Patient preferences on decentralised clinical trial approaches
A focus group study to identify attributes

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Purpose
To identify the drivers (attributes) for participation in clinical trials with different decentralisation levels in persons living with type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM).

Background

• Decentralised clinical trials move away from conventional in-person study-site-visits to the participant’s environment by using innovative digital technologies.

• Centering of trial activities around participants:
  • Promises easier trial access & less burden for participants,
  • but will also result in less face-to-face contact with health-care-professionals.

• Little is known about the drivers for participation in clinical trials with different decentralisation levels.

Methods

Step 1: Literature search

• Identification of attributes from literature
• Iterative discussion rounds with researchers to narrow down to the most important attributes

Step 2: Focus groups

• Pilot focus group session with three participants
• Focus group sessions in the Netherlands, Austria and Germany
• Around six participants with T2DM per group
• Nominal group technique to prioritise attributes for a discrete choice experiment

Results

Step 1: Attributes for clinical trial participation identified in the literature

30 identified attributes condensed to nine attributes

Location of trial activities
Travel time per visit
Study measurement complexity
Use of digital technologies
Frequency of trial visits
Type of contact with health care professionals
Data collection
Entire duration of the trial
Risk and safety IMP

Step 2: Preliminary results from pilot focus group session - 15 identified attributes

Attributes from literature
Location (1)*
Time spent (2)*
Flexibility-timing (3)*
Actual tasks (TODOs) (4)*
Training
Innovation
Data collection
Risk and safety of the trial product
Type of contact with health care professionals

Completely new attributes
Personal and community benefits (5)*
Referral
Support network system
Trial security
After trial treatment
Remuneration

*Ranking of the top five most important attributes

Conclusion

✓ Focus groups are essential to identify relevant attributes.
✓ A transparent and predefined methodology is important.
✓ Drivers for participation in clinical trials are important, e.g. to design future patient-centric clinical trials and to increase participation in clinical trials.
✓ Next steps: finalise focus groups and elicitation of preferences within a discrete choice experiment based on attributes & levels identified in this study.

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