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News

New improvements in the ICTRP search portal

The WHO ICTRP Clinical Trials Search Portal was launched on the 4th May 2007. The first year has seen the portal continue to evolve with the addition of new features and an advanced search function. Now the standard search has been improved to provide easy but powerful searching of trial records.

What's new in standard search?

- Search terms can be words or phrases
- Search automatically includes synonyms of terms
- Search terms can be combined using Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT)
- Search terms can be truncated using an asterisk (*) wildcard
- Features have also been added to the search results page

What is the difference between the standard and the advanced search?

- The standard search delivers a more *sensitive* result, finding as many results as possible
- The advanced search delivers a more *specific* result by allowing users to choose which fields to search

Tell us what you think of the new search functions and send us your suggestions via the portal at <http://www.who.int/trialsearch/Contact.aspx>

Updating the ICTRP web site

The ICTRP website at <http://www.who.int/ictrp/en/> is being updated and reorganized. The updated site will be published soon.

Reporting the Findings of Clinical Trials

The deadline for participation in the survey on reporting the findings of clinical trials is midnight on Friday 4th July (Geneva time). Please go to <http://www.who.int/ictrp/results/consultation>.

How to cite a record on a clinical trials register

Based on the guidelines for Vancouver style referencing for "Part of a database on the internet" (see http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/uniform_requirements.html), and the Citing Medicine guidelines of the National Library of Medicine (NLM)

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/bv.fcgi?rid=citmed.section.57708>) it is recommended that a citation of a record on a trial register consist of:

- the name of the database
- the location and name of the publisher of the database
- the year the site was first developed/online
- the unique ID
- the title of the record
- the date of registration
- the date when it was cited
- the approximate number of pages
- the web address of the record

We will place some example citations on the ICTRP web site.

When might you want to cite a record in a trial registry?

The registry record may be the only publicly available document on a trial until results from the trial are published. Some examples of situations when studies might be quoted are:

- When a manuscript reporting the results of the trial is published or otherwise reported
- When a manuscript reporting methodological issues relating to a particular trial are published or otherwise reported
- In protocols to systematic reviews, or in completed systematic reviews (eg when a list of ongoing trials are included)
- In protocols to prospective meta-analyses, which will list the ongoing trials to be included
- In any manuscript when reference to an ongoing or unpublished (or even published) trial might be relevant

Frequently asked questions

Question:

How many times do I need to register my trial?

Answer:

To meet WHO requirements for transparency and ICMJE requirements for publication it is only necessary to register a clinical trial *once* on any one of the WHO Primary Registries (http://www.who.int/ictrp/network/list_registers/en/index.html) or on an ICMJE-approved registry (<http://www.icmje.org/faq.pdf>).

Note: Registration for the purposes of transparency is sometimes confused with the need to submit data about a trial to a regulatory agency. They are not the same thing, although in some countries the two may be related.

Presentations & events

1. European Clinical Research Infrastructure Network: International Clinical Trials Day 2008. Brussels, Belgium. 20th May 2008.
 - a. Reporting the Findings of Clinical Trials. Davina Ghersi.
2. The 5th Asian-Pacific Conference on Evidence-Based Medicine. Lanzhou University, Lanzhou, China. 23rd - 26th May 2006.
 - a. Registration of clinical trials: an update
3. EQUATOR Network Launch Meeting (Enhancing the Quality and Transparency Of health Research). Royal Society of Medicine, London, United Kingdom.
 - a. Reporting the Results of Research: should funders and ethics committees be accountable? Davina Ghersi.

Recent Publications

Ghersi D, Clarke M, Berlin J, Gulmezoglu M, Kush R, Lumbiganon P, Moher D, Rockhold F, Sim I & Wager E. Reporting the findings of clinical trials: a discussion paper. *Bulletin of the World Health Organisation*. 2008; 86(6). DOI: 10.2471/08.053769
<http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/86/6/08-053769/en/index.html>

New Staff in the ICTRP

Genta Shalsi has joined the ICTRP as team administrator, and Hazim Timimi as manager of the Registry Network.

Contact Us

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The WHO Registry Platform *e-Note* is scheduled for publication on the last Friday of every second month. The next *e-Note* is scheduled for circulation on Friday 29th August 2008. Suggestions for the next edition should be addressed to ictrpinfo@who.int with “e-Note” in the subject line.

Subscription via LISTSERV: Please send an e-mail to listserv@who.int with “subscribe ictrpnews first_name last_name” in the body of the message (without any “”). The subject line can be left blank.

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