The Role of Randomization in Clinical Trials

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Abstract

The major objective of a comparative clinical trial is to unambiguously identify (or not) a treatment effect and assess its magnitude. Random allocation of treatments is essential in designing a trial to achieve the objective efficiently under limited resources. The history, role, issues, and controversies surrounding the application of random allocation in clinical trials are reviewed. In conclusion, the reasons why random allocation is necessary and essential in clinical trials are discussed. Furthermore, the reasons why random allocation is necessary and essential in clinical trials are discussed.

Key words: Austin Bradford Hill, Comparability, Evidence–Based Medicine, Medical Ethics, Randomized Controlled Trial, Ronald Aylmer Fisher, Uncertainty Principle.

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