

Suggested Activity: Part 6

Reading Ivers NM, Taljaard M, Dixon S, Bennett C, McRae A, Taleban J, Skea Z, Brehaut JC, Boruch RF, Eccles MP, Grimshaw JM, Weijer C, Zwarenstein M, Donner A. Impact of CONSORT extension for cluster randomised trials on quality of reporting and study methodology: review of random sample of 300 trials, 2000-8. BMJ. 2011;343:d5886. PMC3180203.

Murray DM, Pals SP, Blitstein JL, Alfano CM, Lehman J. Design and analysis of group-randomized trials in cancer: a review of current practices. Journal of the National Cancer Institute. 2008;100(7):483-91.

Pals SP, Murray DM, Alfano CM, Shadish WR, Hannan PJ, Baker WL. Individually randomized group treatment trials: a critical appraisal of frequently used design and analytic approaches. American Journal of Public Health. 2008;98(8):1418-24. PMC2446464

Pals SL, Murray DM, Alfano CM, Shadish WR, Hannan PJ, Baker WL. Erratum. American Journal of Public Health. 2008;98(12):2120.

Questions

1. What is the CONSORT guideline as it relates to group- or cluster-randomized trials?
2. What was the purpose of this study?
3. What were the four methodological criteria examined in this review?
4. How did these criteria differ from those used by Murray et al. (2008) and Pals et al. (2008)?
5. What were the findings in this report regarding the methodological criteria?
6. How do those findings compare to the findings in Murray et al. (2008)?
7. What was the main conclusion of Ivers et al. with regard to the methodological criteria?