessment of endpoints** (e.g., new diagnostic devices)

Analysing Platform Trials Incorporating Nonconcurrent controls

- Frequentist methods
 - Pooling of control data can lead to bias due to time trends.
 - Using data from all arms, the time trend can be estimated and adjusted for with model based analyses. (e.g., Lee & Wason, 2020, Bofill Roig et al. 2022)
- Bayesian Time Machine (Saville et al. 2022)
- Network meta-analyses (Marschner and Shou, 2022)

What if previous control data is known when new treatments enter the platform?

- If arms have already left the platform and are published the outcome data from the respective control group is known
 - A platform trial with a control with a random low in the outcome can be an incentive for sponsors to join the platform to plan an analysis including non-concurrent controls
 - Conversely, a platform trial with a control with a random high can be a deterrent to join the platform a deterrent to plan for an analysis including non-concurrent controls
- However, making such decisions dependent on the trial data introduces bias!
- Publishing part of the control data (because another arm was completed) might impact the ongoing arms.

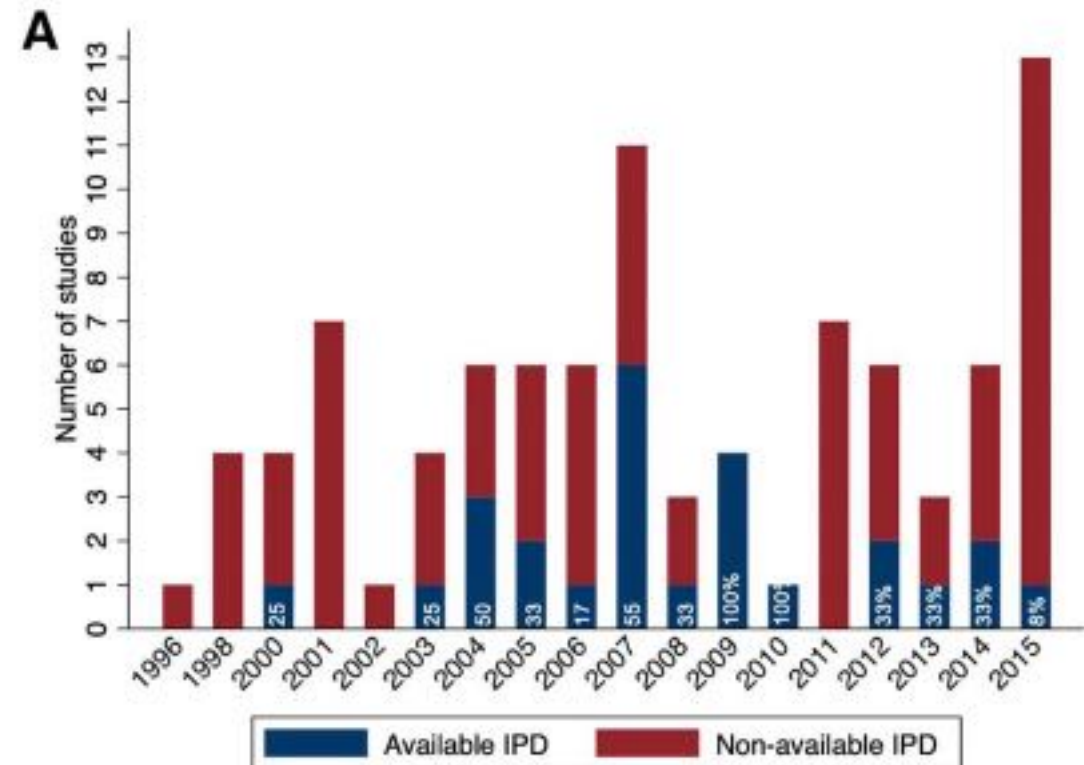
Implementing Data Sharing in Platform Trials

- Critical if intervention owners are direct competitors
- Data governance processes required to define which data can be shared when and to whom.
- Analysis by sponsor independent third parties as data handlers
- Communication & publication of results must be pre-defined
- Data-sharing with external parties to be pre-planned

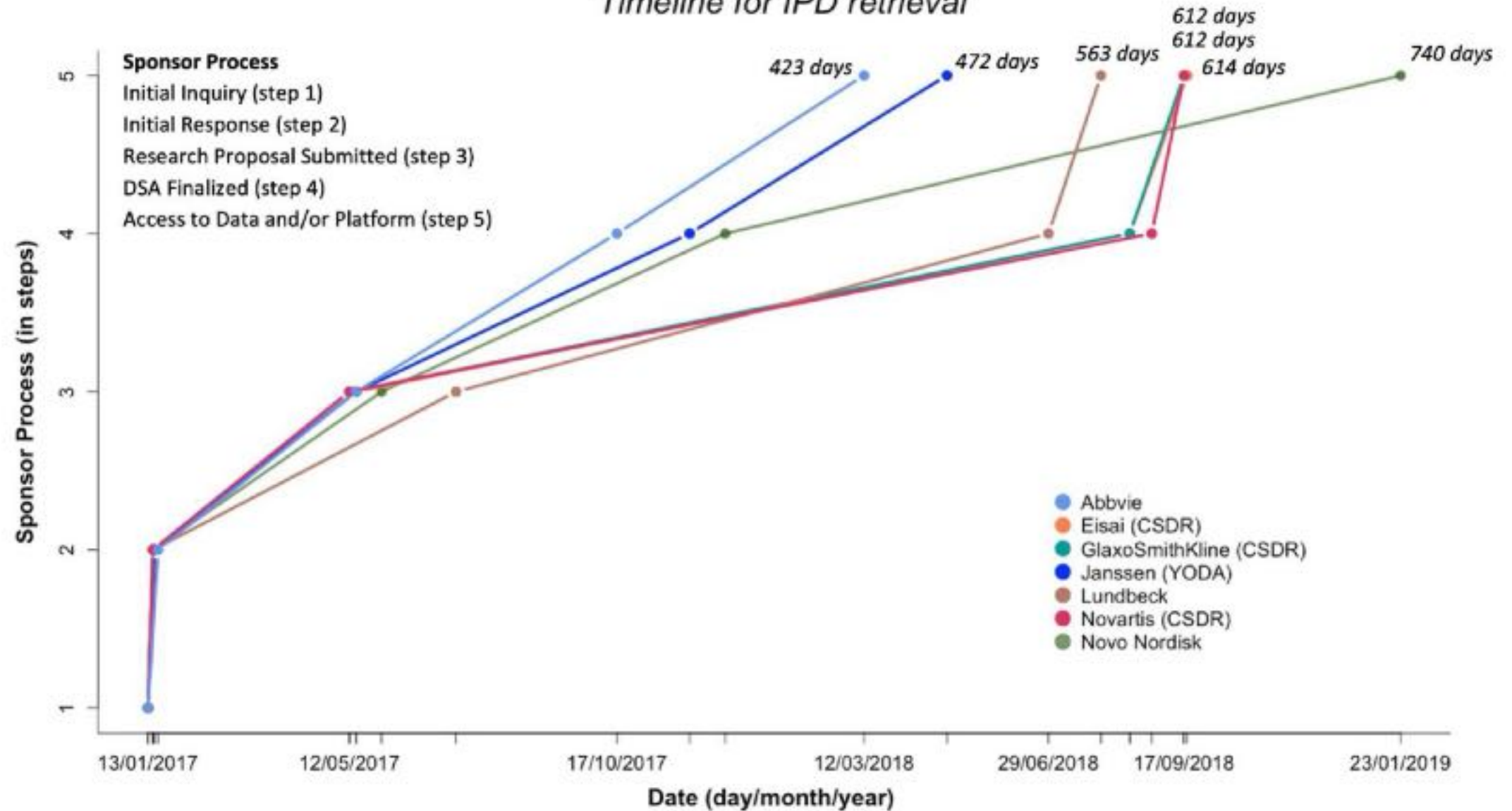
Will data sharing and the potential of direct comparisons in secondary research prevent larger multi-company platform trials in Phases 2 and 3?

Example IPD Meta-analysis (BMJ EBM Veroniki, 2023)

- IPD availability in Alzheimer's dementia and type 1 diabetes
- From 125 RCT publications 0 authors shared their IPD
- For the 78 industry sponsored trials, the industry sponsor (17 different companies) was contacted. 7 (41%) sponsors agreed to share IPD.



Timeline for IPD retrieval



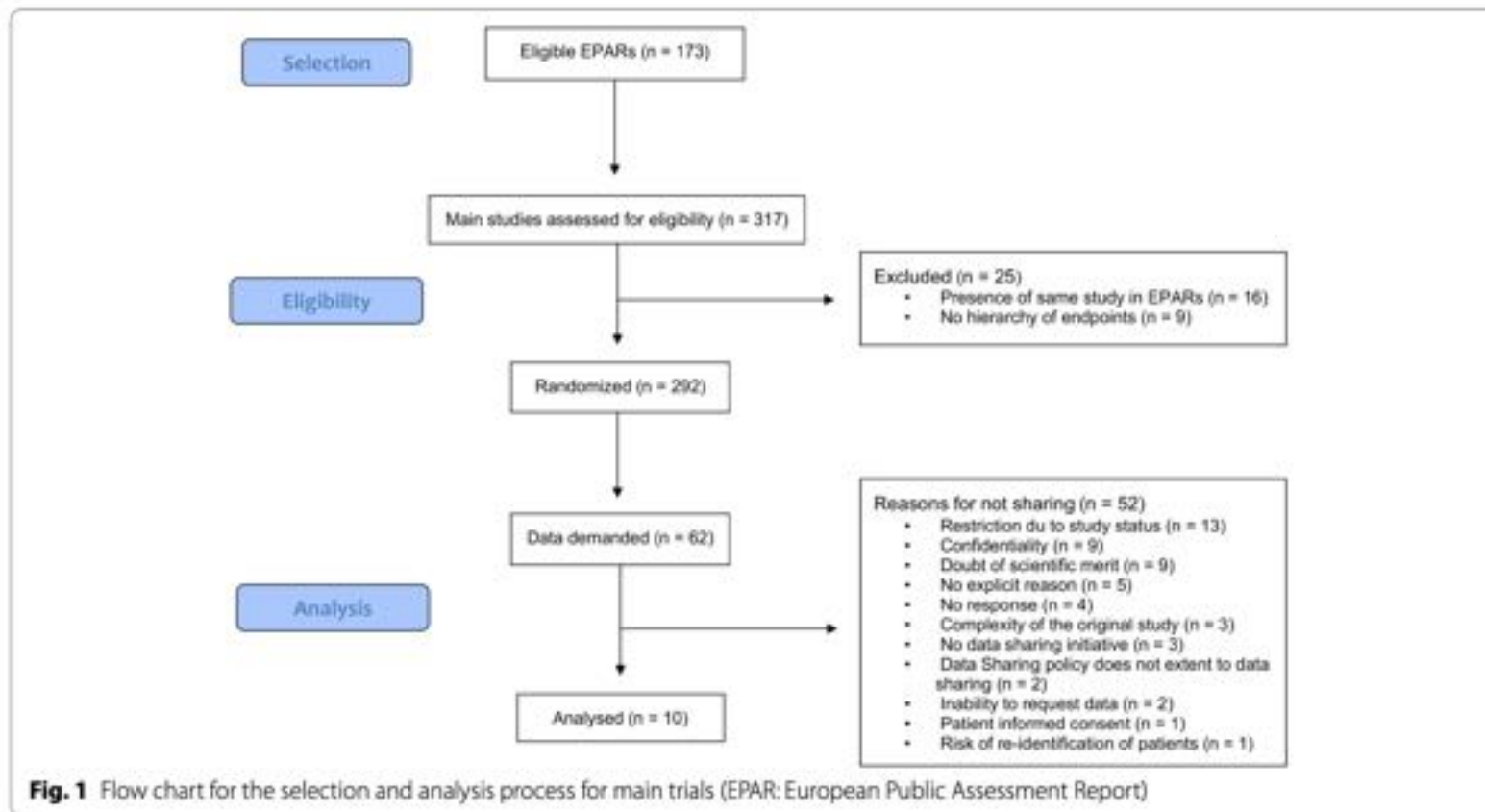
Challenges Reported

- Reasons for data not provided
 - Difficulty with study identification (especially for trials before 2005)
 - Multi-sponsored trials (data ownership unclear)
 - Lack of Response/ IPD no longer available/ other
- Legal process for setting up data sharing agreement
- Costs for licences of coding dictionaries, Limited time & costs for extension
- Missing Data (covariates, outcome data)
- Data availability on separate proprietary platforms only (no combination of data, e.g. for one stage NMA)
- Limited software availability on the platforms
- no clear evidence of IPD retrieval bias

BMJ EBM Veroniki, 2023

Data-sharing and re-analysis for main studies assessed by the European Medicines Agency Siebert et al. BMC Medicine (2022)

- Random sample (62/192) of 'main' studies (according to EPARs) on new medicines, biosimilars & orphan medicines approved in 01/2017 – 12/2019



- Challenges
 - Missing Data
 - Coding Dictionaries
- Re-analysis
 - The results of the 10 studies could be reproduced
 - (similar as experience of medical journals when asking for re-analysis)

SHARE-CTD: Sharing and re-using clinical trial data to maximise impact EU-Horizon Doctoral Network (2024-2028)

Nature Medicine (2023)

- Doctoral network (10 PhDs) and 17 institutions
- Training and Research in Data sharing
- Study level: requesting, preparing, sharing and re-using data
Global level: adopting and optimizing data-sharing policies)
- Multidisciplinary approach: regulations, ethical, legal and social issues, informatics, data science, biostatistics and meta-research, domain expertise across different medical fields.
- Data sharing experts needed by journals, academic institutions (trial centers), sponsors and funders Meta-research can improve the impact of data sharing.
- LMU Munich, University Rennes, Charite Berlin, UMG Göttingen, Med. University Vienna, University Padua, UMC Utrecht, Zurich University, Stanford University, Yale University, ECRIN, Bayer, NICE,...
- 3 CHARITE - UNIVERSITAETSMEDIZIN BERLIN Germany Partner

Implementing clinical trial data sharing requires training a new generation of biomedical researchers

Ulrich Mansmann, Clara Lecher, Fabian Prosser, Tracey Woloszewski, Ulrich Sax, Martin Probst, Twylene Decullier, Ioana A. Cristina, Thomas F. A. Debray, Leonhard Held, David Moher, John P. A. Ioannidis, Joseph S. Ross, Christian Ohmann & Florian Naudet

Data sharing enhances the value of medical research and builds trust in clinical trials, but more biomedical researchers need to be trained in these approaches, which include meta-research, data science and ethical, legal and social issues.

Clinical trials form foundational evidence to inform contemporary medical decision-making. They provide evidence widely used by regulatory bodies and health technology assessment agencies and are considered the gold standard for assessing treatment effects. The value and trustworthiness of medical research may be enhanced by sharing of patient-level clinical trial data together with the code on which analyses are based^{1,2}, as well as other information such as protocols, case report forms and data dictionaries.



SHARE-CTD: Sharing and re-using clinical trial data to maximise impact

EU-Horizon Doctoral Network (2024-2028)

Preparing Data to be Shared

Fairification
Data Enrichment
Anonymization

Patient's Perspectives
Impact of CTDS
Automated Tools

Using Shared Data

Validation
Cross Design Synthesis
Outcome Reporting Bias
Shared Observational
Data

Added value of IPD-MA
Impact in specific disease
areas

Summary and Outlook

- Efficient processes to identify and get access to clinical trial data
- Further harmonisation of data models, endpoints, dictionaries
- Joint data and analysis centres
- Methods and CT-Design development utilizing existing data
 - Evaluation of methods and designs based on resampling of CT data
 - E.g., application of online multiple testing procedures to address risk of spurious findings in secondary research.
- Broader use of IPD meta-analysis
- European Health Data Space Regulation (03/2025), Setup of Health Data Access Bodies: Clinical trials by 03/2031