Randomized Controlled Trials vs. Administrative Database Studies

Administrative data research is relatively new but playing an increasingly significant role in research...

1966: 100+ publications per year by...

2002:

...and while these research data have some advantages compared to traditional studies...

Expensive

Inexpensive

Small, focused patient cohorts

Large, broader patient sets

Lengthy recruitment and data collection

Utilizes existing data sets

...they assume accuracy of coding to reflect disease presence or absence.

To identify publications by study type, we searched PubMed for publications that used administrative data through the search terms “administrative data,” “Nationwide Emergency Department Sample,” “State Emergency Department Databases,” “national inpatient sample,” “kids inpatient database,” “state inpatient database,” and “state ambulatory surgery and services database.” Randomized controlled trials were identified by the search term “randomized controlled trial.”

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