

RCT og Register-RCT

Gro Berntsen
Professor, Nasjonalt senter for e-helseforskning,
Enhet for allmenntmedisin, institutt for samfunnsmedisin, UiT

slido

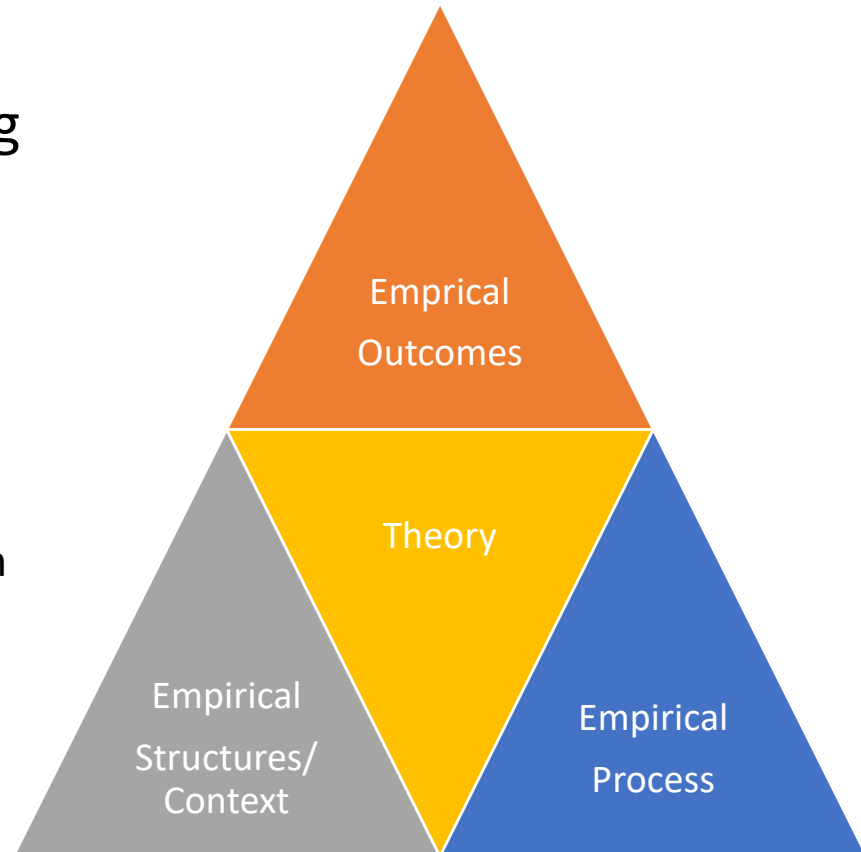


**Hva slags studier skal til for at
noe blir noe sant i medisinen?**

ⓘ Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.

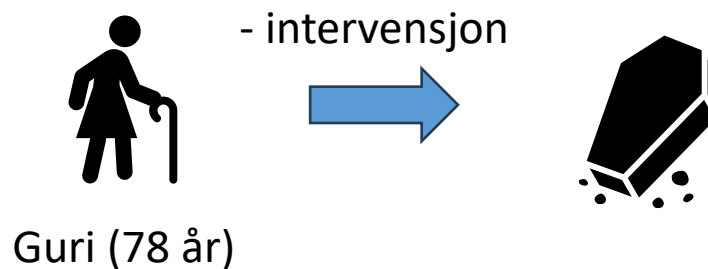
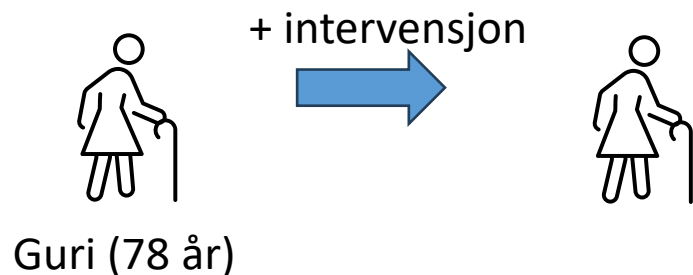
Hva er effekten av X

- Er digital hjemmeoppfølging bra for pasientene?
- Studiet av kausale sammenhenger:
 - Teori – fundamentet
 - Struktur/ kontekst virker sammen med prosess / intervensjon
 - Empiri=> vise at det virker i virkeligheten



The fundamental problem of causal inference

Alltid en sammenlikning mot en kontrollsituasjon

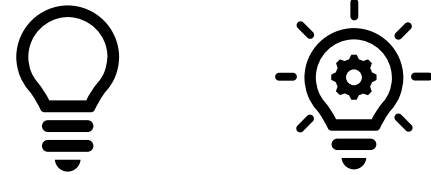


Det er umulig å studere Guri 78 i begge situasjoner!

Kausal sammenheng ?

- Alltid en sammenlikning mot en kontrollsituasjon
- Intervensjon og kontroll enhetene må være sammenliknbare

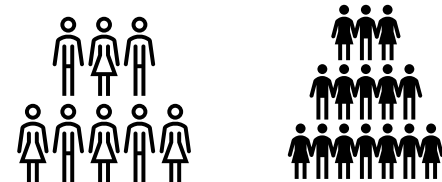
Homogen over tid



Homogene enheter



Homogene grupper

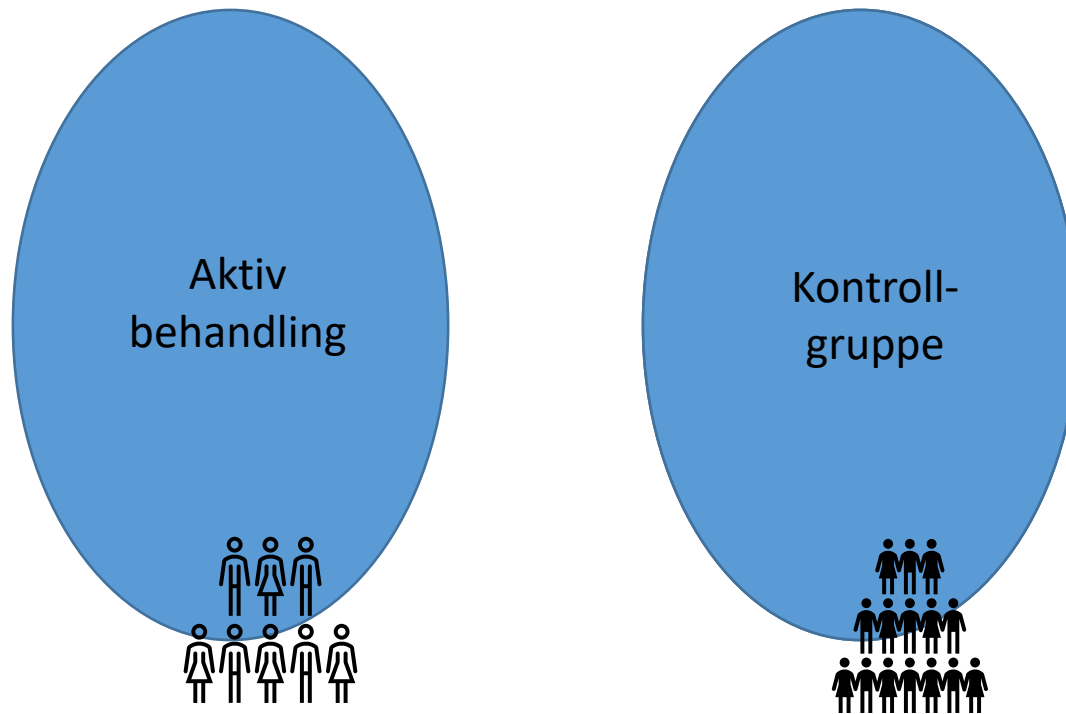


Seruminjeksjoner ved difteri

- 1898 – Johannes Fibiger - Sammenliknet to grupper
- Aktiv behandling / ingen behandling (kontroll) på alternerende dager
- 3% vs 12% døde i favør av aktiv behandling

BMJ 1998;317:1243-1245 (31 October)

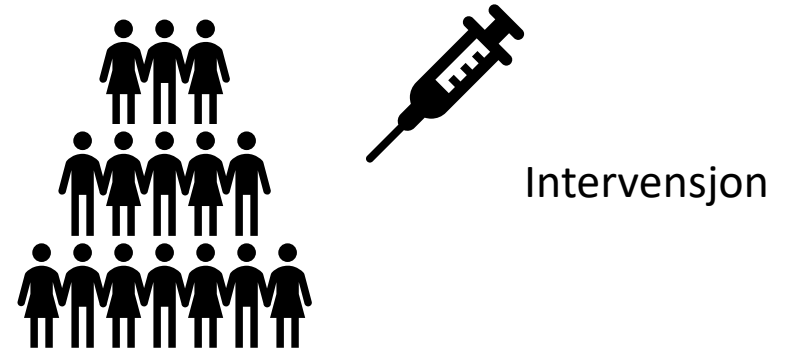




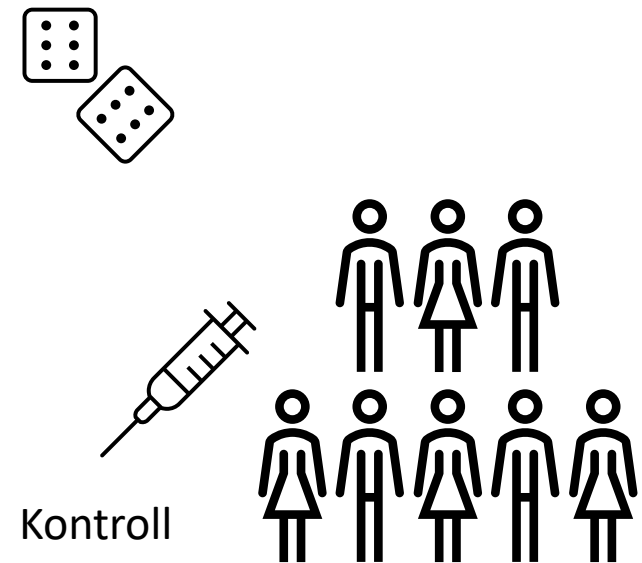
Pasienter i kontrollgruppen dør lettere enn de som får aktiv behandling

1. Behandling beskytter?
2. Pasientene i kontrollgruppen er mer utsatt

Uavhengighets prinsippet



Tilordning til intervensjonen
er UAVHENGIG av dine
egenskaper (alder, kjønn,
diagnose etc)



First randomiserte kontrollerte forsøk – RCT 1948

•Streptomycin mot tuberkulose



Table II.—*Assessment of Radiological Appearance at Six Months as Compared with Appearance on Admission*

Radiological Assessment	Streptomycin Group		Control Group	
Considerable improvement ..	28	51%	4	8%
Moderate or slight improvement	10	18%	13	25%
No material change	2	4%	3	6%
Moderate or slight deterioration	5	9%	12	23%
Considerable deterioration ..	6	11%	6	11%
Deaths	4	7%	14	27%
Total	55	100%	52	100%

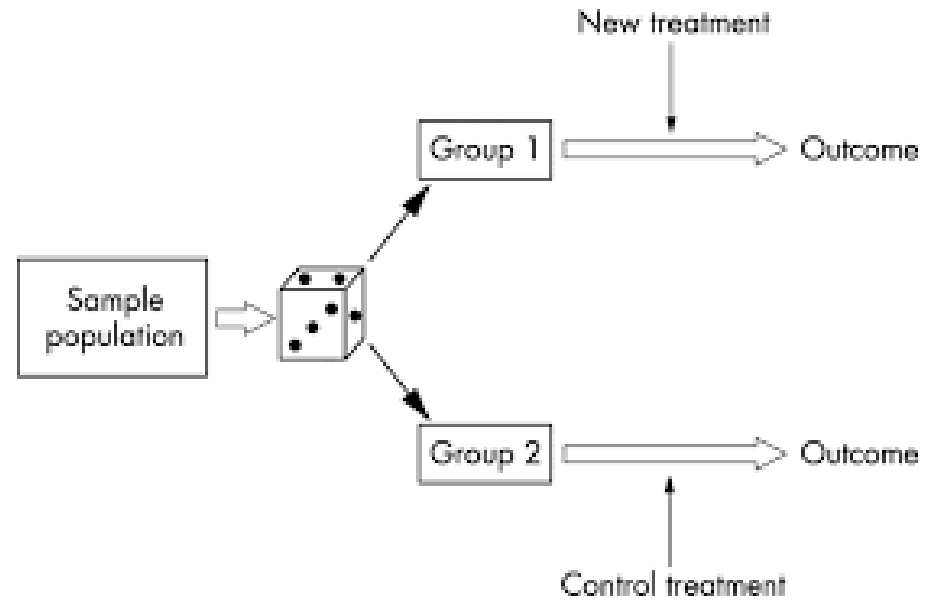
Forklarende - RCT design

Hypotese testende

- Kontekst => Inklusjons- og Eksklusjonskriterier
- **Virkningsmekanisme**
 - Hvilken kontekst må være tilstede for effekt å oppstå
 - Forventet resultat i aktiv gruppe
 - Forventning i Kontrollgruppe

Bare nyttig (etisk) dersom:

- Vi ikke kjenner svaret på forhånd
- Kan beskrive intervensjonen tydelig
- Vi vet hvilken kontekst som er nødvendig for at intervensjonen skal virke



Formelt språk for Kausalitet - 1986

Gitt at enhetene er sammenliknbare, dvs at forutsetningen om uavhengighet er oppfylt:

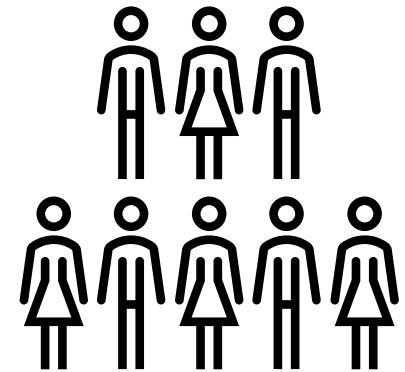
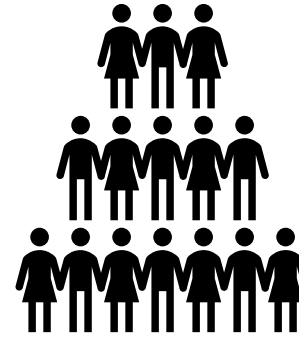
Treatment - effekt

$$T = Y_t(u) - Y_c(u), \quad \text{for all } u \text{ in } U.$$

Effekt Y for Treat

Effekt Y for control

Missing data problem
Propensity Score



Holland PW. Statistics and causal inference. Journal of the American statistical Association. 1986;81(396):945-60.

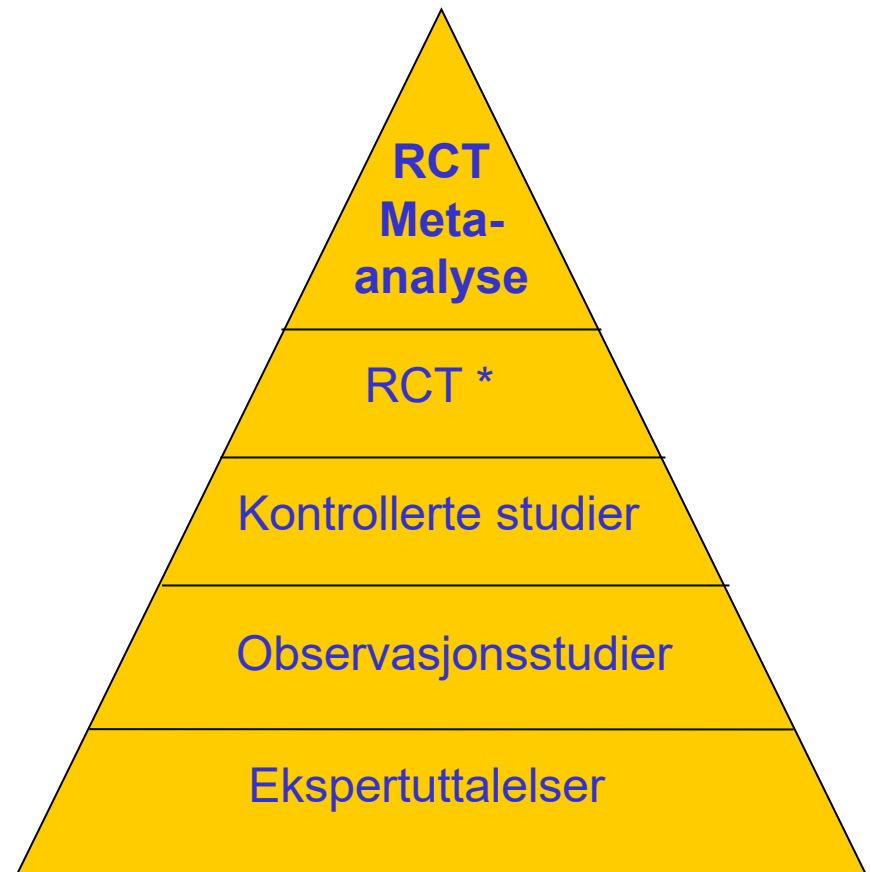


Evidence Based Medicine (EBM)

1980 - Evidence Based Medicine

Evidence based medicine is the conscientious, explicit, and judicious use of current best evidence in making decisions about the care of individual patients.

1. individual clinical expertise
2. systematic research.
3. patients' predicaments, rights, and preferences



* Randomised Controlled Trial

Sackett DL, Rosenberg WM, Gray JA, Haynes RB, Richardson WS (1996). "Evidence based medicine: what it is and what it isn't". *BMJ* 312 (7023): 71–2. [PMID 8555924](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/8555924/). <http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/312/7023/71>.

Østrogenbehandling Premarin fra Ayerst I 1942



Husbands, too, like "Premarin."

THE physician who puts a woman on "Premarin" when she is suffering in the menopause usually makes her pleasant to live with once again. It is no easy thing for a man to take the stings and barbs of business life, then to come home to the turmoil of a woman "going through the change of life." If she

is not on "Premarin," that is. But have her begin estrogen replacement therapy with "Premarin" and it makes all the difference in the world. She experiences relief of physical distress and also that very real thing called a "sense of well-being" returns. She is a happy woman again — something for which

husbands are grateful.

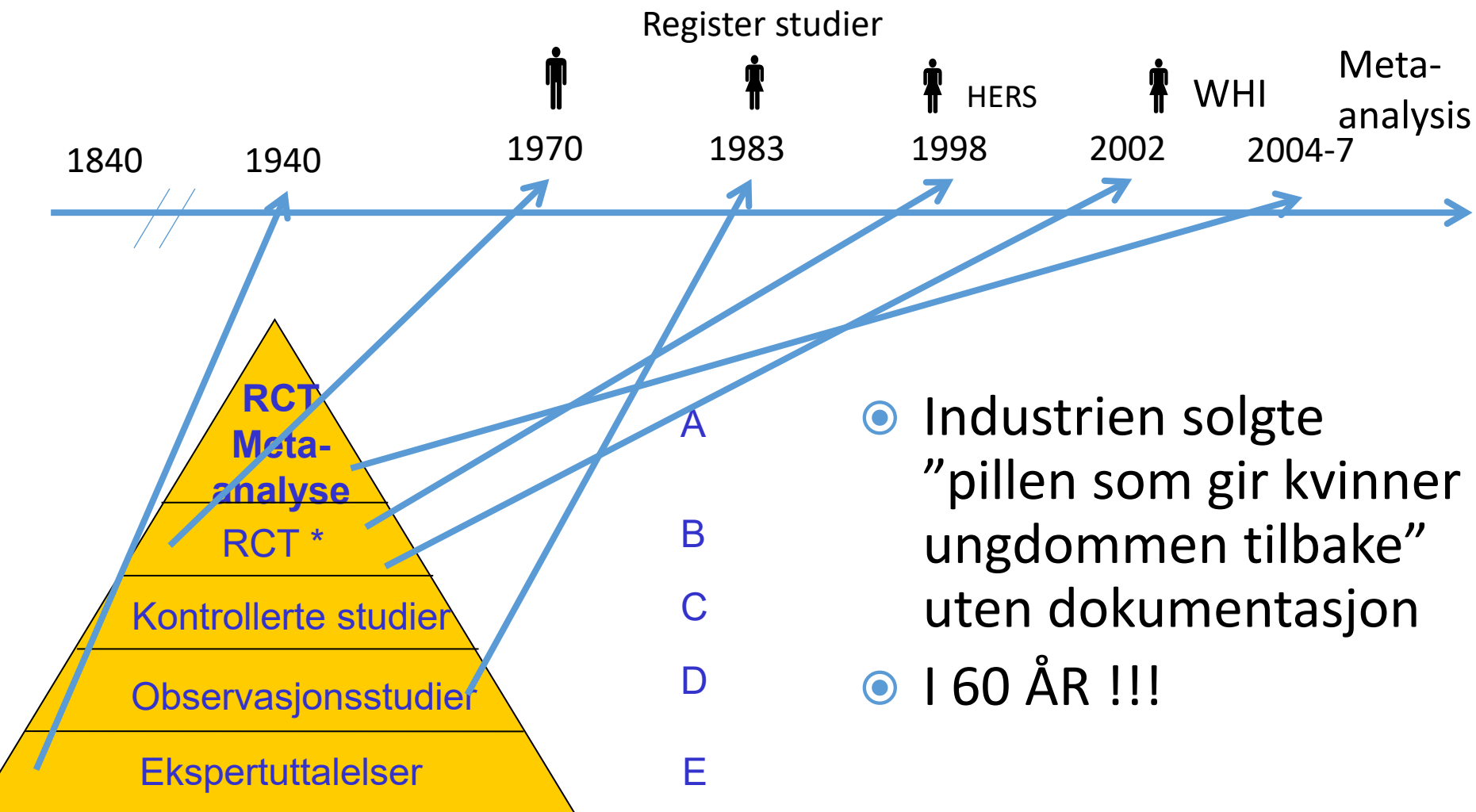
"Premarin," conjugated estrogen complex, is available as tablets and liquid, and also in combination with norethandrolone or methyltestosterone.

Ayerst Laboratories • New York 16, N. Y. • Montreal, Canada



- Annonsekampanje – 1960-tallet:
- *"Premarin when she is suffering from the menopause usually makes her pleasant to live with once again."*
- *"It is no easy thing for a man to take the stings and barbs of business life, then to come home to the turmoil of a woman "going through the change of life"."*
- *"If she is not on "Premarin", that is."*

Østrogen for menopausale plager



* Randomised Controlled Trial

Cagnacci A, Venier M. The Controversial History of Hormone Replacement Therapy. *Medicina (Kaunas)*. 2019;55(9).



RCT begrensninger

slido

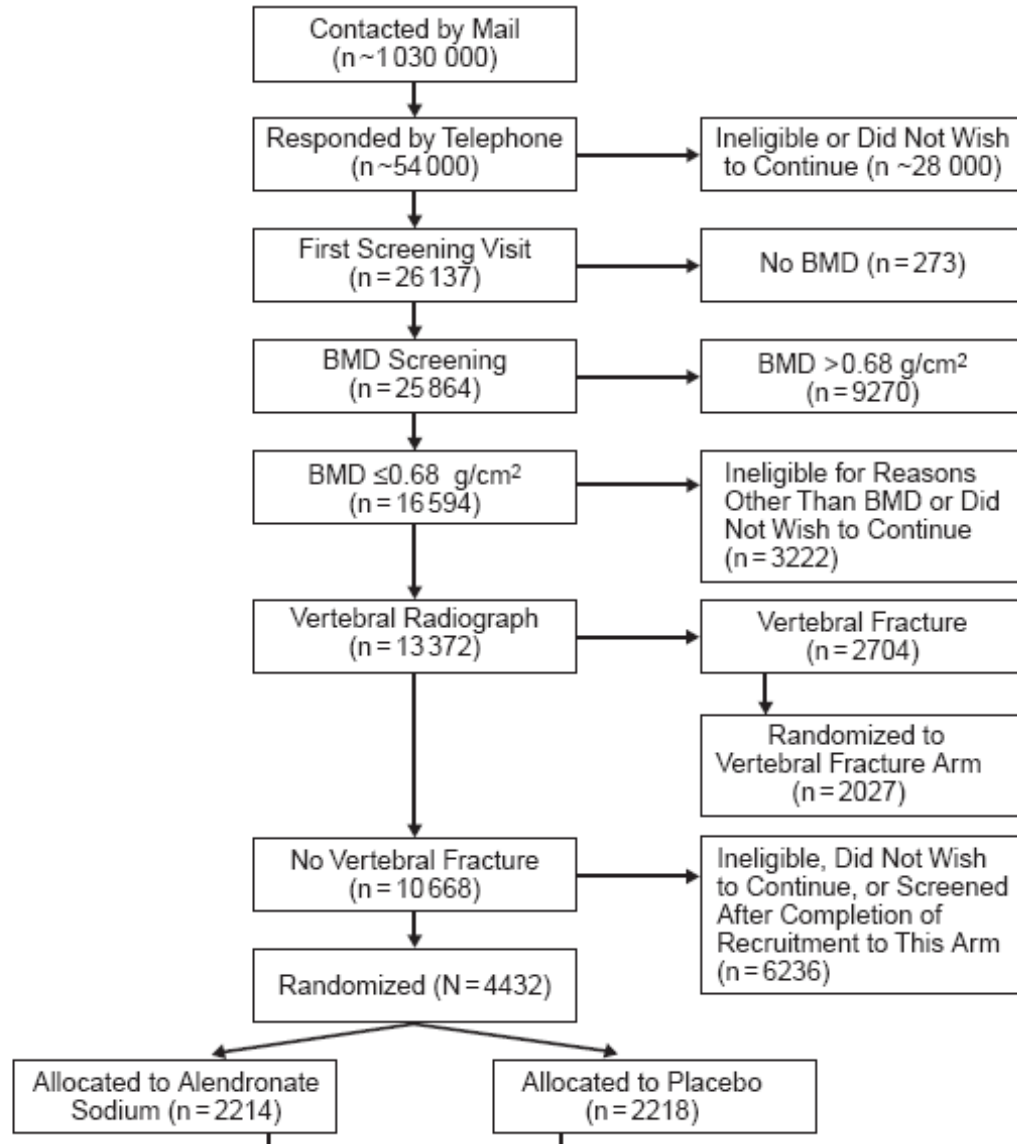


Diskuter to og to:

Hvilke begrensninger har RCT-studier?

ⓘ Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.

The FIT trial : Effect of Alendronate on Risk of Fracture

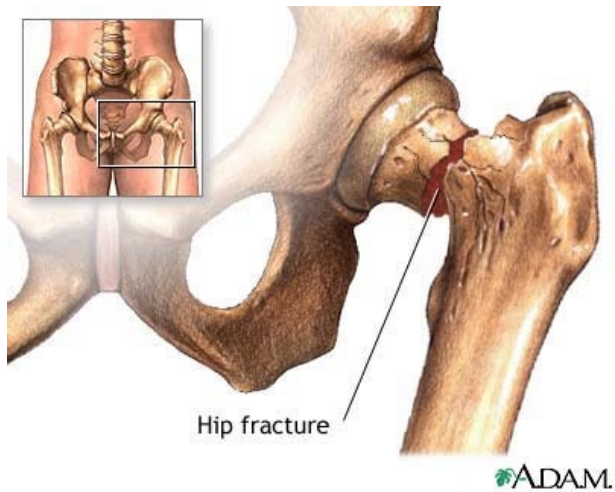


We excluded women who had Recent peptic ulcers or ulcers that required hospitalization, dyspepsia requiring daily treatment, significant renal or hepatic dysfunction, medical problems that precluded participation, severe malabsorption, blood pressure exceeding 210 mm Hg systolic or 105 mm Hg diastolic, myocardial infarction within 6 months, unstable angina, hypothyroidism, hyperthyroidism, or hyperparathyroidism. We also excluded women who had taken estrogen or calcitonin within the preceding 6 months or bisphosphonates or sodium fluoride (.1 mg/d) at any time. Although women taking estrogen were excluded from entry into the trial, 246 (11.1%) in the placebo group and 204 (9.2%) in the alendronate group took estrogen at some time during the study.

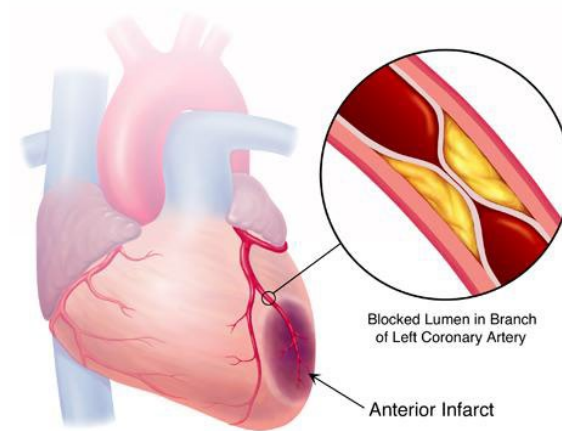
JAMA. 1998;280:2077-2082

92% av potensielt valgbare deltakere blir ekskludert

Fru Hansen – 72 år



+



?

Inkluderte pasienter ikke representative for de pasientgruppene som faktisk får behandling

The controlled clinical trial

- *The main technical limitation of clinical trial methodology is that it assumes the homogeneity of the research populations which it studies.*
- *The assumption of homogeneity is enshrined in the use of averages and the statistics based on their comparison....*
- *For the individuals in the trial a comparison of means may hide much more than it reveals.”*

For 100 personer med din tilstand

MAYO CLINIC

Statin/Aspirin Choice Decision Aid

Back

Current Risk Intervention Issues Notes Document

Benefits vs Downsides according to my personal health information
Using ACC/AHA ASCVD Risk Calculator

3. View Issues

Current Risk of having a heart attack

Risk for 100 people like you who **do not** medicate for heart problems

Over 10 years

25 people will have a heart attack

75 people will have no heart attack

Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green

Future Risk of having a heart attack

Risk for 100 people like you who do take **standard dose statins with aspirin**

Over 10 years

14 people will have a heart attack

75 people will have no heart attack

11 people will be saved from a heart attack by taking medicine

Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green

3 P modellen: Pasienter og profesjonelle i partnerskap

23



Ikke etisk
korrekt å lage
en RCT

- Eksperimentet bare der det gagnar intervensjonsgruppen
- ikke er dårligere en «vanlig behandling»
- Penicillin => kontrollgruppen skadelidende
- Røyking => Intervensjonsgruppen skadelidende

Kostnadskreven



- Bare finansielt sterke aktører har råd til å lage RCT-er
- Ikke-patenterbare produkter blir ofte ikke etterprøvd med RCT
- Eksempel: Østrogen

Ressursbruk - Tid

- Streng formalia knyttet til godkjenninger av eksperimentell behandling – koster tid og penger
- Ofte for kort oppfølgingstid til å evaluere langtidseffekter av behandling



Komplekse intervensjoner

- Element x virker ikke uten element Y
- Det er umulig å identifisere hva X og Y er og sammenhengen mellom de
- Eksempel:
 - Barneoppdragelse



RCT i komplekse intervensjoner

- Effekt avhengig av en kjede med hendelser

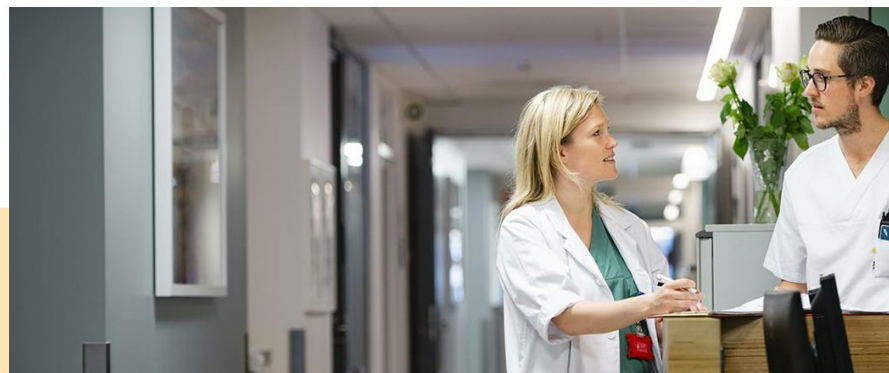
Vi kjører en RCT:

- En «black box» intervensjon
- A får Black-box - B får ikke
- Hvis vi får et negativt resultat
 - Var det fordi A ikke virket?
 - Eller var det fordi vi ikke hadde skapt de forholdene som var nødvendige for at A skulle virke?
- Hvis vi får et positivt resultat:
 - Kan vi reprodusere Forholdene som gjør at A virker?



Intervensjoner på organisasjonsnivå

- Randomisering og resultater rapporteres på organisasjonsnivå
- Umulig å randomisere store organisasjoner
- Eksempler:
 - Gir Elektroniske pasient journaler (EPJ) bedre pasientbehandling?



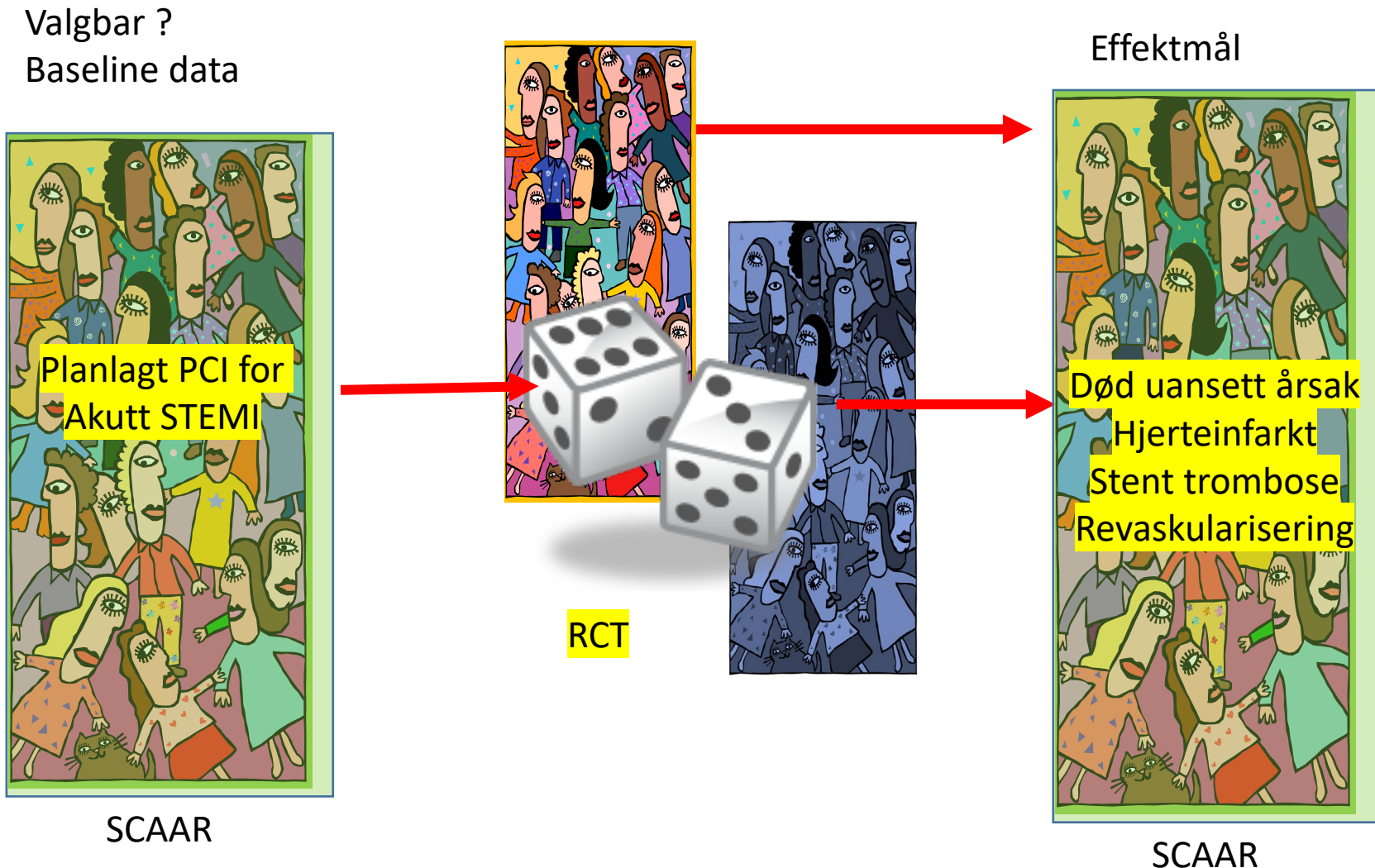
Felles pasientjournal i Midt-Norge



Alternativer til den tradisjonelle RCT-en

Register basert RCT

TASTE – studien thrombus Aspiration in ST-Elevation MyocardialInfarction in Scandinavia



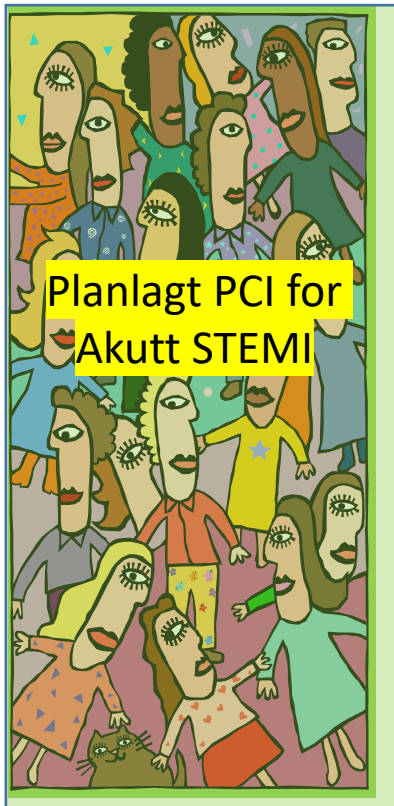
- Swedish Coronary Angiography and Angioplasty Registry (SCAAR), part of SWEDHEART.
- Lagerqvist B, Fröbert O, Olivecrona GK, Gudnason T, Maeng M, Alström P, et al. Outcomes 1 year after thrombus aspiration for myocardial infarction. New England Journal of Medicine. 2014;371(12):1111-20.

Register basert RCT - styrker

TASTE – studien thrombus Aspiration in ST-Elevation MyocardialInfarction in Scandinavia

Valgbar ?

Baseline data



SCAAR

- Lavere kostnader => kostnader er overført til registeret
- Kan bruke kliniske kriterier til inklusjons screening.
- God kunnskap om hvem som ikke er med i studien
- Fortløpende rullering
- Komplet oppfølging
- Kan gjøre studier av «seleksjon» i alle ledd av studien

- Swedish Coronary Angiography and Angioplasty Registry (SCAAR), part of SWEDHEART.
- Lagerqvist B, Fröbert O, Olivecrona GK, Gudnason T, Maeng M, Alström P, et al. Outcomes 1 year after thrombus aspiration for myocardial infarction. New England Journal of Medicine. 2014;371(12):1111-20.



Redusert tid og ressurser til:

- Formelle godkjenninger til datafangst
- Baseline datafangst allerede gjennomført
- Oppfølging av hendelser allerede rutine

TASTE: N=7400
90% ↓ kostnader
Sammenliknet med en vanlig RCT



Register basert RCT - utfordringer

TASTE – studien thrombus Aspiration in ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction in Scandinavia

Valgbar ?

Baseline data



SCAAR

- Må skaffe lovlig og praktisk tilgang til registeret
- Etablere en randomisering utenfor eller i registeret
- Datakvalitet:
 - Data innhentet til et annet formål Validering av datakvalitet og data kompletthet
- Samtykke ?
 - Før screening for inklusjon?
 - Etter inklusjon - Før randomisering
 - Etter randomisering ?
 - Søke om fritak fra samtykke
 - Deltakere trekker seg
- Praktisk - Sikkerhets og monitorerings analyser

- Swedish Coronary Angiography and Angioplasty Registry (SCAAR), part of SWEDHEART.
- Lagerqvist B, Fröbert O, Olivecrona GK, Gudnason T, Maeng M, Alström P, et al. Outcomes 1 year after thrombus aspiration for myocardial infarction. New England Journal of Medicine. 2014;371(12):1111-20.

Register basert RCT => Eller Register definert RCT?

- Hvor relevante er de tilgjengelige inklusjonsvariable og effektmål?

De fleste R – RCT-er kan kalles pragmatiske studier

- Real world context
- Gir det nytte?

Steg for å gjennomføre en Register RCT

- Identifisere relevante inklusjonskriterier, evt justeringsvariable, og endepunktsvariable i registeret(ene)
- Sjekke – data-kvalitet – prosedyrer/ ekstra studier?
- Etablere en randomiseringsrutine
- Etablere rutiner for å beskytte data og pasientens personvern i forbindelse med gjennomføring
- Ethiske og juridisk tillatelse: REK, PVO
- Praktisk tilgang til data og registerets interne personell
- Etablere rutine for informert samtykke
- Etablere randomiseringsrutine
- Utvikle prosedyrer og etablere kontakt med kliniske utøvere implementere intervensjonen
- Søke tillatelse fra deltakere for å la dem bli kontaktet for fremtidige forskningsstudier.

RESEARCH METHODS AND REPORTING

OPEN ACCESS

Check for updates

CONSORT extension for the reporting of randomised controlled trials conducted using cohorts and routinely collected data (CONSORT-ROUTINE): checklist with explanation and elaboration

Linda Kwakkenbos,¹ Mahrukh Imran,² Stephen J McCall,^{3,4} Kimberly A McCord,⁵ Ole Frobert,⁶ Lars G Hemkens,^{5,7,8} Merrick Zwarenstein,^{9,10} Clare Relton,¹¹ Danielle B Rice,^{2,12} Sinéad M Langan,¹³ Eric I Benchimol,^{10,14,15} Lehana Thabane,¹⁶ Marion K Campbell,¹⁷ Margaret Sampson,¹⁸ David Erlinge,¹⁹ Helena M Verkooyen,^{20,21} David Moher,²² Isabelle Boutron,^{23,24} Philippe Ravaud,^{23,24} Jon Nicholl,²⁵ Rudolf Uher,²⁶ Maureen Sauv e,^{27,28} John Fletcher,²⁹ David Torgerson,³⁰ Chris Gale,³¹ Edmund Juszcak,^{3,32} Brett D Thomsb^{2,33}

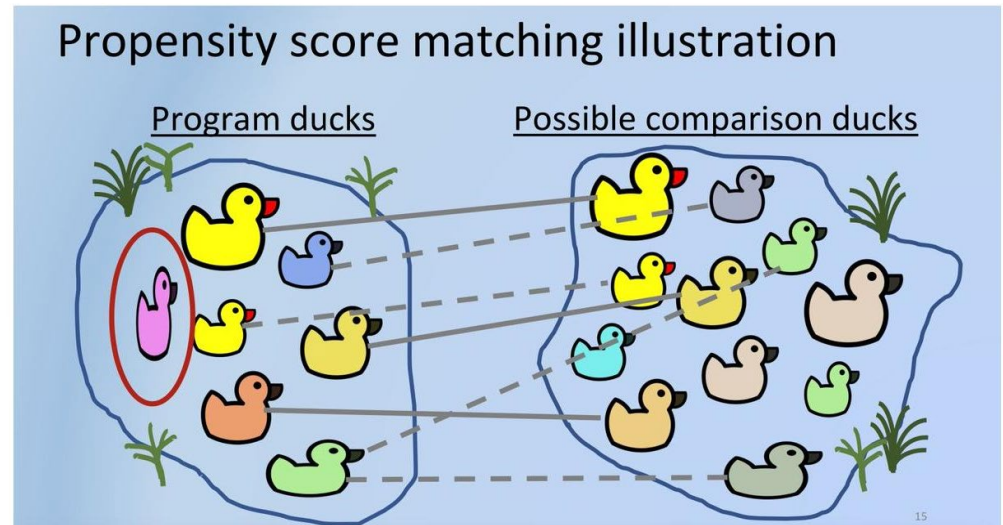
Randomised controlled trials are increasingly conducted as embedded, nested, or using cohorts or routinely collected data, including registries, electronic health records, and administrative databases, to assess if participants are eligible for the trial and to facilitate recruitment, to deliver an embedded intervention, to collect trial outcome data, or a combination of

checklist was informed by the CONSORT 2010 statement and two reporting guidelines for observational studies, the Strengthening the Reporting of Observational Studies in Epidemiology (STROBE) statement and the Reporting of studies Conducted using Observed Routinely collected Data (RECORD) statement. The extension includes eight items

For numbered affiliations see end of the article.
Correspondence to: B D Thomsb, Jewish General Hospital, 4333 Cote-Sainte-Catherine Road, Montreal, QC, H3T 1E4 Canada
brett.thomsb@mcgill.ca
(ORCID 0000-0002-5644-8432)
Additional material is published online only. To view please visit the journal online.
Cite this as: *BMJ* 2021;373:n857
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bmj.n857>
Accepted: 29 March 2021

Observasjonsstudier - Propensity Score matching

- Relevant der det er
- Etisk vanskelig
- Sjeldne tilstander – vanskelig å finne kontroller
- Intervensjoner på systemnivå
- En skår lages av alle målte variable som kan tenkes å forutsi effekt
- Matche på skår
- Blir sammenliknbare på gruppenivå for de variablene som vi har målt
- Det er gjort flere studier som sammenlikner RCT og Propensity score resultater fra observasjonsstudier
- De gir i hovedsak samme resultat



Design - Emulated RCT

The Annals of Applied Statistics
2008, Vol. 2, No. 3, 808-840
DOI: 10.1214/08-AAS1187
© Institute of Mathematical Statistics, 2008

FOR OBJECTIVE CAUSAL INFERENCE,
DESIGN TRUMPS ANALYSIS¹

BY DONALD B. RUBIN
Harvard University

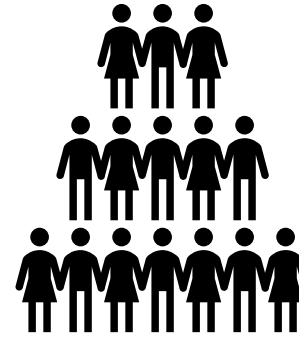
Emulating a Target Trial 759

Table 1. A Summary of the Protocol of a Target Trial to Estimate the Effect of Postmenopausal Hormone Therapy on the 5-Year Risk of Breast Cancer

Protocol Component	Description
Eligibility criteria	Postmenopausal women within 5 years of menopause between the years 2005 and 2010 and with no history of cancer and no use of hormone therapy in the past 2 years.
Treatment strategies	Refrain from taking hormone therapy during the follow-up. Initiate estrogen plus progestin hormone therapy at baseline and remain on it during the follow-up unless you are diagnosed with deep vein thrombosis, pulmonary embolism, myocardial infarction, or cancer.
Assignment procedures	Participants will be randomly assigned to either strategy at baseline and will be aware of the strategy to which they have been assigned.
Follow-up period	Starts at randomization and ends at diagnosis of breast cancer, death, loss to follow-up, or 5 years after baseline, whichever occurs first.
Outcome	Breast cancer diagnosed by an oncologist within 5 years of baseline.
Causal contrasts of interest	Intention-to-treat effect, per-protocol effect
Analysis plan	Intention-to-treat effect estimated via comparison of 5-year cancer risks among individuals assigned to each treatment strategy. Per-protocol effect estimation requires adjustments for pre- and postbaseline prognostic factors associated with adherence to the strategies of interest. All analyses will be adjusted for pre- and postbaseline prognostic factors associated with loss to follow-up (57). This analysis plan implies that the investigators prespecify and collect data on the adjustment factors.

Hernán MA, Robins JM. Using big data to emulate a target trial when a randomized trial is not available. *American journal of epidemiology*. 2016;183(8):758-64.

Maskin læring og Kausalitet



Gitt at enhetene er sammenliknbare, dvs at forutsetningen om uavhengighet er oppfylt:

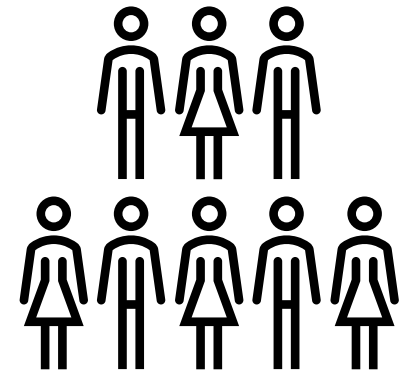
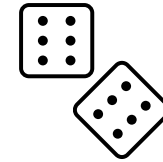
Treatment - effekt

$$T = Y_t(u) - Y_c(u), \quad \text{for all } u \text{ in } U.$$

Prediksjon 1

Prediksjon 2

(Prediksjon 1 – Prediksjon 2) – vektet for forskjeller i gruppene med Propensity Score



1. Nie X, Wager S. Quasi-oracle estimation of heterogeneous treatment effects. *Biometrika*. 2021;108(2):299-319.
2. Salditt M, Eckes T, Nestler S. A Tutorial Introduction to Heterogeneous Treatment Effect Estimation with Meta-learners. *Adm Policy Ment Health*. 2023:1-24.

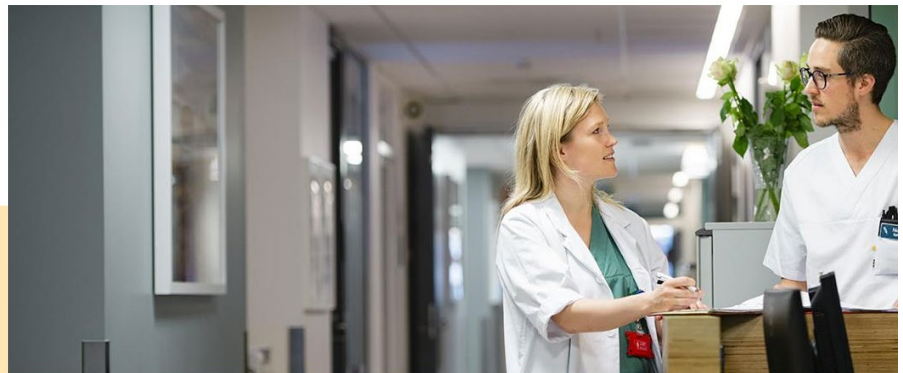
Kvalitative og kvantitative studier – mixed methods

- Menneskeskapt system
- Ekstrapolere fra tall til å se på det som skjer mellom mennesker
- Samle data kan også være tekst, bilder, notater, video, intervju



LOGG INN
HelsaMi

SØK 🔍



Felles pasientjournal i Midt-Norge

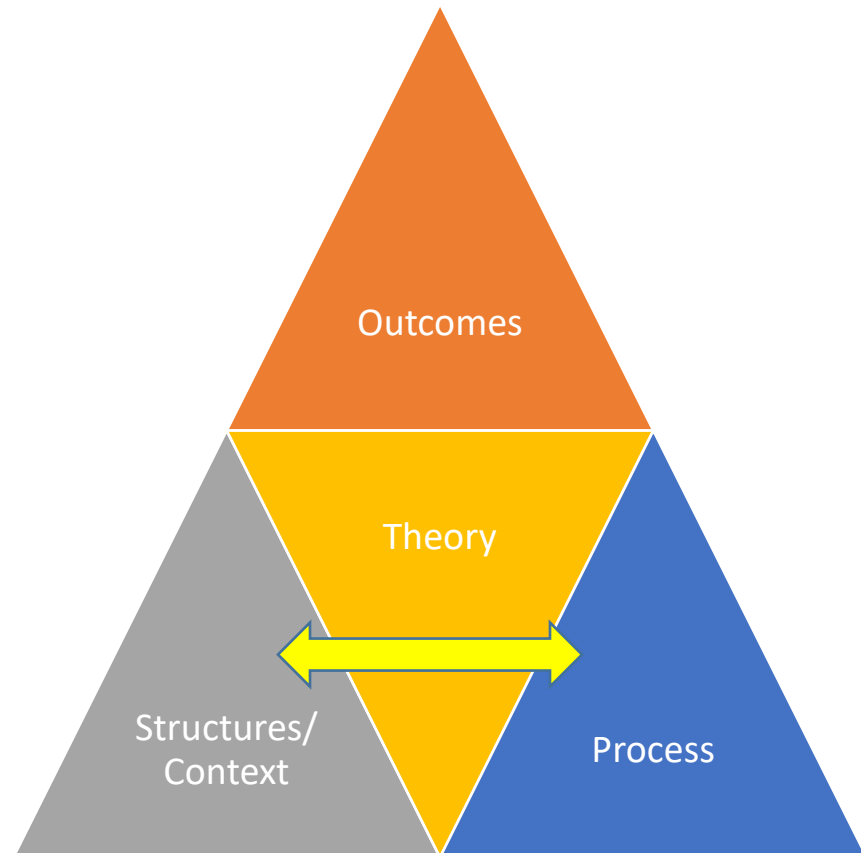
Registre => En lærende helsetjeneste

- Data om eksponisjon og endepunkt
- Analysekompetanse
- Kunnskap tilbake til praksisfeltet

- OBS – registrering av data er en ekstra kostnad

Kunnskap – et helhetlig puslespill

- En helhetlig vurdering av alle trekanter
- Teori – fundamentet
- Struktur/ kontekst virker sammen med prosess / intervensjon
- Empiri=> vise at det virker i virkeligheten



Referanser - kausalitet

1. ROSENBAUM PR, RUBIN DB. The central role of the propensity score in observational studies for causal effects. *Biometrika* [Internet]. 1983 April 1, 1983; 70(1):[41-55 pp.]. Available from: <http://biomet.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/content/abstract/70/1/41>.
2. Holland PW. Statistics and causal inference. *Journal of the American statistical Association*. 1986;81(396):945-60.
3. Pearl J. Causal inference. *Causality: objectives and assessment*. 2010:39-58.
4. Hernán MA, Robins JM. *Causal Inference: What If.* : Boca Raton: Chapman & Hall/CRC; 2020. Available from: <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/miguel-hernan/causal-inference-book/>.



Spørsmål eller kommentarer:

Gro.rosvold.berntsen@ehealthresearch.no