Randomized Clinical Trials Design, Practice, and Reporting
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Clinical research has evolved into a massive enterprise of intricacies, regulatory issues, and ethical concerns. This can be overwhelming to both new and experienced investigators, because it is easy to get lost in the complexity of it all. However, we often forget that, at the center of it, all clinical trials have one thing in common: answering a question.

Randomized Clinical Trials Design, Practice, and Reporting, edited by David Machin and Peter M Fayers and published by Wiley-Black (paperback) reminds us of this basic attribute of clinical trials and presents a comprehensive panorama of contemporary clinical research, dwelling in the intricacies of the clinical trial process, from conception to reporting.

The book is well organized, starting with a practical introduction that gives a view from the top of contemporary clinical research. Then, it delves into trial design, very detailed protocol drafting recommendations, metrics, end points, data capture, randomization procedures, trial initiation, conduct of the clinical trial, basic statistical issues to consider for analysis and sample size, and reporting guidelines. After these basic sections, the authors expand on alternative or advanced trial designs, such as multiple intervention research, adaptive approaches, Bayesian methods, and systematic reviews.

Aside from the excellent organization, an extremely useful feature of the book is the presentation of examples throughout the book that provide the reader with descriptions of practical application of the concepts being presented. Each chapter also contains useful graphs, tables, and key point summaries that greatly enhance learning.

Although the book is probably intended for entry-level investigators and research support staff, it also provides useful and quick references for more-experienced investigators who are looking for specific information, particularly with regard to trial design and statistical modeling.
In summary, randomized clinical trials design, practice, and reporting by Machin and Fayers provides a concise, yet comprehensive and practical, overview of issues in contemporary clinical research, mostly for the entry-level investigator, with a few pearls for the more seasoned researcher.

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