REPORTING QUALITY OF DOUBLE-BLIND RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIALS AND ITS ASSOCIATION WITH THE FUNDING AGENCY

Sinha N, Agrawal R, Dimri S, Ushadaya BS, Narvikar P, Bhandari M
Haldwani, Chhindwara, India

OBJECTIVE: To assess the reporting quality of double-blind randomized controlled trials (RCTs) published in the New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM) using Jadad scale and to examine the relationship between funding source and quality of reporting. METHODS: Medline database was searched for RCTs. Search was limited to RCTs published in the last five years in the NEJM and performed on humans. Quality of reporting was assessed using the Jadad scale (1 to 5). The analysis was limited only to the double-blind RCTs assessing drug or vaccine based intervention. RESULTS: A total of 207 double-blind trials out of 489 RCTs were assessed for reporting quality. Median (mean) Jadad score was 4 (3.8). The proportion of trials with Jadad score 5 was 20.8% whereas 5.8% trials received a Jadad score of 2. None of the trials received a Jadad score of 1. Method of randomization and concealment of allocation was adequate in 35.3% and 47.8% trials, respectively. Method of blinding was adequate in 51.2% of trials. A total of 89.4% trials reported details of follow-up and reasons for withdrawal. The quality of reporting was good (Jadad score = 3) in 94.2% studies. Year-wise analysis showed that 100%, 91%, 91%, 94% and 96% studies were of good reporting quality in the year 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008, respectively. A Jadad score of 5 was received by 41% (9 out of 22) government sponsored trials as compared to only 14% (5 out of 10) trials sponsored by industry. CONCLUSION: There is a scope for further improvement in reporting of method for randomization, concealment of allocation and method of blinding. Influence of funding agency on the quality of reporting could be analyzed further.

CANCER – Clinical Outcomes Studies

PCN1

TIME DELAY OF OCCURRENCE OF SECONDARY MALIGNANT TUMORS AFTER PRIMARY BREAST CANCER IN THE FEMALE POPULATION OF HUNGARY BETWEEN 2003 AND 2007

University of Pécs, Pécs, Hungary

OBJECTIVES: The purpose of this study was to determine the time delay from the diagnosis of primary breast cancer to the appearance of secondary tumors affecting other organs in Hungary. METHODS: Data were collected from the nationwide financing database of the National Health Insurance Fund Administration (OEI). The subject of the observation aimed female patients treated in hospitals with primary breast tumor (BNO: C5000-C5090, D0570, D0590) between the period of January 1, 2002 and December 31, 2002. We examined the time delay between the diagnosis of primary breast cancer 2002 and its secondary malignancies in the following 5 years. RESULTS: In 2002, a total of 7548 patients were treated in hospitals with malignant primary breast tumor. Between 2003 and 2007 2870 primary breast tumor patients attended in hospitals with tumor disorders affected any other organs. In the following five years after the occurrence of primary breast tumors, secondary malignant tumors affecting other organs were occurred in 21.32% of the patients. The five most often appeared malignant diseases in the examined period were: malignant tumors in the bones and bone marrow were diagnosed 29.0 months, malignant tumor in the lung 34.4 months, malignant tumors in the lymph gland 20.3 months, malignant tumor of the liver 29.7 months and malignant tumor in the brain and dural tumor 32.3 months after the occurrence of primary breast tumors. CONCLUSION: In the following five years other malignant tumors were occurred in one fifth of the primary breast tumor patients. The most frequent of the five most often secondary tumors was found 21.32 months, or 2.4 years were needed. In consideration to all occurred secondary tumors in case of the whole population this value is on average 33.2 months or 2.9 years.

PCN2


University of Pécs, Pécs, Hungary

OBJECTIVES: The purpose of this study was to determine the frequency of occurrence of secondary tumors affecting other organs in case of patients suffering from tumor located in any fields of the breast. METHODS: Data were collected from the financing database of the National Health Insurance Fund Administration (OEI). The subject of the observation aimed female patients treated in hospitals with primary breast tumor (BNO: C5000-C5090, D0570, D0590) between the period of January 1, 2002 and December 31, 2002. Accordingly we examined the frequency of occurrence of secondary tumors evolving after occurrence of the primary tumor in the following 5 years (2003–2007). RESULTS: In 2002, a total of 10,378 patients (21,418 cases) were treated with malignant breast tumors; 2,870 primary breast tumor patients attended in hospitals with tumor disorders in any organs between 2003 and 2007. The five most frequent malignancies appeared the most often in the examined period were: malignant tumors in the bones and bone marrow in 298 patients, malignant tumor in the lung in 212 patients, malignant tumor in the lymph gland in 186 cases, malignant tumor of the liver in 182 cases and malignant brain and dural tumor in 151 cases. The fre-

quency of occurrence of these tumors projected on 10,000 primary breast tumors is the following: malignant tumors in the bones and bone marrow in 395 patients, malignant tumor in the lung in 281 patients, malignant tumor in the lymph gland in 246 cases, malignant tumor of the liver in 241 cases and malignant brain and dural tumor in 200 cases.

GAINS ASSOCIATED WITH CLINICAL EXAMS AND MAMMOGRAPHIC SCREENING FOR WOMEN ABOVE 40 YEARS OF AGE

1Hospital Moins dos Vento, Porto Alegre, RS, Brazil. 2Hospital Universidade do Porto do Sul, Porto Alegre, RS, Brazil. 3Hospital Federal de São Paulo, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
OBJECTIVES: In Brazil, according to the National Cancer Institute (INCA, 2005), approximately 50% of all breast cancer (BC) diagnosis point to advanced cases at the time of first presentation (stages III and IV), which results in a maximal 5 year survival rate of 36% for these women (The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation). It is supposed that this mortality could be reduced through an improvement in public breast health care. We conducted a study to examine the costs of family physician and urologist consultations, PSA test, rectal ultrasound, and biopsy. RESULTS: In 145 of patients (26.1%), the gastroenterologist found a pathological mass in the prostate gland and they were referred to their family physician. Of the 134 patients who went to their family physician, 58 (43.5%) remained for observation and monitoring and 76 (56.7%) were referred urologists for further examination. Three patients were diagnosed with prostate cancer. The total cost of the screening and follow-up was $25 per patient and the cost per a prostate cancer detected was approximately $5000. CONCLUSION: Our screening model is applicable, efficient, easy to implement and can be introduced with minimal investment of resources. Further studies are needed to examine the long-term cost-effectiveness of such a screening program.

USING PREDICTIVE MODELS TO ANALYZE LUNG CANCER DATA

Gundu A, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY, USA

OBJECTIVES: The purpose of this study is to examine the relationship between patient outcomes and conditions of the patients undergoing different treatments for lung cancer and to estimate the population burden, the cost of cancer, and to examine treatment choice in clinical decision-making. METHODS: Lung Cancer data were extracted from the Medstat MarketScan Database based on ICD9 diagnosis codes.