Torsten Chandler
Health Economist
Institute of Clinical Trials and Methodology & Comprehensive Clinical Trials Unit
Content

• The Institute of Clinical Trials and Methodology
• Role of a Clinical Trials Unit
• Health economics at ICTM
• Trials with economic evaluation
• Economic evaluation alongside trials
• Key challenges
• Current & future collaboration
• Current studies
• Conclusion
The Institute of Clinical Trials and Methodology

- The Institute of Clinical Trials and Methodology - Centre of excellence

- The Institute is part of the Faculty of Population Health Sciences in the School of Life and Medical Sciences, and is comprised of four clinical trials units:
Clinical Trials Unit (CTU) Support

**PLANNING**
- Study design
- Sample size
- Feasibility
- Costings
- Application review
- Sponsor liaison

**SET-UP**
- Protocol development
- Database/CRF development
- Randomisation
- Obtaining approvals
- Contract negotiation
- Site feasibility

**CONDUCT**
- Trial/data management
- Database/CRF development
- Randomisation
- Adverse event management
- Monitoring
- Trial meetings
- Quality assurance

**ANALYSIS**
- Statistical analysis
- Statistical monitoring

**REPORTING**
- Funder reports
- TSC/DMEC reports
- End of trial notifications/reports

**PUBLICATION**
- Advice and consultation
- Scientific writing
Health Economists at ICTM

- Currently Comprehensive Clinical Trials Unit and Priment are the only trials units to have health economists at UCL

- ICTM has approximately 400 staff with 4 health economists (as far as we know)
  - 1 Health Economist at the CCTU
  - 3 Health Economists at Priment

- Other key collaborators
Trials with economic evaluation

27 active trials, 23 of which have a health economics component.

25 active trials, 5 of which have a health economic component.
Economic evaluation alongside trials

• UK funding bodies consider health economics an important component of research and research proposals

• Increasingly data for economic evaluations is being collected in trials (medical service use, costs and effects)

• Considering health economics evidence is a mandatory part of NICE clinical guidelines and technology appraisals
Economic evaluation alongside trials

Key challenges

• Analysis has to be planned around primary outcome

• Sample size required for economic questions may be larger

• Comparator may not be most commonly used/cost effective treatment

• Follow up required to address economic questions may be longer than to answer clinical questions (modelling?)

• Dealing with missing data & censored data - Resource use forms can be time consuming.

• Health economics may not be the priority interest of PIs and CIs
Current & future collaboration

• Seminars
  – PRIMENT Statistics, Health Economics and Methodology Seminar
  – Methodologist meetings

• Team meetings

• Joint publications & working documents

• Future?
Current studies – FACT trial

• A Randomised, Single Masked, Non-Inferiority Trial of Femtosecond Laser Assisted vs Manual Phacoemulsification Cataract Surgery for Adults with Visually Significant Cataract: the FACT trial

• **Analysis planned**: Early economic model, within trial analysis and lifetime model

• **Funding source**: NIHR HTA

• **Unique aspect**: 2 eye problem
Current studies – ATTIRE trial

• ATTIRE: Albumin To prevent Infection in chronic liver failure

• A trial to investigate whether giving albumin to patients admitted to hospital with advanced liver cirrhosis will reverse immune suppression and improve outcome from infection.

• **Analysis planned**: Within trial analysis and lifetime model.

• **Funding source**: Department of Health and Wellcome Trust

• **Unique aspect**: Patient population & re-randomization of patients
Conclusion

• Team of health economists at the Institute is small, but open to collaboration and growth

• UK funding bodies consider health economics an important component of research proposals

• Designing trials with an economic evaluation can facilitate direct observation of costs/effects
  • However long term modelling often required
Useful links

Institute of Clinical Trials and Methodology
http://www.ucl.ac.uk/ictm

Comprehensive Clinical Trials Unit
https://www.ucl.ac.uk/cctu

Priment Clinical Trials Unit
https://www.ucl.ac.uk/priment/