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 Podiatri Med Assoc 93:392-398, 2003.

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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.

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Select the parameter, as well as the statistical test, based on the type and distribution of data.

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Present results with only as much precision as is of scientific value. For example, report measures of association (e.g., odds ratios, relative risks, risk differences) to 2 significant digits. Reserve the terms *significant* and *significantly* for when describing statistical differences. Do not make the statement "no significant difference was found" between 2 or more groups unless a power analysis was done and the value of alpha (level of significance typically 5% or *p* value < .05) or beta (the power to detect a statistically significant difference, usually 80% or 90%) is reported. Denote the probability of the null hypothesis using a lowercase italic *p* separated from the word "value" by a hyphen (specifically *p* value).

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Biometrics. 1991 Mar; 47(1): 87-100; and, Rosenbaum PR. Discussing hidden bias in observational studies. Ann Intern Med. 1991 Dec 1; 115(11): 901-5., should be presented for retrospective studies where unmeasured independent variables may have potentially influenced the results.

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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