

Multicentered Studies in the OTA: Has the Increased Ability to Share Information Translated to More Multicentered Studies at the OTA Annual Meetings?

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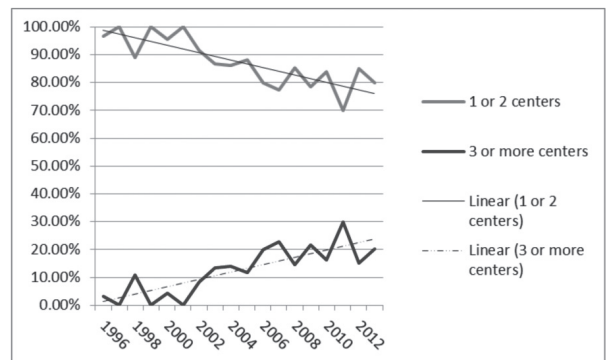
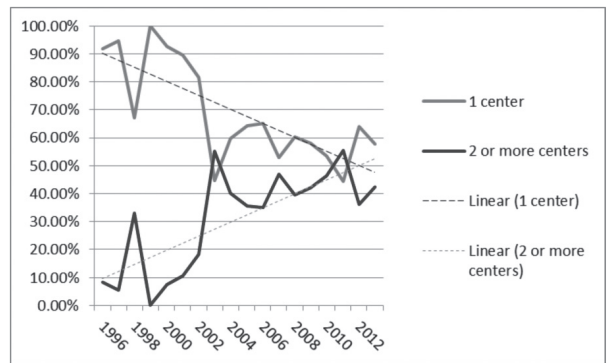
Background/Purpose: Original scientific studies presented at the OTA annual meeting every year are a source of cutting edge clinical information for orthopaedic surgeons. There has always been an emphasis on high-quality, well-powered studies that can show statistical significance and direct clinical practice. Often, this requires multiple center involvement in order to include appropriate numbers of patients in these studies. With computers and the Internet we believe that the feasibility of performing multicenter studies should be greater over the past several years than it was for years prior. The purpose of this study was to compare the presentations at the OTA annual meeting based on the number of centers involved over a period of 18 years (1996-2013), and whether or not there is a tendency over time toward more multicenter trials being presented at this meeting.

Methods: OTA podium presentations were reviewed over a period from 1996-2013. A total of 1400 presentations were given during this time period. Data pertaining to the number of institutions involved based on authorship was recorded for each presentation and trended over time.

Results: Single-center studies occurred more commonly for the years 1996-2002 (88%), with few studies performed with 2 centers (8%), 3 centers (1.96%), and 4 or more centers (1.92%). For the period 2003-2013, multicenter studies became increasingly more common than in the years prior. Over this time period single-center studies were presented on average 56% of the time (range, 44%-65%), while the occurrence of 2, 3, and 4 or more center studies increased significantly (25.04%, 10.3%, and 7.83%, respectively).

Conclusion: Over the past 18 years the number of multicenter studies presented at the OTA annual meeting has increased. This is likely due in part to improved communication and improved ability to share data across multiple sites. This has, and will in the future, allow researchers to combine data across sites that are geographically remote in order to produce high-quality, meaningful research.

POSTER ABSTRACTS



See pages 99 - 147 for financial disclosure information.