

POSTER PRESENTATION

Open Access

Why are all multi-centre trial sites not the same? A network analytic approach

Helen McAneney

From 3rd International Clinical Trials Methodology Conference
Glasgow, UK. 16-17 November 2015

Background

Why do some centres recruit, and/or retain, participants better than others? This is a question many trialists have pondered at one time or another. One aspect of enquiry, not often considered, is that of the interactions of the trial team themselves.

Aim

To investigate whether social network aspects of members within in each centre, and how they interact as a team, have any bearing on recruitment and retention rates.

Method

Assessment of a multi-centre trial, incorporating network data on communication and trust within the team, collected at discrete intervals, to gauge 'team spirit'. Members within each centre will be asked to provide information on communication within the team network (e.g. email, face-to-face, etc.) regarding key aspects of support, organisation and resource sharing, both formal and informal.

Data will be assessed by actor oriented longitudinal network analysis techniques implemented in SIENA. This is a modelling framework to assess the outcome variable of recruitment and its association with 'team spirit', as measured through network parameters for communication and interaction, whilst controlling for known network structures such as reciprocity (i.e. if A interacts with B, then B interacts with A), hierarchical formal structures, and density. The same model will be applied to each centre and parameter estimates obtained. These will, in turn, form a basis for meta-analysis over all trial sites to factor in centre characteristics (e.g. size), and determine if higher level characteristics have importance.

Findings will provide key information for the planning and implementation of future trials.

Published: 16 November 2015

doi:10.1186/1745-6215-16-S2-P195

Cite this article as: McAneney: Why are all multi-centre trial sites not the same? A network analytic approach. *Trials* 2015 **16**(Suppl 2):P195.

Northern Ireland Network for Trials Methodology Research, Centre for Public Health, Queen's University Belfast, Belfast, UK



Submit your next manuscript to BioMed Central
and take full advantage of:

- Convenient online submission
- Thorough peer review
- No space constraints or color figure charges
- Immediate publication on acceptance
- Inclusion in PubMed, CAS, Scopus and Google Scholar
- Research which is freely available for redistribution

Submit your manuscript at
www.biomedcentral.com/submit



© 2015 McAneney This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0>), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited. The Creative Commons Public Domain Dedication waiver (<http://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/>) applies to the data made available in this article, unless otherwise stated.