

Difficulties in conducting a prospective outcome study.
Ultee J, van Neck JW, Jaquet JB, Hovius SE.
Hand Clin. 2003 Aug;19(3):457-62. Review.

Abstract

The success of an outcome study depends largely on the number of recruited patients, the loss of followup, and the response rate to postal questionnaires. In this article, different strategies were proposed to increase the aforementioned items. Most presented strategies were developed because of failure of measures used earlier. In the authors' study concerning hand surgery, this resulted in missed inclusions and loss of followup. It is hoped that by reading and using the strategies discussed, future researchers will start at the end of the learning curve and will shed a bright light on the obscurity of recovery after hand injury.