

DERMATOLOGY COLLABORATIVE CLINICAL TRIALS: THE INDIAN SCENARIO

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Collaborative clinical trials in dermatology in India have never had any firm grounding aside the industry-sponsored studies. This year has seen some small steps being taken that might go some way in ensuring that independent collaborative clinical trials, a virtually unexplored area in dermatology research in India, gets a much needed fillip. To start with, this year the National Conference of the Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists & Leprologists (IADVL) had as its theme 'Evidence-based Dermatology', a first of its kind here that will, hopefully, go a long way in familiarizing the paradigm to the Indian dermatologists. In order to harmonize India with globally accepted standards of trial reporting, the Indian Journal of Dermatology, the oldest existing dermatology journal in Asia and the official organ of the Asian Academy of Dermatology & Venereology, has made adherence to CONSORT 2010 mandatory from the beginning of this year, and has announced to make pre-registration of clinical trials compulsory from 2014. However, this year perhaps the most significant long-term step in the area of collaborative clinical trials in dermatology in India is the setting up of a Dermatology Clinical Trials Special Interest Group under the aegis of the IADVL Academy of Dermatology. The objective of such a group is to identify the areas of research in dermatology in which independent collaborative clinical trials can be conducted, and to locate sites and to identify collaborators for such trials. Without being overly optimistic, it may be said that this is a small but significant step towards implanting the seedlings of a new era of much-needed collaborative research in India.