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# An Introduction to Randomised Controlled Clinical Trials

*By J. N. S. Matthews*



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Evidence from randomized controlled clinical trials is now widely accepted as the only sound basis for assessing the efficacy of new treatments. Since the inception of modern trials in the 1940's, their use and the associated methodology has grown rapidly, and there is now a considerable body of knowledge that must now be assimilated by anyone studying the subject. Statisticians have been amongst the foremost contributors to this methodology, with medical statisticians being involved in the conduct of numerous trials. This important new book provides undergraduates, masters students and researcher with a concise introduction to the principles used in this area. It introduces readers to the concepts behind randomization methods and their analysis, and includes chapters on meta-analysis and specialized designs, such as cluster-randomization trials, crossover trials and equivalence studies. It assumes no underlying medical background and material from each chapter is illustrated with problems and real-life examples.



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### **Review**

"This remarkably well written book is both concise and thorough in covering the material that it chooses to present. Both statistical concepts and medical examples are explained in clear prose. This is the sort of book that I wish I had had when I first learned about clinical trials. . . . I particularly like Matthews' thoughtful philosophy, which carefully balances the many statistical and medical concerns in the design and analysis of clinical trials. . . . The exercises at the end of each chapter are quite helpful for testing the reader's understanding, and thorough solutions are given in the back of the book. . . . In a sea of overpriced textbooks, it is well worth the low price . . . this book will provide readers with a broad statistical foundation and hopefully whet their interest to learn more about clinical trials." -- *JASA*

### **About the Author**

J. N. S. Matthews, University of Newcastle upon Tyne.

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