



KEY HIGHLIGHT

➔ Findings

- Industry involvement is common in influential clinical trials, with funding, authorship, and provision of analysts being the main areas of involvement. Conclusions in industry-sponsored studies typically favor the sponsor.
- While most trials promise to share data, few have readily available data and code, indicating a lack of transparency.
- The study analyzed 600 of the most-cited clinical trials published after 2018, across various diseases and settings.
- Among the analyzed trials, 68.2% had industry funding, 59.0% had industry authors, and 46.6% involved industry analysts.
- Among industry-funded trials, 89.0% reached conclusions favoring the sponsor.
- Most trials provided a data availability statement, but only 2.7% had data readily available to others.
- More than three-quarters of trials had full protocols and statistical analysis plans available.

Industry Involvement and Transparency in Clinical Trial

Summarized by Salwana Ahmad



The study aimed to assess the increasing dominance of industry involvement in clinical research variability in commitments to transparency, and limited availability of a priori versions of trial protocol and statistical analysis plans, focusing on influential clinical trials published after 2018.

The study explored the characteristics of the most-cited clinical trials and the involvement of the industry and transparency features in these studies. Industry involvement in these influential trials was found to extend to the inclusion of industry-affiliated authors and analysts, with a frequent association with sponsor-favorable conclusions.

The study also highlighted the limited availability of raw data and codes and the common use of data-sharing statements, protocols, and statistical analysis plans. The findings emphasized the need for enhanced analytical and overall independence in the conduct and reporting of influential studies, along with maximum transparency to alleviate concerns for bias.

The study's limitations included the focus on recent trials published after 2018 and the prevalence of COVID-19 trials, which allowed for an examination of differences in transparency and industry involvement compared with other medical fields and specialties.

IMPROVING TRIAL INDEPENDENCE AND TRANSPARENCY

➔ Recommendations



- The study emphasizes the importance of ensuring unbiased conclusions in industry-sponsored studies.
- The paper implies the need for stricter regulations and guidelines regarding industry involvement in clinical trials to ensure transparency and minimize potential biases.
- The study suggests that efforts should be made to encourage the sharing of data and analysis code to enhance transparency and reproducibility in clinical research.
- The paper implies the importance of promoting transparency in trial protocols and statistical analysis plans to facilitate better evaluation and replication of study findings.

The original article was published in JAMA Network on 14 November 2023 with the article title "Industry Involvement and Transparency in the Most Cited Clinical Trials, 2019-2022". Continue reading the full article here > [doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2023.43425](https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2023.43425). Citation Siena LM, Papamanolis L, Siebert MJ, Bellomo RK, Ioannidis JPA. Industry Involvement and Transparency in the Most Cited Clinical Trials, 2019-2022. JAMA Netw Open. 2023;6(11):e2343425. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2023.43425