

A structured concept to increase registration of clinical studies at the University Hospital Basel (USB)

An overview and comparison with other Swiss University Hospitals

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Background

Prospective registration of trials is considered a scientific, ethical and moral responsibility by the WHO. Since 2014, registering clinical trials in a primary registry endorsed by the WHO or in Clinicaltrials.gov is a legal requirement in Switzerland.

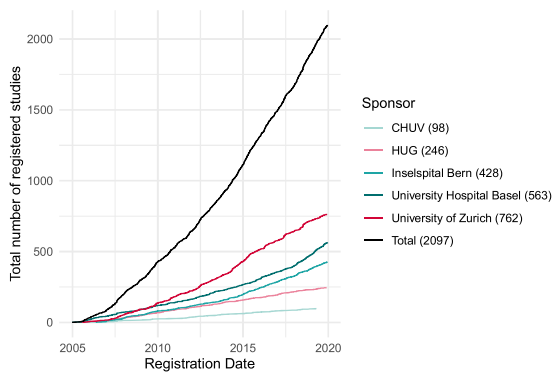


Figure: Total number of registered studies at Swiss University Hospitals¹ over time.

¹ The University Hospital Zurich does not register with an institution of their own.

To increase registration rates of interventional and particularly observational studies at the University Hospital Basel (USB) the Department of Clinical Research developed a systematic concept. Since 2018 we offer Clinicaltrials.gov registration as service for every researcher at the USB.

Methods

We export data of all clinical studies with a Swiss University Hospital as sponsor from Clinicaltrials.gov, extract study information and metadata and examine registration patterns stratified by study characteristics. We automatically search publications using the Clinicaltrials.gov NCT-ID for studies completed before 2018, analogous to the *TrialsTracker* (Powell-Smith and Goldacre 2016).

Results

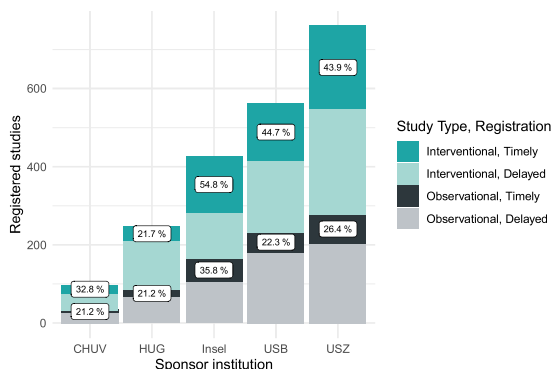


Figure: Timely (before study start) and delayed registration of interventional and observational clinical studies at Swiss University Hospitals. Overall 43% of interventional and 26.4% of observational registered studies were registered timely.

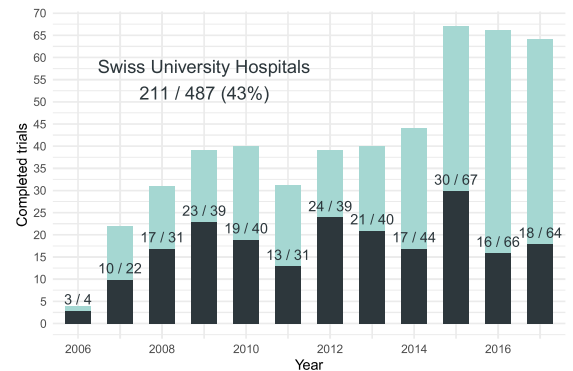


Figure: For 56.7% of completed clinical trials at Swiss University Hospitals an automatic search for publications finds no results.

| Sponsor | Completed | | Published | |
|---------------------------|------------|--------------|------------|-------------|
| | n | % | n | % |
| CHUV | 26 | 100.0 | 12 | 46.2 |
| HUG | 77 | 100.0 | 41 | 53.2 |
| Inselspital Bern | 88 | 100.0 | 39 | 44.3 |
| University Hospital Basel | 116 | 100.0 | 46 | 39.7 |
| University of Zurich | 180 | 100.0 | 73 | 40.6 |
| All | 487 | 100.0 | 211 | 43.3 |

Table: Number of registered completed trials and number of completed trials with publication found for Swiss University Hospitals.

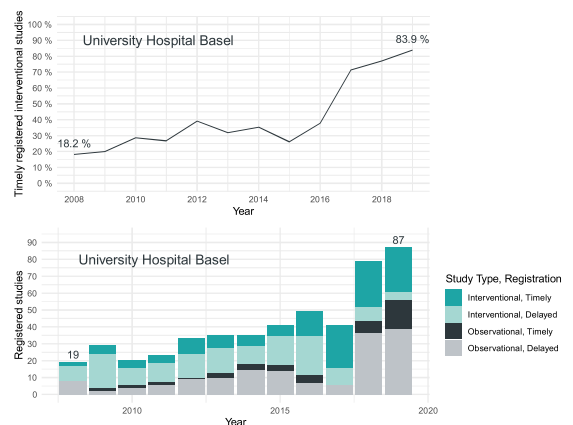


Figure: At the University Hospital Basel, 87 studies were registered in 2019, an increase of 116.4% compared to the last 5 years before the start of systematic study registration. Much of this increase is from observational studies (+317.9%). The fraction of timely registered interventional trials was 83.9% in 2019, a plus of 43.4 pp.

Summary

There are substantial differences of clinical study registration across Swiss University Hospitals, with lowest rates in the largest hospitals. The new registration policy of the USB leads to a duplication of the annually registered clinical studies.

References

Powell-Smith A. and Goldacre B. *The TrialsTracker: Automated ongoing monitoring of failure to share clinical trial results by all major companies and research institutions*. F1000Research 2016, 5:2629