

Which ethnic groups should be in the trial and at what proportion?

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V1 13/3/2023 Trial Forge

Trial: BHF SENIO RITA

Heart attack

BHF SENIO RITA (heart attack) <https://www.isrctn.com/ISRCTN11343602>

The panel concluded:

- The minimum target for diverse ethnic involvement should be that the trial **involves different ethnic groups at the proportions found in the most recent census data for the geographical areas where recruitment is being done.**
- The **overall ethnic diversity of the trial should be census levels.**

General comments from the panel:

1. The Panel thought that age was probably being used as a proxy for frailty comorbidities and that this would likely lead to less representation of ethnic minority groups because similar frailty/comorbidity would occur earlier in some ethnic minority groups (e.g. South Asians). Trial teams would need to consider this during their design and conduct.
2. If an age cut-off is used as in this trial, it is important to consider where the ethnicity of those in the data that support the choice of the cut-off point. The panel suspected that the data supporting the cut-off of 75 would come from a predominantly white population, which means its relevance to other ethnic groups is uncertain.
3. The decision to approach a person for the trial relies on clinician judgement and as with other trials, where recruitment decisions are down to human judgement there is scope for bias.
4. The panel thought this would be a problem for older Asian women in particular where risk, though real, was likely to be considered higher than it actually is.

NB. Completed by Shaun Treweek, University of Aberdeen, based on a discussion with an external panel brought together for this purpose as part of the STRIDE project (<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/hsru/what-we-do/research/projects/stride-supporting-recruitment-and-retention-improvements-for-diverse-ethnicities-283>). None of us was involved in this trial, we did not discuss the information below with the trial team.

Given the above, the information below may not be a proper reflection of what the trial team itself may have considered the ethnic groups needed by their trial. The information is therefore intended to be illustrative, not definitive.