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Reliability of real-world data

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Real-world data and related evidence are increasingly important for healthcare decision-making. These data can help physicians to better understand the benefits, unforeseen risks, and costs of any intervention. There are, however, questions: whether real-world data substitute other sources of evidence, and are they reliable at all? Supposedly, the answers lie in the methods of real-world data collection, processing, and analysis. Real-world studies should reflect "real" clinical entities, circumstances, and transform into generalizable evidence, above all. To meet these requirements, "real" settings/clinical premises with adequately heterogeneous groups of subjects/patients are needed. Thus, the randomization, which is applicable to current clinical trials, is hardly applied to real-world studies. Optimally, both types of studies should provide complementary evidence, overcoming related limitations.

Collecting reliable evidence in medicine is an arduous task. In addition, researchers involved in routine clinical practice can address the issue by thinking positively and engaging in real-world studies.

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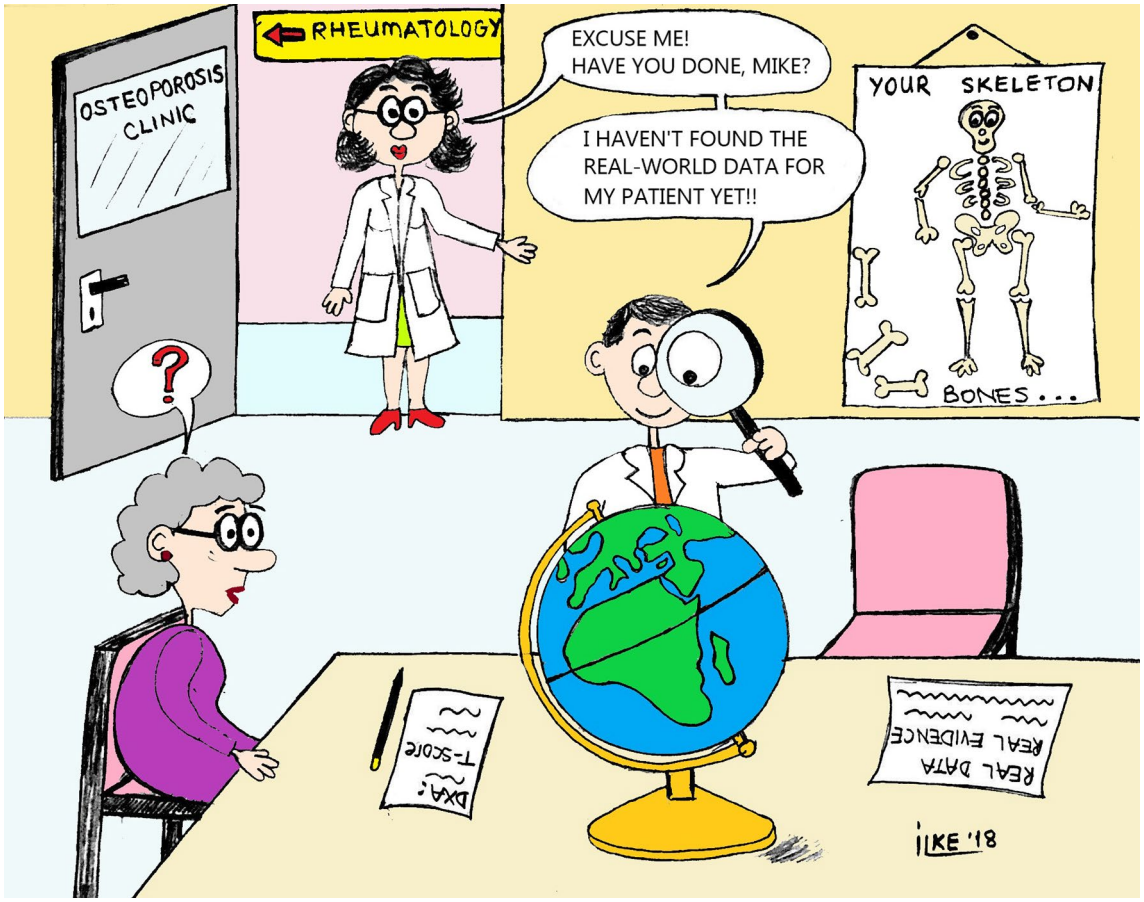

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