

Importance of Conference Calls for Coordinators in Multi-Center Clinical Trials

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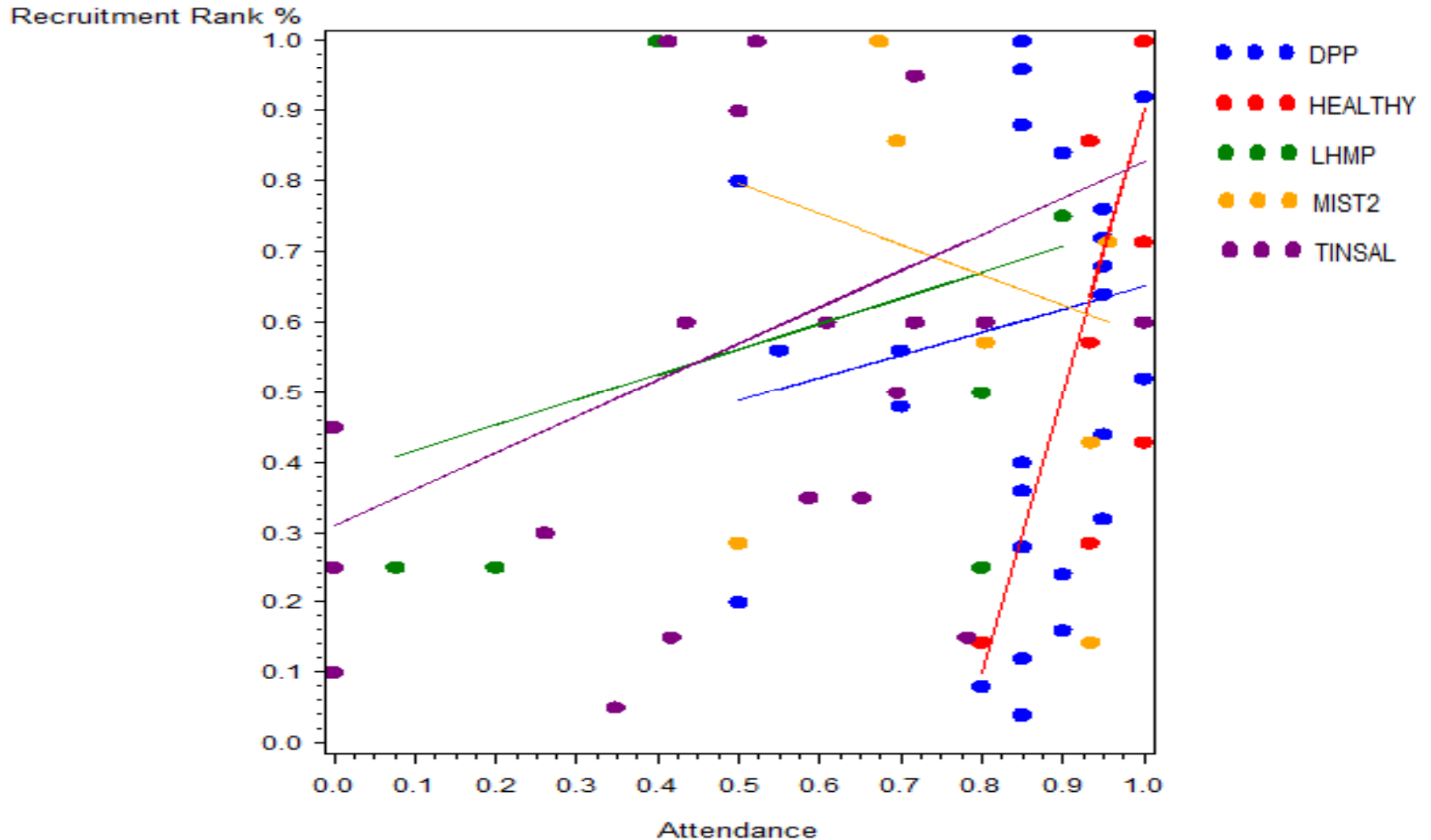


Measuring Centers'



- Recruitment as a rank percent
 - For each study, order centers from worst recruitment (1) to best (n_s)
 - Divide that rank by number of centers (n_s)
- Participant drop-out percentage
- Screen failure percentage
- Recruitment as a percentage of the total recruited
- Other methods to consider include center specific recruitment targets, and difference from expected recruitment

Recruitment Rank Percent by Attendance Percent for Each of 5 Studies (n=66)



What Affects Attendance?

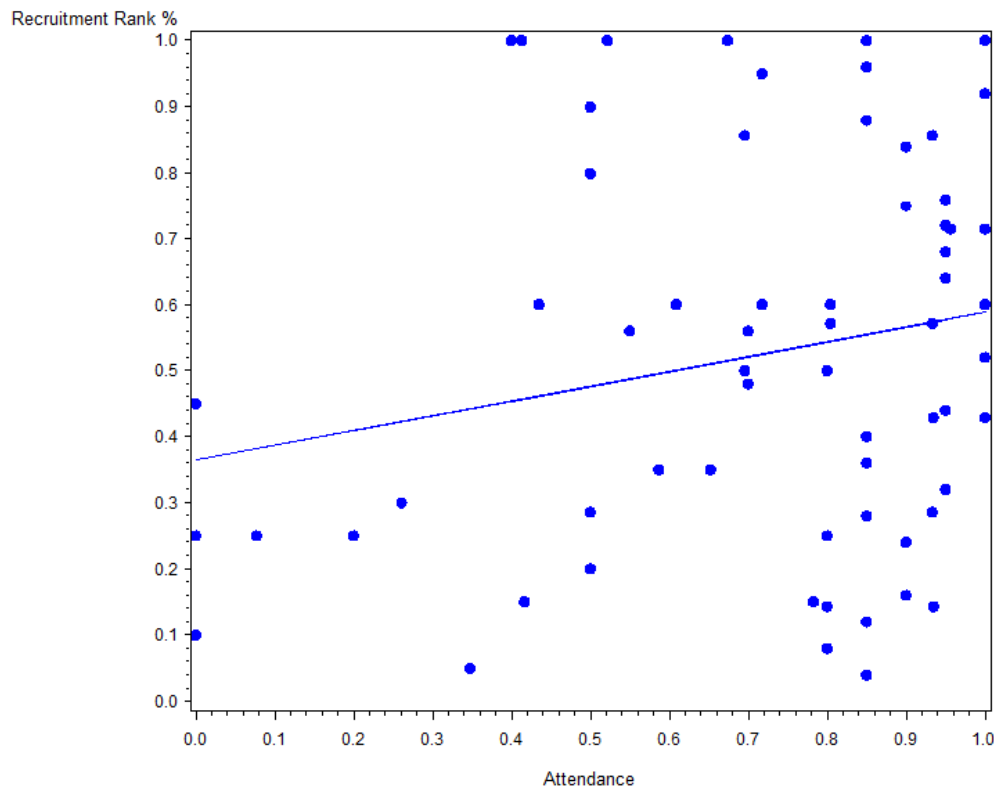
No affect on attendance:

- Funding source
- Disease studied
- Study design (intervention or observation)
- Center's location
- Center being part of a university
- Center's affiliation with a 2010 Carnegie Classification 'Very High Research Activity' university

Significant affect on attendance:

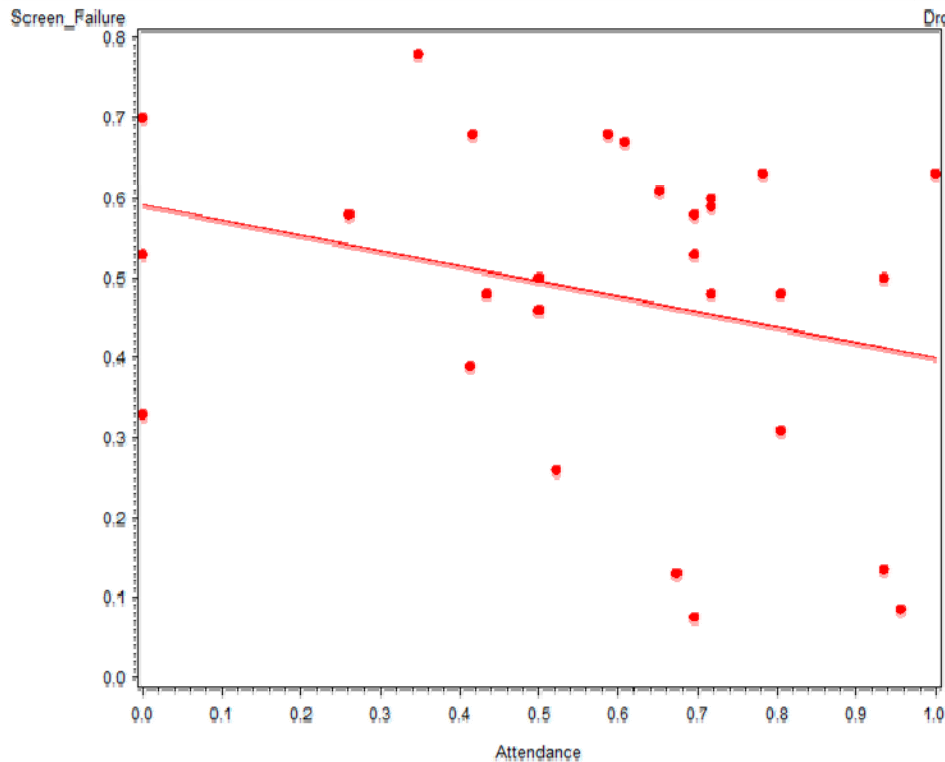
- Years of study duration
- Study state (enrolling or follow-up)
- ❖ Together they explain about 36.4% of the variation in attendance
- ❖ Neither has significant association with recruitment, screen failure, or drop out rates

Recruitment Rank Percent by Attendance Percent for All Studies (n=66)

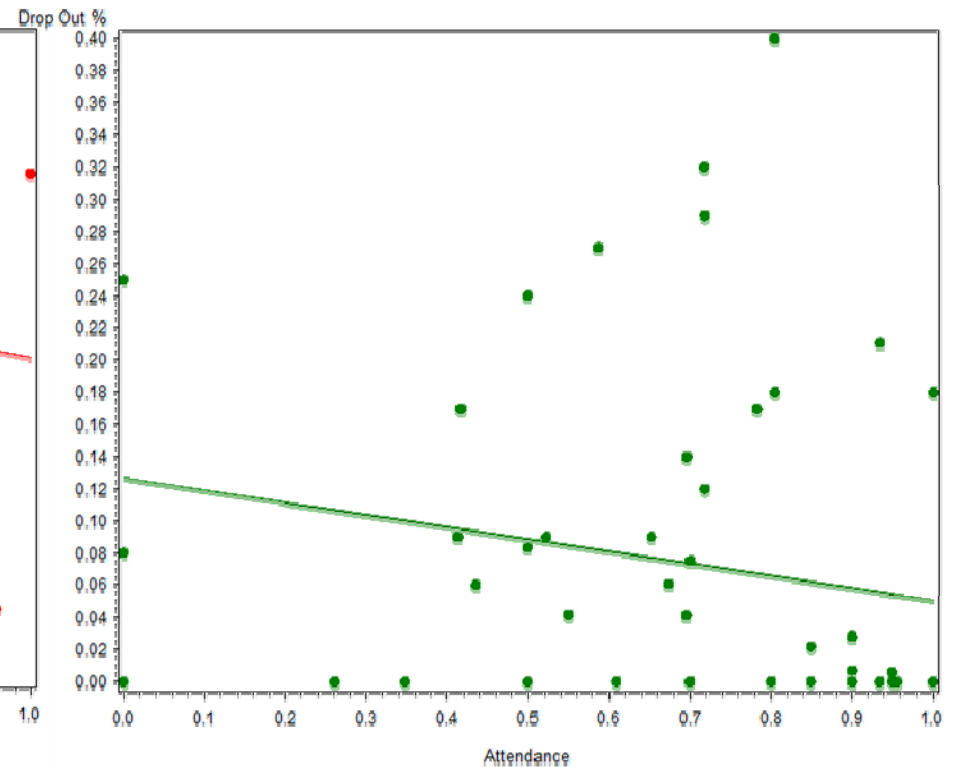


- For every 1% increase in conference call attendance, there is a 0.22% increase in recruitment rank
- Attendance explains less than 4.3% of the variation in recruitment rank
- No significant association

Screen Failure Percent by Attendance Percent for 2 Studies with Screening (n=28)

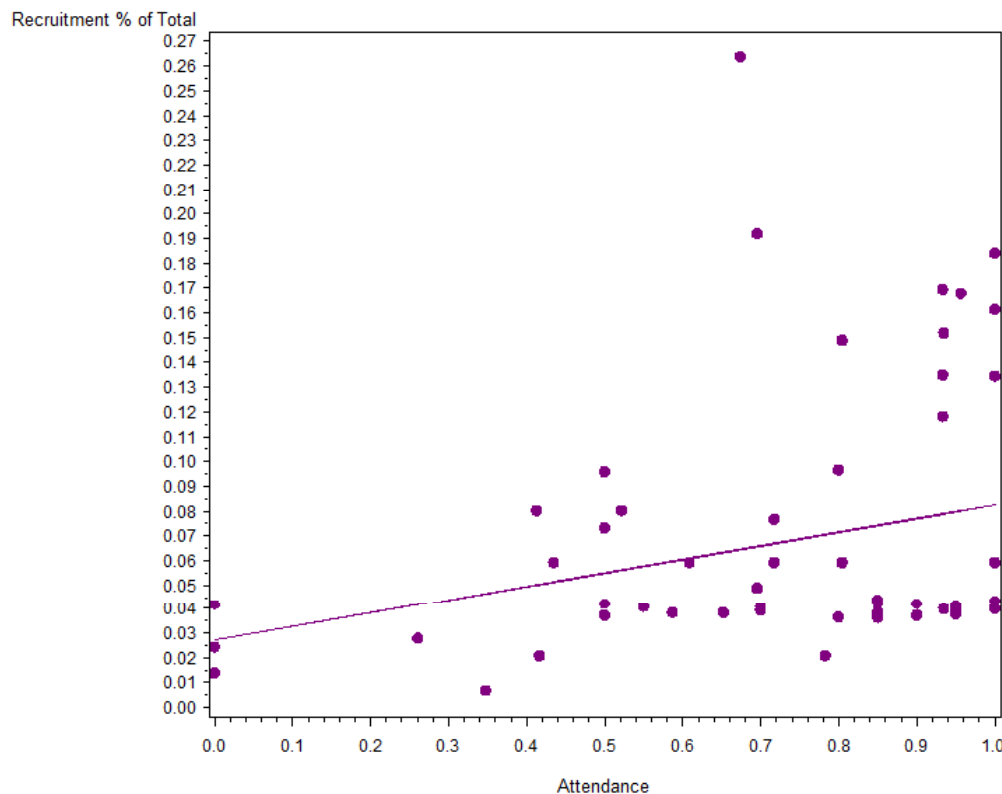


Drop Out Percent by Attendance Percent for 3 Studies with Drop Out Information (n=53)



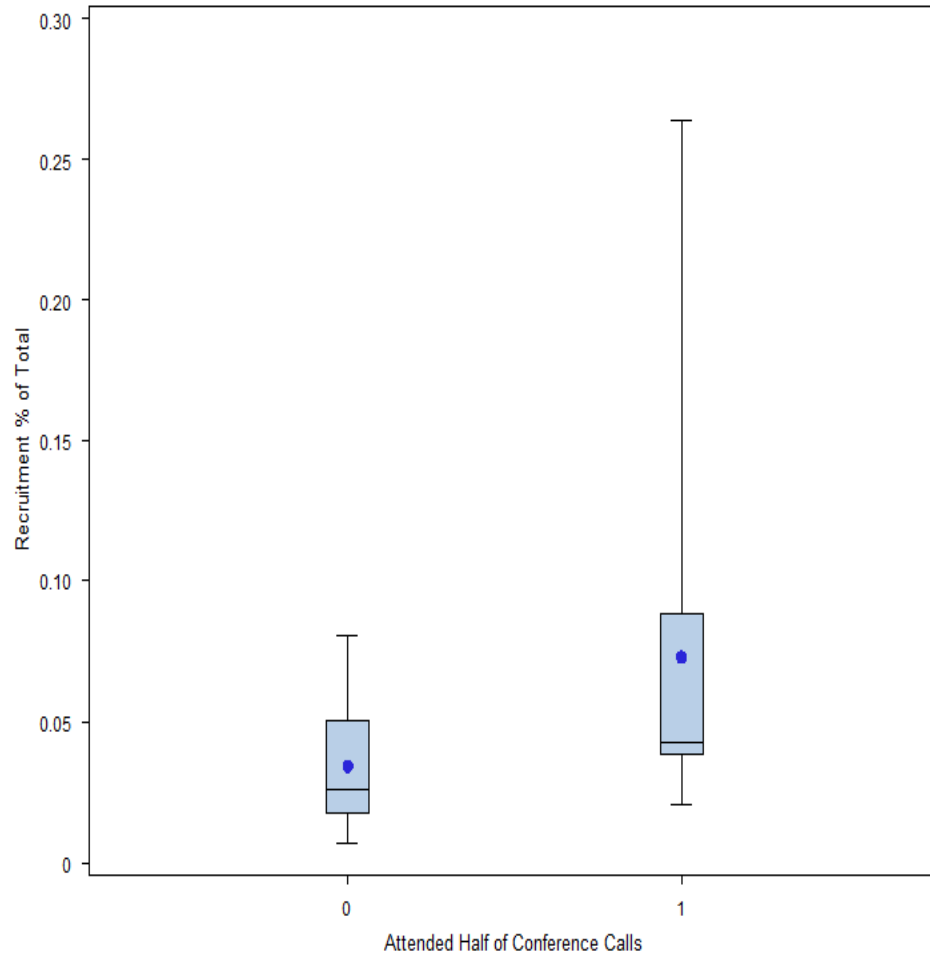
- 1% increase in attendance is associated with 0.19% decrease in screen failure rate
- 1% increase in attendance is associated with 0.07% decrease in drop out rate
- No significant associations

Recruitment Percent of Total by Attendance for 4 Studies (n=60)



- For every 1% increase in conference call attendance, there is a 0.06% increase in recruitment as a portion of the total recruited
- Attendance explains less than 7.2% of the variation in recruitment
- **Significant association (p=0.0387)**

Recruitment Percent of Total by Yearly Attendance for 4 Studies (n=60)



- Divided into centers who did not attend half of all calls (n=8) and those did (n=52)
- **Significantly different means**
- Average percentage of participants recruited was 0.03% and 0.07% for clinics who did not and did attend half the conference calls, respectively

A photograph of a metal prison cell door with a sign that reads "Limitations". The sign is white with the word "Limitations" in a bold, dark blue, serif font. The door is made of vertical metal bars, and a small circular lock or handle is visible on the right side of the door.

Limitations

- Very small number of studies
- Multiple measures of recruitment including both percents and counts
- Only NIH funded studies
- Limited disease scope
- Unable to measure a center's commitment to the study

Conclusions

- Coordinator attendance on conference calls is a poor predictor of the center's recruitment
- Attendance is also a poor predictor of screen failure and drop out rates
- Lower attendance (making less than half of the calls) is strongly associated with lower recruitment
 - Could this be an indicator of how much of a priority the study is to a center?
 - Should we focus more attention on these few centers and less on the study-wide coordinator conference calls?

Suggestions for Further Research

- Create a repository for this kind of information
- Analyze attendance over time
- Look at other issues that affect both attendance and recruitment
 - Coordinator turn-over
 - Levels of attendance for centers with multiple coordinators
 - Percent FTE of coordinators
- Analyze other methods of communication
- Use for justification for funding



Special Thanks

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