COVID-19 drug research and the cohort multiple randomised controlled trial design

Rafael Dal-Ré

Epidemiology Unit, Health Research Institute-Fundación Jiménez Díaz University Hospital, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Madrid, Spain.

Corresponding author: Rafael Dal-Ré (rafael.dalre@quironsalud.es)

Shareable abstract (@ERSpublications)
In the cohort multiple randomised controlled trial design, consent is not sought from control group participants in each trial conducted within the cohort, so it is ethically inappropriate for assessment of medicinal products in COVID-19 patients https://bit.ly/3xtBX3m

Cite this article as: Dal-Ré R. COVID-19 drug research and the cohort multiple randomised controlled trial design. *Eur Respir J* 2022; 60: 2200746 [DOI: 10.1183/13993003.00746-2022].

Received: 8 April 2022
Accepted: 4 June 2022

To the Editor:

Soon after the start of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, in May 2020, more than 1300 trials were registered worldwide, 82% of which were devoted to assessing drugs or biologics [1]. Most of them were non-randomised trials or randomised controlled trials (RCTs). A few were adaptive, platform trials. However, in March 2020, the public hospitals of Paris (France) registered a cohort study, CORIMUNO-19 (NCT04324047), aiming to collect observational data to nest a series of RCTs to assess interventions for COVID-19 patients, *i.e.* a cohort multiple RCT (cmRCT). This clinical research approach has been exceptional in the COVID-19 pandemic.