

Table 1: CONSORT 2010 checklist of information to include when reporting a cluster randomised trial

Strengthening the Community Support Group to improve maternal and neonatal health seeking behaviours: A cluster-randomized controlled trial in Satkhira District, Bangladesh, by Tobe RG et al.

Section/Topic	Item No	Standard Checklist item	Extension for cluster designs	Page No *
Title and abstract				
	1a	Identification as a randomised trial in the title	Identification as a cluster randomised trial in the title	pp.1
	1b	Structured summary of trial design, methods, results, and conclusions (for specific guidance see CONSORT for abstracts) ^{1,2}	See table 2	pp.2-3
Introduction				
Background and objectives	2a	Scientific background and explanation of rationale	Rationale for using a cluster design	pp.6
	2b	Specific objectives or hypotheses	Whether objectives pertain to the the cluster level, the individual participant level or both	pp.6
Methods				
Trial design	3a	Description of trial design (such as parallel, factorial) including allocation ratio	Definition of cluster and description of how the design features apply to the clusters	pp.7-8
	3b	Important changes to methods after trial commencement (such as eligibility criteria), with reasons		
Participants	4a	Eligibility criteria for participants	Eligibility criteria for clusters	pp.7-8
	4b	Settings and locations where the data were collected		pp.7-8
Interventions	5	The interventions for each group with sufficient details	Whether interventions pertain to the cluster level, the individual	pp.8-9

		to allow replication, including how and when they were actually administered	participant level or both	
Outcomes	6a	Completely defined pre-specified primary and secondary outcome measures, including how and when they were assessed	Whether outcome measures pertain to the cluster level, the individual participant level or both	pp.10-11
	6b	Any changes to trial outcomes after the trial commenced, with reasons		
Sample size	7a	How sample size was determined	Method of calculation, number of clusters(s) (and whether equal or unequal cluster sizes are assumed), cluster size, a coefficient of intracluster correlation (ICC or k), and an indication of its uncertainty	pp.7-8
	7b	When applicable, explanation of any interim analyses and stopping guidelines		
Randomisation:				
Sequence generation	8a	Method used to generate the random allocation sequence		pp.8
	8b	Type of randomisation; details of any restriction (such as blocking and block size)	Details of stratification or matching if used	pp.8
Allocation concealment mechanism	9	Mechanism used to implement the random allocation sequence (such as sequentially numbered containers), describing any steps taken to conceal the sequence until interventions were assigned	Specification that allocation was based on clusters rather than individuals and whether allocation concealment (if any) was at the cluster level, the individual participant level or both	pp.8
Implementation	10	Who generated the random allocation sequence, who enrolled participants, and who assigned participants	Replace by 10a, 10b and 10c	pp.8

to interventions				
	10a	Who generated the random allocation sequence, who enrolled clusters, and who assigned clusters to interventions		
	10b	Mechanism by which individual participants were included in clusters for the purposes of the trial (such as complete enumeration, random sampling)		
	10c	From whom consent was sought (representatives of the cluster, or individual cluster members, or both), and whether consent was sought before or after randomisation		
Blinding				
	11a	If done, who was blinded after assignment to interventions (for example, participants, care providers, those assessing outcomes) and how		pp.8
	11b	If relevant, description of the similarity of interventions		
Statistical methods				
	12a	Statistical methods used to compare groups for primary and secondary outcomes	How clustering was taken into account	pp.11-12
	12b	Methods for additional analyses, such as subgroup analyses and adjusted analyses		
Results				
	Participant flow (a diagram is strongly recommended)	13a	For each group, the numbers of participants who were randomly assigned, received intended treatment, and were analysed for the primary	For each group, the numbers of clusters that were randomly assigned, received intended treatment, and were analysed for the primary outcome Figure 1

		outcome		
	13b	For each group, losses and exclusions after randomisation, together with reasons	For each group, losses and exclusions for both clusters and individual cluster members	Figure 1
Recruitment	14a	Dates defining the periods of recruitment and follow-up		pp.13
	14b	Why the trial ended or was stopped		
Baseline data	15	A table showing baseline demographic and clinical characteristics for each group	Baseline characteristics for the individual and cluster levels as applicable for each group	pp.13
Numbers analysed	16	For each group, number of participants (denominator) included in each analysis and whether the analysis was by original assigned groups	For each group, number of clusters included in each analysis	pp.13
Outcomes and estimation	17a	For each primary and secondary outcome, results for each group, and the estimated effect size and its precision (such as 95% confidence interval)	Results at the individual or cluster level as applicable and a coefficient of intracluster correlation (ICC or k) for each primary outcome	pp.13-14
	17b	For binary outcomes, presentation of both absolute and relative effect sizes is recommended		pp.13-14
Ancillary analyses	18	Results of any other analyses performed, including subgroup analyses and adjusted analyses, distinguishing pre-specified from exploratory		N.A.
Harms	19	All important harms or unintended effects in each group (for specific guidance see CONSORT for harms ³)		N.A
Discussion				
Limitations	20	Trial limitations, addressing sources of potential bias,		pp.17

		imprecision, and, if relevant, multiplicity of analyses	
Generalisability	21	Generalisability (external validity, applicability) of the trial findings	Generalisability to clusters and/or individual participants (as relevant)
Interpretation	22	Interpretation consistent with results, balancing benefits and harms, and considering other relevant evidence	pp.15-17
Other information			
Registration	23	Registration number and name of trial registry	pp.12
Protocol	24	Where the full trial protocol can be accessed, if available	N.A.
Funding	25	Sources of funding and other support (such as supply of drugs), role of funders	pp.12

* Note: page numbers optional depending on journal requirements

Table 2: Extension of CONSORT for abstracts^{1,2} to reports of cluster randomised trials

Item	Standard Checklist item	Extension for cluster trials
Title	Identification of study as randomised	Identification of study as cluster randomised
Trial design	Description of the trial design (e.g. parallel, cluster, non-inferiority)	
Methods		
Participants	Eligibility criteria for participants and the settings where the data were collected	Eligibility criteria for clusters
Interventions	Interventions intended for each group	
Objective	Specific objective or hypothesis	Whether objective or hypothesis pertains to the cluster level, the individual participant level or both
Outcome	Clearly defined primary outcome for this report	Whether the primary outcome pertains to the cluster level, the individual participant level or both
Randomization	How participants were allocated to interventions	How clusters were allocated to interventions
Blinding (masking)	Whether or not participants, care givers, and those assessing the outcomes were blinded to group assignment	
Results		
Numbers randomized	Number of participants randomized to each group	Number of clusters randomized to each group
Recruitment	Trial status ¹	
Numbers analysed	Number of participants analysed in each group	Number of clusters analysed in each group
Outcome	For the primary outcome, a result for each group and the estimated effect size and its precision	Results at the cluster or individual participant level as applicable for each primary outcome
Harms	Important adverse events or side effects	
Conclusions	General interpretation of the results	
Trial registration	Registration number and name of trial register	
Funding	Source of funding	

¹ Relevant to Conference Abstracts

REFERENCES

- ¹ Hopewell S, Clarke M, Moher D, Wager E, Middleton P, Altman DG, et al. CONSORT for reporting randomised trials in journal and conference abstracts. *Lancet* 2008, 371:281-283
- ² Hopewell S, Clarke M, Moher D, Wager E, Middleton P, Altman DG at al (2008) CONSORT for reporting randomized controlled trials in journal and conference abstracts: explanation and elaboration. *PLoS Med* 5(1): e20
- ³ Ioannidis JP, Evans SJ, Gotzsche PC, O'Neill RT, Altman DG, Schulz K, Moher D. Better reporting of harms in randomized trials: an extension of the CONSORT statement. *Ann Intern Med* 2004; 141(10):781-788.