Additional file 2 – Summary statistics and the results of univariate analyses for all trial characteristics investigated

Variables collected with few enough missing values (25% or less) to be used in analyses

Variable	**Summary statistics**					***p*- value in univariate analysis with the following response variables**					
Continuous: unchanging	**Mean**	**Standard Deviation**	**Range**	**Missing**		**Results reported**			**Mentioned**		
				n/N [a]	**%** [b]	**Time to (Table 1)**	**Ever (Table 2)**	**Frequency (Table 3)**	**Time to (Table 4)**	**Ever (Table 5)**	**Frequency (Table 6)**
Number of randomizations	1.64	1.10	1-10	0/149	0	↓ 0.3	↑ 0.3	↑ 0.5	↓ 0.04	↑ 0.03	↑ <0.0001
Number of arms	2.32	0.74	2-8	0/243	0	↓ 0.5	↑ 0.08	↑ 0.2	↓ 0.3	↑ 0.3	↑ 0.02
Number of therapeutic questions	1.78	2.36	1-28	0/243	0	↓ 0.5	↑ 0.1	↑ 0.2	↓ 0.3	↑ 0.3	↑ 0.05
More recent start date of accrual period	27 Jun 1978	6 y 2 m	1962-Dec 1987	12/243	5	↓ 0.003	↓ 0.007	↑ 0.0004	↓ 0.002	↓ 0.0008	↑ <0.0001
More recent close date of accrual period	12 Jul 1981	6 y 6 m	Sum 1967-1992	24/243	10	↓ 0.001	↓ 0.08	↑ <0.0001	↓ 0.002	↓ 0.02	↑ <0.0001
Duration of accrual period (years, months)	2 y 9 m	1 y 7 m	0-8 y	24/243	10	↓ 0.03	↑ 0.3	↑ <0.0001	↑ 0.8	↑ 0.1	↑ 0.003
Number of patients randomized	209.1	236.7	10-1606	31/243	13	↓0.3	↑ 1.0	↑ 0.02	↓ 0.7	↑ 0.002	↑ <0.0001
Categorical: unchanging	**Category: frequency**			**Missing**		**Results reported**			**Mentioned**		
				n/N [a]	**%** [b]	**Time to (Table 1)**	**Ever (Table 2)**	**Frequency (Table 3)**	**Time to (Table 4)**	**Ever (Table 5)**	**Frequency (Table 6)**
Treatment type	Chemotherapy: 167 Radiotherapy: 54 Immunotherapy: 11 Transplant: 1 Antibiotic: 3			7/243	3	↓ R vs. rest 0.8 ↑ I vs. rest 0.09	↑ R vs. rest 0.6 ↓ I vs. rest 0.2	↑ R vs. rest <0.0001 ↓ I vs. rest 0.02	↓ R vs. rest 0.3 ↑ I vs. rest 0.0003	↑ R vs. rest 0.6 ↑ I vs. rest 1.0 ↑ I R vs. A C 0.6	↑ R vs. rest 0.08 ↓ I vs. rest 0.002

Relapse/refractory vs. first line	first-line: 200 relapse/refractory: 30	13/243	5	↑ 0.5	↓ 0.3	↓ 0.02	↑ 0.8	↓ 0.02	↓ <0.0001
Age eligibility: + adults vs. children alone	children: 214 children and adults: 23	6/243	2	↑ 0.3	↑ 0.1	↓ 0.07	↑ 0.8	↑ 0.4	↓ 0.002
Equivalence vs. superiority trial	equivalence: 39 superiority: 204	0/243	0	↓ 0.1	↑ 1.0	↑ <0.0001	↓ 0.03	↑ 1.0	↑ <0.0001
Conducted in low or middle income country vs. rest	low/middle income: 15 rest of world: 228	0/149	0	↑ 0.1	↓ 0.001	↓ 0.0003	↑ <0.0001	↓ 0.05	↓ 0.0001
Country group of trialists	N. America: 138 Europe: 74 Other: 31	0/149	0	↑ O vs. AE 0.4 ↓ A vs. OE 0.5 ↑ E vs. AO 1.0	↓ O vs. AE 0.03 ↓A vs. OE 0.8 ↑ E vs. AO 0.06	↓ O vs. AE 0.1 ↓ A vs. OE 0.7 ↑ E vs. AO 0.1	↑ O vs. AE <0.0001 ↓ A vs. OE 0.1 ↓ E vs. AO 0.2	↓ O vs. AE 0.3 ↑ A vs. OE 0.7 ↑ E vs. AO 0.7	↓ O vs. AE 0.003 ↑ A vs. OE 0.006 ↓ E vs. AO 0.4
Level of international participation	fully International: 19 Limited: 68 Single-country: 126	30/243	12	↑ I vs. LS 0.7 ↓ I L vs. S 0.4	↑ I vs. LS 1.0 ↑ I L vs. S 0.4	↓ I vs. LS 0.4 ↑ I L vs. S 0.9	↓ I vs. LS 0.7 ↓ I L vs. S 0.8	↑ I vs. LS 1.0 ↑ I L vs. S 0.1	↑ I vs. LS <0.0001 ↑ I L vs. S <0.0001
Multi vs. single-center participation	Multi-centre 208 Single-centre 32	3/243	1	↑ 0.04	↓ 0.2	↓ 0.0003	↑ 0.1	↑0.6	↓ 0.3

Continuous: specific to publication	**Mean**	**Standard Deviation**	**Range**	**Missing**		**Results reported**	**Mentioned**
				n/N [a]	**%** [b]	**Time to (Table 1)**	**Time to (Table 4)**
Greater statistical significance	0.516	1.21	0-5	0/610	0	↓ 0.08	↓ 0.2
Number of trials mentioned in article	1.47	1.03	1-6	0/257	0	↑ 0.2	↑ <0.0001
Number of randomizations mentioned in article	2.37	2.03	1-11	0/257	0	↑ 0.4	↑ 0.01
Number of co-authors	8.24	6.31	1-42	0/257	0	↓ 0.4	↓ 0.8
Impact factor of journal	3.99	5.57	0-22.4	0/257	0	↓ 0.7	↓ 0.2

Categorical: specific to publication	**Category: frequency**	**Missing**		**Results reported**	**Mentioned**
		n/N [a]	**%** [b]	**Time to (Table 1)**	**Time to (Table 4)**
Results reported?	yes: 394 no: 216	0/610	0	n/a	↓ 0.3
Subgroups reported?	yes: 130 no: 480	0/610	0	↓ 0.3	↓ 0.2
p-values reported?	yes: 347 no: 263	0/610	0	↓ 0.9	↓ 0.4
Direction of results	Positive (+): 168 negative (-): 64 Null : 73 Opposite: 44 not reported (X): 261	0/610	0	↓ + vs. rest 0.2 ↑ -vs. rest 0.5 ↓ N vs. rest 0.2 ↑ O vs. rest 0.3	↓ + vs. rest 0.2 ↑ -vs. rest 0.9 ↓ N vs. rest 0.4 ↑ O vs. rest 0.5
Clinical significance of results	Significant: 191 Possibly: 17 Non-significant: 121 not reported (X): 281	0/610	0	↓ S vs. rest 0.3 ↑ X vs. rest 0.2 ↓ SN vs. PX 0.09	↓S vs. rest 0.2 ↑ X vs. rest 0.2 ↓ SN vs. PX 0.1
Main questions in paper answered in paper?	Yes: 182 No: 82 Unclear: 346	0/610	0	↑ Y vs. rest 0.5 ↑ YN vs. U 0.5	↑ Y vs. rest 0.9 ↑ YN vs. U 0.006
Article type	Journal: 195 Book: 11 Meeting abstract: 51	0/257	0	↓ B vs. JM 0.4 ↓ M vs. JB 0.2 ↑ J vs. BM 0.1	↑ B vs. JM 0.02 ↓ M vs. JB 0.01
Impact factor associated with journal?	yes: 178 no/not applicable: 79	0/257	0	↑ 0.001	↓ 0.9
Country group of journal publisher	N. America: 164 Europe: 74 Other: 2	17/257	7	↓ O vs. AE 0.6 ↓ E vs. AO 0.9 ↑ A vs. EO 0.7	↑ O vs. AE 0.9 ↓ E vs. AO 0.6 ↑ A vs. EO 0.6
Country group of publisher same as that of trialists?	yes: 191 no: 49	17/257	7	↓ 0.2	↓ 0.4
Published in English language?	yes: 250 no: 7	0/257	0	↑ 0.07	↑ 0.05
Presented at a major meeting?	yes: 67 no: 190	0/257	0	↓ 0.1	↓ 0.1

[a]Number of records missing is given out of one of the following: the total number of trials (149), randomizations (243), articles (257), mentions (610), or mentions that include results (394), whichever is appropriate.
[b]Although a variable may have 25% or less missing values overall, in an individual analyses the percentage of missing values may be greater or less, depending on the set of observations used.

Continuous explanatory variables: ↑= response variable is increased/more likely if value of explanatory variable is greater
↓= response variable is decreased/less likely if value of explanatory variable is greater
Categorical explanatory variables: ↑= response variable is increased/more likely with this particular class
↓= response variable is decreased/less likely with this particular class