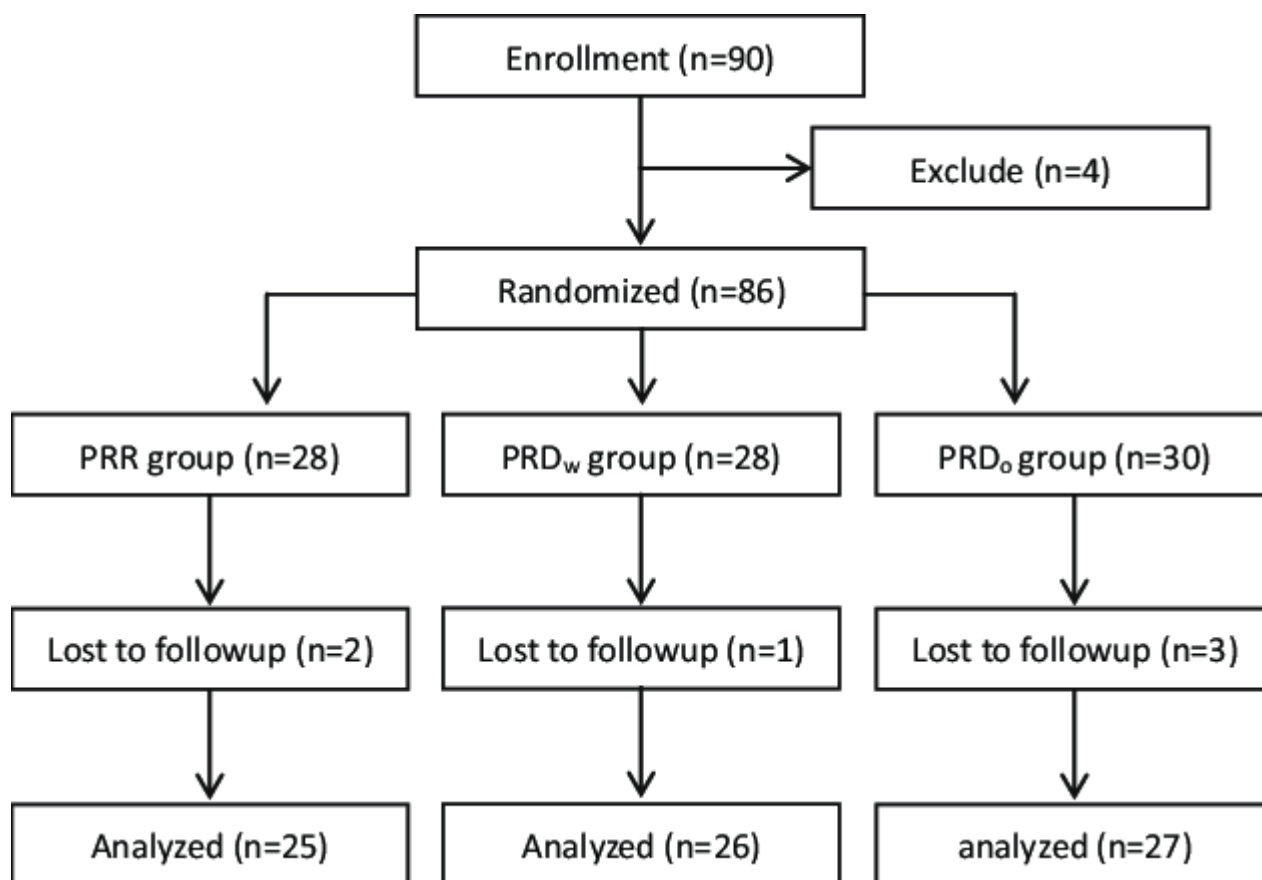


Allocation

Once the [eligibility criteria](#) for patients or population have been described and the [sample size calculation](#) performed, it is necessary to look at the type of distribution used, if applied.



The [internal validity](#) is assessed by adequacy of [allocation](#) sequence, concealment of [allocation](#) sequence, [blinding](#), the balance of prognostic factors, intention-to-treat analysis, and completeness of follow-up. The reviewers need to have the ability to recognize the relationship between an explanatory factor and an outcome and to identify other variables (confounding factors) or systematic error (bias) that can distort the results. Confounding factors and study bias are different problems in the study that lead to an inaccurate estimate (underestimate or overestimate) of the true association between exposure and an outcome ¹⁾.

¹⁾

Falavigna A, Blauth M, Kates SL. Critical review of a scientific manuscript: a practical guide for reviewers. J Neurosurg. 2018 Jan;128(1):312-321. doi: 10.3171/2017.5.JNS17809. Epub 2017 Oct 20. PubMed PMID: 29053077.

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