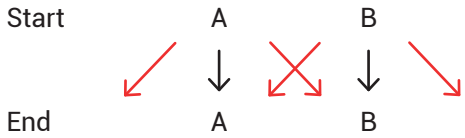
Randomized trials—data collection

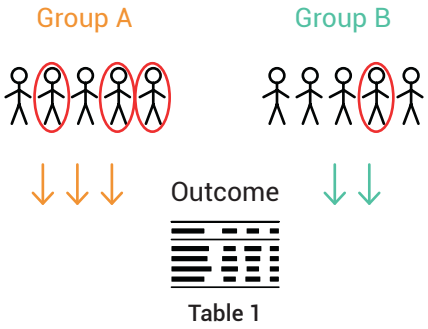
Treatment

In a trial it needs to be reported and recorded if patients cross over to the other group or stop taking any medication.



Patient

At the patient level we want to know about existing risk factors that may influence the outcome of interest and if these risk factors are distributed equally between groups.



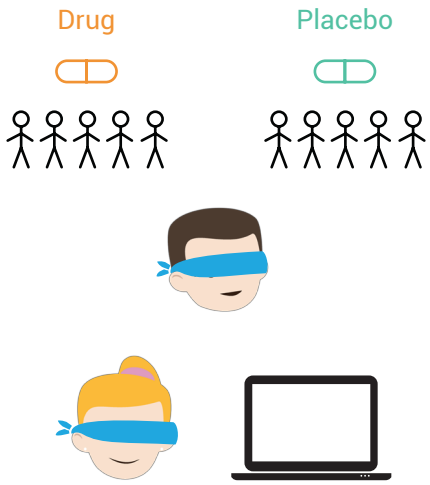
Outcome

When you read a paper of a randomized trial or any trial you should

- → ask yourself if the authors assessed and recorded every relevant outcome,
- → look at how they recorded it,
- → and check if they recorded it in the same way in all groups.

In randomized trials it is important that the quality of data is equally high in all groups.

That's why it is common practice to use placebos in randomized clinical trials so the placebo effect will be equally strong in both groups. Those trials are called "placebo-controlled".



Single blind:
The patients are blinded to group assignment.

Double blind:
The patients and the treating clinicians are blinded to group assignment.

Triple blind:
The patients, the treating clinicians, and the person who analyzes the data are blinded to group assignment.