

PREVENTION (NONPHARMACOLOGICAL)

LatAm Fingers Initiative: Challenges and opportunities of launching a multicultural trial in pandemic times

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Abstract

Background: The Latin American FINGERS initiative gathers 12 countries, including Spanish and Portuguese-speaking populations. We aim to describe challenges and opportunities related to launching a multi-country trial during the Covid-19 pandemic. Identified challenges included. a) To train personnel from the different teams in trial procedures b) To assess the training results c) To provide support regarding the trial set-up on the different sites.

Method: The challenges were approached with multiple online networking strategies. a) Training was provided online in workgroup meetings led by specialists from the different interventions. Furthermore, because our project includes English, Spanish and Portuguese speakers, the training sessions were recorded, and subtitles in the alternate language were provided. b) To assess training, a web-based campus with educational sessions and questionnaires with different educational paths for each role in the intervention was set up. Additionally, we created different certifications, and a medal system to reward the training completion was included. c) Two innovative platforms provided support. We created a WhatsApp Chatbot to assist investigators 24/7, automatically answering questions, sending resources required for visits, and reporting difficulties. The Chatbot includes a database system to register adverse events reports and report them immediately to the clinical core. Finally, a LatAm FINGERS Consulting Room was built to provide weekly online sessions led by the executive committee. Members can connect without a prior appointment and discuss any questions.

Result: Hitherto, 16 in-vivo online sessions were provided to 203 trainees, 15 multilingual videos summarizing essential aspects of intervention, and six tutorials solving frequent problems were uploaded in the web-based campus with multiple language subtitles. A total of 93 participants received certification for the trial. 9 meetings have been carried out so far regarding the Consulting Room, and more than 30 con-

flicts have been solved. Chatbot has answered a mean of 12 daily questions since its implementation.

Conclusion: We present successful tools to implement an intervention in multicultural centers separate by more than 10000 km and 5 time zones where travel was banned. Finally, this trial also brought up the opportunity to increase the spirit of the scientific community and strengthen the network ties.