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PUBLICATION TRENDS IN CARDIOVASCULAR RESEARCH OVER THE LAST 20 YEARS: IMPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING AND COST OF HEALTHCARE

ACC Moderated Poster Contributions

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Published research is critical for advancing medical knowledge. The purpose of this study was to evaluate the trends of published research in cardiovascular medicine.

Methods: We evaluated the characteristics of published articles on cardiovascular disease for the New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM), Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), Journal of the American College of Cardiology (JACC), and Circulation (CIRC) for the first six months of 1991, 2001, and 2011. The financial support for studies was identified and as an estimate of potential costs for clinical studies: study design, number of centers, duration of follow-up, and required testing were evaluated.

Results: For both CIRC and JACC, a significant increase in clinical studies was observed in 2001 with a decrease to 1991 levels in 2011 (CIRC: 1991: 115; 2001: 229; 2011: 127; JACC: 1991: 162; 2001: 226, 2011: 138). Over the past 20 years, there has been a significant decrease in clinical studies emanating solely from the United States and an increase in clinical studies that received industry support (I)(Table). The complexity of clinical studies has increased over the last twenty years with significant increases in centers and patient numbers, more studies with follow-up (F/U) and F/U > 1 year (Table).

Conclusions: Over the past 20 years clinical research has become more global and more likely to be supported by industry. Clinical studies have become larger and more complex which may have important ramifications for cost of healthcare.

		USA	I	Center #	Patient #	F/U	F/U > 1 y
CIRC	1991	57%	16%	4	662	27%	12%
	2001	42%	14%	42	3,357	20%	14%
	2011	46%	25%	167	22,550	24%	21%
JACC	1991	67%	9%	2	183	20%	10%
	2001	33%	14%	13	2,087	38%	17%
	2011	34%	25%	64	2,598	42%	26%
NEJM	1991	50%	10%	5	970	47%	16%
	2001	55%	55%	47	1,284	75%	25%
	2011	17%	67%	118	7,158	83%	67%
JAMA	1991	100%	7%	3	895	33%	13%
	2001	70%	15%	50	13,633	62%	25%
	2011	72%	17%	195	21,671	64%	28%