DESCRIPTION

The Journal of Foot & Ankle Surgery is the leading source for original, clinically-focused articles on the surgical and medical management of the foot and ankle. Each bi-monthly, peer-reviewed issue addresses relevant topics to the profession, such as: adult reconstruction of the forefoot; adult reconstruction of the hindfoot and ankle; diabetes; medicine/rheumatology; pediatrics; research; sports medicine; trauma; and tumors.

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The Building Blocks of Good Clinical Evidence

(1) Explicitly defined research question, population, and endpoints; (2) Randomized treatment allocation and intention-to-treat analysis; (3) Participants and outcomes assessors blind to treatment allocation; (4) Use of a valid health measurement (quality of life) instrument; (5) Power and sample size determined a priori; (6) Statistical analyses compatible with type and distribution of the data; (7) Point estimate and 95% confidence interval reported (From Turlick MA, Kushner D, Stock D. J Am Podiatr Med Assoc 93:392-398, 2003.

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Describe members of the investigational team in regard to their participation in the study: (1) If they served as outcome assessors. (2) If they performed an intervention. (3) If they abstracted data from medical records, in the case of a retrospective study.

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Clearly state if outcomes were based on physical examination, chart review, telephone interview, questionnaire, radiographic films, or some other method.

Consider for analysis any variable that you consider to be important in regard to the treatment of patients, as it pertains to the investigation

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Clearly describe the statistical plan. Include, at minimum, descriptive and inferential statistical analyses. Ideally, also include univariate and multiple variable statistical analyses.

In the descriptive statistical analysis, define parameters such as the measure of central tendency (mean or median average) and measures of dispersion (standard deviation or range).
Select the parameter, as well as the statistical test, based on the type and distribution of data.

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Additional references that may be useful in regard to the description of the methods and the presentation of a statistical plan include:
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