



Canadian Journal of Anesthesia/ Journal canadien d'anesthésie

Policy Statement on Registration of Randomized Clinical Trials and Systematic Reviews

24 February 2021

The *Canadian Journal of Anesthesia/Journal Canadien d'anesthésie* values and endorses pre-registration of both randomized clinical trials (RCTs) and systematic reviews. Pre-registration is an important element of scientific integrity and bias reduction in the conduct and reporting of these original investigations. Initially internally and subsequently externally,¹⁻³ we have considered registration of RCTs mandatory since 1 January 2016.

Effective immediately, the *Journal* will not consider for publication any randomized clinical trials or systematic reviews that have not been registered.

For **RCTs**, any publicly-available registry is acceptable. We require that the investigators register the RCT before the enrollment of the first research participant.

For **systematic reviews**, any publicly-available registry is acceptable. We require that the investigators register the systematic review before starting study screening against eligibility criteria and before data extraction have occurred.

For observational studies, the *Journal* does not yet require, but strongly endorses, registration. Authors are advised that some clinical trial registries also accept registration of observational studies. This includes ClinicalTrials.gov. Bias reduction due to registration would also be expected to occur in observational studies.

Stephan Schwarz, MD, PhD, FRCPC, Editor-in-Chief
Philip Jones, MD, MSc, FRCPC, Deputy Editor-in-Chief
(on behalf of the Senior Editorial Team)

Additional Information:

- 1) Grocott HP, Jones PM. Ensuring all falling trees are heard: the importance of publishing all research. *Can J Anesth* 2018; 65(7): 757-59. doi: [10.1007/s12630-018-1133-z](https://doi.org/10.1007/s12630-018-1133-z)
- 2) Jones PM. Publication bias in the anesthesiology literature: shifting the focus from the “positive” to the “truth”. *Can J Anesth* 2016; 63(6): 658-63. doi: [10.1007/s12630-016-0632-z](https://doi.org/10.1007/s12630-016-0632-z)
- 3) Jones PM, Bryson GL. Open season: positive changes for increased transparency in the biomedical literature. *Can J Anesth* 2017; 1-8. doi: [10.1007/s12630-017-1022-x](https://doi.org/10.1007/s12630-017-1022-x)
- 4) Registration of Observational Studies at ClinicalTrials.gov: <https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/manage-recs/how-register>
- 5) International Committee of Medical Journal Editors statement on clinical trial registration: <http://www.icmje.org/recommendations/browse/publishing-and-editorial-issues/clinical-trial-registration.html>