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Parallel-Design Double-blind Trials

AMA Manual of Style Committee

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In this study design, participants are assigned to only 1 treatment group of the study. These trials are generally designed to assess whether 1 or more treatments are superior to the others. Participants and those administering the intervention should all be unaware of which intervention individual participants are receiving (“double-blinding”). Ideally, those rating the outcomes should also be blinded to treatment assignment (“triple-blinding”). Blinded parallel-design trials are often the optimal design to compare 2 or more types of drug or other therapy, since known and unknown potentially confounding factors should be randomly distributed between intervention and control groups. The CONSORT