

Contents:

NEWS..... 1

IRANIAN REGISTRY OF CLINICAL TRIALS BECOMES A WHO PRIMARY REGISTRY 1

WHO ICTRP SEARCH PORTAL UPGRADED TO VERSION 3 1

FOUR MORE DATA PROVIDERS FOR THE WHO ICTRP SEARCH PORTAL 2

NO DATA UPDATE OF WHO ICTRP SEARCH PORTAL ON 30 DECEMBER 2008 2

MINISTERS CALL FOR TRIAL REGISTRATION 2

WHO RESEARCH POLICY AND COOPERATION WEBSITE REVAMPED 2

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS..... 2

PRESENTATIONS & EVENTS..... 2

PUBLICITY MATERIAL..... 3

RECENT PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST 3

HAPPY NEW YEAR 3

CONTACT US..... 3

News

Iranian Registry of Clinical Trials becomes a WHO Primary Registry

The Iranian Registry of Clinical Trials (IRCT) (<http://www.irct.ir/>) has become the latest registry to join the list of [WHO Primary Registries](#). This means that IRCT conforms to WHO registry criteria and that registering trials with IRCT satisfies the [trial registration policies of many medical journals](#).

Congratulations to our colleagues in the Islamic Republic of Iran on their achievement.

WHO ICTRP Search Portal upgraded to Version 3

The International Clinical Trials Registry Platform Search Portal (<http://www.who.int/trialsearch/>) provides a single point of access to information about ongoing and completed trials around the world.

A new way of displaying search results was implemented on 10 December 2008 with the launch of Version 3. The Portal now groups together records referring to the same trial by matching main trial identifiers to secondary trial identifiers found in trial records.

All records on a trial can now be seen by clicking on the + symbol in the search results page:

Recruitment status	Main ID	Public Title	Date of Registration
Recruiting	ISRCTN86750102	CRASH2 Trial, a large randomised placebo controlled trial among trauma patients with significant haemorrhage of the effects of an antifibrinolytic treatment on death and transfusion requirement	10/09/2004

The record with the earliest date of registration is always shown first:

Recruitment status	Main ID	Public Title	Date of Registration								
Recruiting	ISRCTN86750102	CRASH2 Trial, a large randomised placebo controlled trial among trauma patients with significant haemorrhage of the effects of an antifibrinolytic treatment on death and transfusion requirement	10/09/2004								
		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Recruitment status</th> <th>Main ID</th> <th>Public title</th> <th>Date of registration</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Recruiting</td> <td>NCT00375258</td> <td>Clinical Randomisation of an Antifibrinolytic in Significant Haemorrhage</td> <td>11/09/2006</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Recruitment status	Main ID	Public title	Date of registration	Recruiting	NCT00375258	Clinical Randomisation of an Antifibrinolytic in Significant Haemorrhage	11/09/2006	
Recruitment status	Main ID	Public title	Date of registration								
Recruiting	NCT00375258	Clinical Randomisation of an Antifibrinolytic in Significant Haemorrhage	11/09/2006								

This new display method will uniquely identify trials when trial details have been recorded in more than one trials register and secondary identifiers have been entered.

Version 3 also includes a filter to restrict search results to trials in children. This option is available via the [advanced search page](#)

Four more data providers for the WHO ICTRP Search Portal

The WHO ICTRP Search Portal now includes records from four more data providers: the [Chinese Clinical Trial Register](#), [Clinical Trials Registry – India](#), the [German Clinical Trials Register](#) and the [Netherlands National Trial Register](#).

No data update of WHO ICTRP Search Portal on 30 December 2008

Please note that the WHO ICTRP Search Portal will not be updating its data sets on Tuesday 30 December 2008.

Ministers call for trial registration

Ministers and representatives of ministries of health, science and technology, education, foreign affairs, and international cooperation from over 50 countries met recently at the [Global Ministerial Forum on Research for Health](#) in Bamako, Mali, 17-19 November 2008. In the [Bamako Call to Action](#) agreed at the Forum, ministers called on national governments to "To develop, set, and enforce standards, regulations, and best practices for fair, accountable, and transparent research processes", including "the registration and results reporting of clinical trials".

WHO Research Policy and Cooperation website revamped

The International Clinical Trials Registry Platform is part of the Department of Research Policy and Cooperation in WHO. To find out more about the work of the Department please visit its recently revamped website at <http://www.who.int/rpc/en/>.

Frequently asked questions

Question:

Which clinical trials should be registered?

Answer:

All clinical trials meeting the definition below should be registered. Thus, early and late trials, trials of marketed or non-marketed products, randomized or non-randomized trials – all should be registered.

For the purposes of registration, a clinical trial is any research study that prospectively assigns human participants or groups of humans to one or more health-related interventions to evaluate the effects on health outcomes. Clinical trials may also be referred to as interventional trials. Interventions include but are not restricted to drugs, cells and other biological products, surgical procedures, radiologic procedures, devices, behavioural treatments, process-of-care changes, preventive care, etc. This definition includes Phase I to Phase IV trials.

Presentations & events

- Presentation: [Davina Gherji](#), WHO ICTRP Coordinator. Title: Reporting the results of research: should funders and ethics committees be accountable? Inaugural Symposium of Clinical Trials Unit, Bern, Switzerland. 5 November 2008.
- Workshop/discussion: [Davina Gherji](#), WHO ICTRP Coordinator. Title: Transparency in clinical research. The Global Ministerial Forum on Research for Health, Bamako, Mali. 17-19 November 2008.
- Presentation: [Hazim Timimi](#), WHO ICTRP. Title: Registration of clinical trials. The National Meeting on Trial Registration. Organized by the Iranian Registry of Clinical Trials, Tehran, the Islamic Republic of Iran. 26 November 2008.

Publicity material

Help us to raise awareness of trial registration and of the WHO International Clinical Trials Registry Platform (ICTRP). Please contact us if you are organizing a meeting and would like to distribute postcards or other material about the ICTRP to delegates.

Recent publications of interest

Listing of the publications below does not imply WHO endorsement.

Rising K, Bacchetti P, Bero L. Reporting Bias in Drug Trials Submitted to the Food and Drug Administration: Review of Publication and Presentation. *PLoS Medicine* 2008; Vol. 5, No. 11, e217
doi:10.1371/journal.pmed.0050217

<http://medicine.plosjournals.org/perlserv/?request=get-document&doi=10.1371/journal.pmed.0050217>

Chan AW. Bias, Spin, and Misreporting: Time for Full Access to Trial Protocols and Results. *PLoS Medicine* 2008; Vol. 5, No. 11, e230 doi:10.1371/journal.pmed.0050230

<http://medicine.plosjournals.org/perlserv/?request=get-document&doi=10.1371/journal.pmed.0050230>

Happy New Year

We wish all our readers a happy and healthy 2009.

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 27th February 2009. Suggestions for the next edition can be sent to via <http://www.who.int/trialsearch/Contact.aspx>.

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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