

Help doctors search the medical literature: treatments

Annotation Instructions

We are interested in finding all phrases and sentences that describe the **medical treatments** studied in a clinical trial. Medical treatments are often called **interventions** in the medical literature. A medical treatment can be a specific drug ("aspirin"), surgery ("inguinal hernia repair"), talking therapy ("cognitive behavioural therapy") or even a lifestyle modification like changing one's diet or the type of toothpaste the patients use.

Many studies will have a group who receive a "control" treatment, such as a "placebo", no treatment at all, or may who may receive whatever is currently standard practice ("usual care"). These are also regarded as *interventions*, and a description of these, too, should be marked.

Clinical trials are designed to find out whether a medical treatment works or not. People who take part in clinical trials receive one or more of the studied interventions to find which works the best. **The task is to highlight text snippets that describe all medical treatments studied in the short text you will read.**

We **do NOT** want to annotate the details about how they are given to participants. For example medications may be given by mouth (orally), or by injection ("intramuscular", "subcutaneous", or "intravenous"), and will normally have a dose described (e.g. "325 mg"). The frequency and duration of interventions is often described (an exercise session might last "30 minutes", talking therapies might be scheduled as "6 monthly sessions each lasting 1 hour", and a medication might be given "twice daily for 12 months"). All of this is extraneous information that does NOT need to be marked.

Read the text and highlight all phrases that name the interventions. Mark **the longest contiguous texts** that includes such descriptions. A given intervention may be referenced or described more than once in an abstract; **all such occurrences should be marked**. It may be helpful to read the entire text once and only after that mark the text snippets describing the interventions in the study.

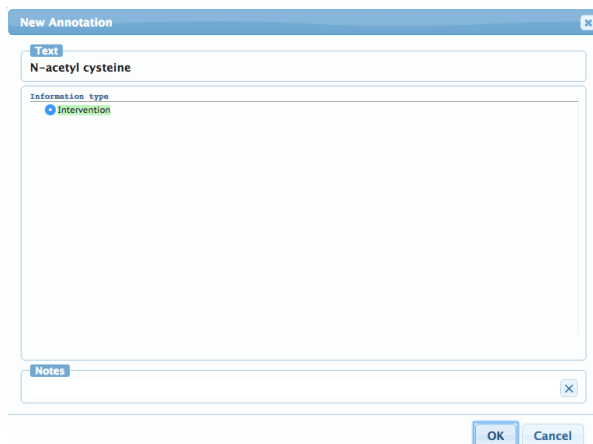


Figure 1: Markup dialog window. A "delete" button will appear for a span already marked.

To mark a portion of the text, highlight the text. A menu will appear. At the top, in "Text" you will see the selected text. The "Information type" section has the "Intervention" tag. At the bottom, there is a "Notes" section where you can leave comments about this particular mark-up. Select "Ok" at the bottom right to finalize the mark-up.

If you wish to delete a mark-up section, double click on the existing label, then select "Delete" at the bottom right.

A highlighted span should look like Figure 2.

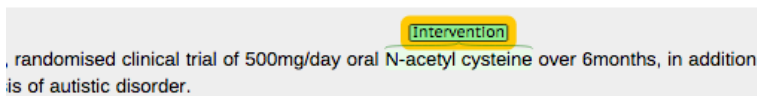


Figure 2: A highlighted span.

In some cases, interventions will be called out in article abstracts. In these the entire sentence may contain a description of the treatment and its administration. We want to mark **only the treatments involved, not the other details**. For example:

INTERVENTION: [Zinc lozenges](#), 10 mg, orally dissolved, 5 times a day (in grades 1-6) or 6 times a day (in grades 7-12).

INTERVENTION: The patients received either [azithromycin](#) (600 mg/d for 3 days during week 1, then 600 mg/wk during weeks 2-12; n = 3879) or [placebo](#) (n = 3868).

Some typical examples are shown below, where again descriptions of interventions are shown in blue:

We report findings of a pilot RCT for [a parent training intervention](#) with a focus on the development of joint attention skills and joint action routines. Twenty-four children meeting ICD-10 criteria for childhood autism (mean age = 23 months) were identified using the CHAT screen and randomised to [the parent training group](#) or to [local services](#) only.

We randomly assigned 6595 men, 45 to 64 years of age, with a mean (+/- SD) plasma cholesterol level of 272 +/- 23 mg per deciliter (7.0 +/- 0.6 mmol per liter) to receive [pravastatin](#) (40 mg each evening) or [placebo](#).

[Antihypertensive therapy](#) was started immediately after randomization in the active treatment group, but only after termination of the double-blind trial in the control patients. Treatment consisted of [nitrendipine](#) (10-40 mg/d), with the possible addition of [enalapril maleate](#) (5-20 mg/d), [hydrochlorothiazide](#) (12.5-25 mg/d), or [both add-on drugs](#).

METHOD: Seventy-two people residing in National Health Service (U.K.) care facilities who had clinically significant agitation in the context of severe dementia were randomly assigned to [aromatherapy with Melissa essential oil](#) (N = 36) or [placebo \(sunflower oil\)](#) (N = 36). The active treatment or [placebo oil](#) was combined with a base lotion and applied to patients' faces and arms twice a day by caregiving staff.

We next review special cases of what to mark.

Text in titles **should** be marked. For instance, consider the following title:

[Individualized Acupuncture](#) for Symptom Relief in Functional Dyspepsia: A Randomized Controlled Trial.

As shown, "Individualized Acupuncture" should be marked as the intervention here, even though this appears in title study title, rather than the abstract. Of course, descriptions of the acupuncture intervention should also be marked wherever they appear in the abstract text.

Navigation Instructions



Figure 3: Navigation bar.

Each HIT consists of three short texts to annotate. For qualification you will mark one text. Use the left and right arrows at the top bar to navigate through the articles. When you are finished with all texts, press the "right" arrow again and a "submit" button will appear, shown in Figure 3. There you will see a code unique for the HIT you just completed. **Do NOT refresh or zoom the annotation page** (this will cause your annotations to be lost). **Make sure to leave the Mechanical Turk window open as you complete the annotation.** When you are finished, you will return to the Mechanical Turk page to paste the code into the box.

In the annotation page you can always view these instructions again by clicking on the "help" button at the upper right corner of the navigation bar.