Reviewer's report

Title: Characteristics of clinical trial websites: information distribution between ClinicalTrials.gov and 13 primary registries in the WHO registry network

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Reviewer: Masoud Solaymani-Dodaran

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Major Compulsory Revisions:

This is a useful summary of the current situation regarding publicizing trial information in 13 primary registries and clinicaltrials.gov. It helps to get an overview of the situation globally.

1. In the last paragraph of the method section it states: “Based on the results of this survey, a system prototype could be built and evaluated that could be easily accessed by patients and the general public to find information, and which would also be useful for medical professionals.” Clearly finding out that current websites are not satisfying the public need for easy access to trial information is not enough to address this problem. Discussing different ways of providing information in lay terms and its pros and cons could to some extent reveal the practical difficulties in achieving this goal and is a valuable addition to the discussion.

2. The paper provides information on whether or not there is information regarding institutional review board in the registry websites. It concludes that IRCT does not have such information. However, IRCT has information regarding the ethics committee that has given approval to the trial. I believe ethics committee and IRBs are different names for a single function. Therefore the author should make sure that similar conclusions have not been made with other websites.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare no conflict of interest