

Guidelines for data extraction before the study is completed

1. It is possible to extract some data before the study is completed, as long as variables that are primary outcome measure and variables that compare the study groups are not analyzed.
2. Variables or analysis of variables that may be important in the final analysis of the study should not be used.

The two points underline the need to have clear research questions and accurate power calculations before extracting data from an ongoing study. It is also important to reconcile your research questions with the person who is responsible for the study, who has an overview of the planned research questions, articles and possible analyzes in conjunction with the final evaluation.

An examples of data that can be extracted, is data that is related to methodological issues, such as the correlation among wo instruments.

An example of something that could be problematic is to make a process analysis of what is happening in the portal before the study is completed. This could be a problem if you want to have a look at the primary outcome measures in relation to the participant's activities in the Portal.

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These guidelines have been compiled by Sven Alfnsson and Helena Grönqvist after consulting Ingalill Rahm Hallberg and subsequent approval by Louise von Essen.