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8 June 2021

Memorandum

To: Trialists

Fr: Curtis Meinert

Re: Q & D analysis of the COVID pandemic impact on trials

Q & D (Quick and Dirty) analysis to determine the effect of the COVID pandemic on the clinical trials enterprise, as represented on CT.gov.

One effect is evident from counts in Table 1. The number of trials started by year as a percentage of the number started the previous year increased for all five years checked except year 2020.

Indications from Table 2 is that COVID trials are completed faster than trials in general, but that may be because they are smaller. For answers we need sample size data.

Results in Table 3 suggest that COVID investigators are more fastidious in posting results or that COVID trials are smaller and completed faster than trials in general.

Table 1: Trials started by year and percentage from year to year

Year started	No. started	% change from last yr	COVID trials
2016	20,038		2
2017	20,865	104.13%	4
2018	21,898	104.95%	5
2019	22,196	101.36%	12
2020	21,475	96.75%	2,384

Table 2: Counts of trials started 2020 and completed as of 6 June 2021

All trials	Completed	% completed	COVID trials	Completed	% completed
21,475	2,360	10.99%	2,384	505	21.18%

Table 3: Completed trials started 2020 with posted results as of 6 June 2021

All trials			COVID trials		
Completed	Results posted	%	Completed	Results posted	%
2,360	65	2.75%	506	38	7.51%