

Letter to the Editor

Multi-arm clinical trials: the need of the hour

Sir,

There has been an academic initiative as researchers propose that more and more attention and activity should be attributed to multi-arm clinical trials. In contrast to the conventional two-arm trials with one variable compared to the other, these multi-arm trials would be instrumental in getting more outcome comparing several things together. This will enable researchers to arrive at fruitful conclusions more likely and that too saving time and money.¹

This doctrine also assists in checking one important study parameter - the recruitment of cases. The recruitment of subjects in appropriate quantity has always been a tedious and time consuming part of any study. It is estimated that the advent of these trials will ensure that at least some positive outcomes are gained unlike many conventional studies that fail to serve their purpose on many accounts.

One of the biggest ever trial related to prostate cancer treatments The STAMPEDE trial of United Kingdom is undertaking eight treatment modalities simultaneously and is supposed to achieve in fifteen years what would have taken around forty years by conventional two-arm methods.

The concept is a welcome trend and might prove to be handy in the age when the changing patterns of diseases require new therapeutics and treatment modalities to see the light of the day at faster pace.

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