
CMED 305

Practical Session: Selection of Study Design

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You will have 7 – 10 minutes to read the case and consider the following:

1. What is the type of study? Give reasons.
2. Is it feasible? (remember F in FINER)
3. State two advantages/strengths and two disadvantages/limitations of the study design.
4. Construct the study question.
5. What is the measure of disease frequency/association that can be obtained from this study?

There is no incorrect approach to study design, as long as it is based on sound epidemiological concepts!!

Representative sample of residents were telephoned and asked how much they exercise each week and whether they currently have (have ever been diagnosed with) heart disease.

→ Cross-Sectional

To determine the risk factors for hip fractures in post menopausal women (e.g. osteoporosis, obesity, hip Injury, and physical inactivity)

→ Case Control

To evaluate the association between use of group of medicinal drugs (benzodiazepines) used for treating anxiety and /or insomnia in adults and incidence of dementia.

→ Prospective Cohort

Investigating that caesarean-section delivery may reduce the risk of mother-to-child transmission of HIV infection in comparison with vaginal delivery.

→ Experimental/clinical trial

In-charge of social organization wants to study emotional trauma in social workers who work with battered women. She has a validated scale/tool that can assess emotional trauma in workers. You are consulted; explain how will you design the study?

→ Cross-Sectional

What is the prevalence of hypertension in adults > 30 years of age living in Riyadh Central Region?

→ Cross-Sectional

Occurrence of cancer was identified between April 1991 and July 2002 for 50,000 troops who served in the first Gulf War (ended April 1991) and 50,000 troops who served elsewhere during the same period.

→ Cohort study

Football coach has observed that recently the number of disabling injuries on the field has increased compared to previously. He is suspicious and wants to investigate what medicinal/nutritional supplements are being used by the players during the past three months. He discusses this with a sports physician who examines all injuries occurring on the field. How can you help him design a study?

→ Retrospective Cohort

A population-based study determined whether there is a relationship between childhood asthma and environmental exposure to second hand smoke. A sample of the population was interviewed to gather information about asthma symptoms and some environmental exposures in 2003.

→ Cross-Sectional

You are working in a TB center. You want to describe the characteristics and contact history of cases with drug resistant TB. How will you design the study?

→ Case Series

Subjects were children enrolled in a health maintenance organization. At 2 months, each child was randomly given one of two types of a new vaccine against rotavirus infection. Parents were called by a nurse two weeks later and asked whether the children had experienced any of a list of side-effects.

→ Experimental study

Thank you!

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appointment via email):
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