Study-based registers

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Background

- Reviewers invest considerable effort sorting all relevant publications into distinct studies within their reviews. Study-based registers can store and enhance these groupings
- Now, at least 12 CRGs also use study-based registers and maintain these within MeerKat, ProCite, Reference Manager or RefTrak (TSC survey 2005)

This type of register

- Contains the same information as reference-based registers but links references reporting the same study
- Has the capacity to have references neatly grouped into studies

Already some study-based registers can supply fully linked data – i. references, ii. full text records of references, filed by study group, and iii. a study report with details of reviews in which this study already appears. Systems are evolving to include data seen within reviews in study search results

Study coding

- Study-based registers store links to
  - references, and perhaps
  - reviewers, reviews, reports, full text records, and to
  - data describing the study – including RevMan data.
- This study coding is
  - conducted incrementally, and
  - stored in either
    - user defined fields of reference records (reference-based study register) or
    - unique study records which link to the related references (study-based register).

Benefits I. For authors of reviews

- Hugely reduces duplication of effort
  - Search results show references grouped into studies. For example, studies with 10, 20, 30 or even 100 citations, already reliably grouped by study are supplied, pre-packaged, to the authors

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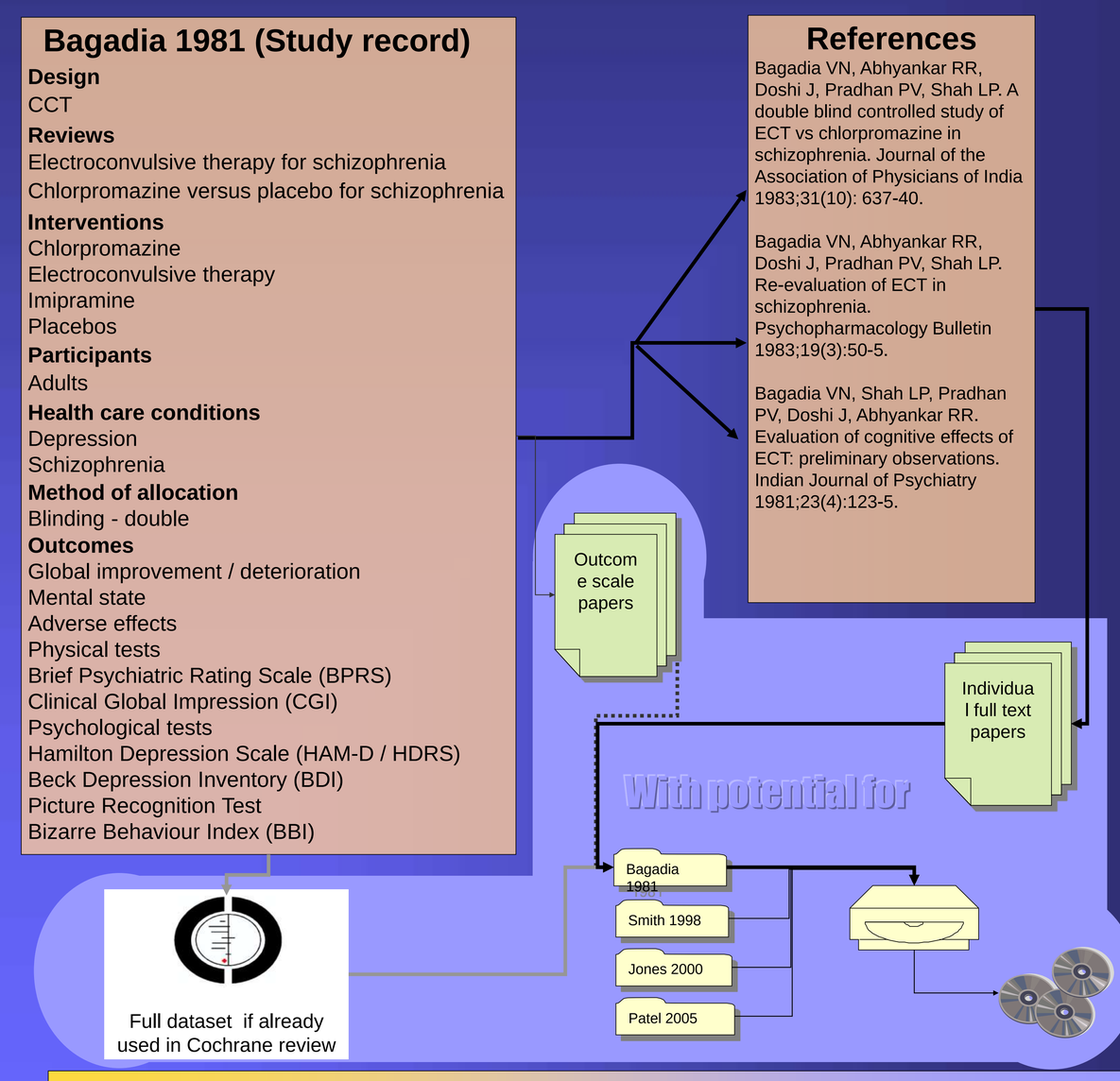
Bagadia 1981 (Study record)

Design
CCT
Reviews
Electroconvulsive therapy for schizophrenia
Chlorpromazine versus placebo for schizophrenia
Interventions
Chlorpromazine
Electroconvulsive therapy
Imipramine
Placebos
Participants
Adults
Health care conditions
Depression
Schizophrenia
Method of allocation
Blinding - double
Outcomes
Global improvement / deterioration
Mental state
Adverse effects
Physical tests
Brief Psychiatric Rating Scale (BPRS)
Clinical Global Impression (CGI)
Psychological tests
Hamilton Depression Scale (HAM-D / HDRS)
Beck Depression Inventory (BDI)
Picture Recognition Test
Bizarre Behaviour Index (BBI)



References

Bagadia VN, Abhyankar RR, Doshi J, Pradhan PV, Shah LP. A double blind controlled study of ECT vs chlorpromazine in schizophrenia. Journal of the Association of Physicians of India 1983;31(10): 637-40.

Bagadia VN, Abhyankar RR, Doshi J, Pradhan PV, Shah LP. Re-evaluation of ECT in schizophrenia. Psychopharmacology Bulletin 1983;19(3):50-5.

Bagadia VN, Shah LP, Pradhan PV, Doshi J, Abhyankar RR. Evaluation of cognitive effects of ECT: preliminary observations. Indian Journal of Psychiatry 1981;23(4):123-5.

Benefits II. For TSCs + Collaboration

- Hugely reduces duplication of effort
  - More efficient coding (for TSCs who code). Data are coded once per study, multiple reports are scanned for any further study data. In reference-based registers study coding is often repeated for each reference.
- Authors value TSCs for producing study searches
- Numbers of studies in a given area can be accurately assessed, rather than the number of references
- Efficient removal of references, once a non-RCT/CCT study is identified the study and linked reference records are removed together
- Planned and ongoing trials can be more easily tracked to full publication
- Organisation and linking of references to studies is consistent with RevMan

Challenges

- For TSCs aiming to increase sophistication of information retrieval and supply
- For software designers working on RevMan and register softwares