## **Retrospective multicenter cohort study**

A retrospective multicenter cohort study is a type of observational research design that involves the collection and analysis of data from multiple healthcare centers or institutions to investigate the relationship between exposures or interventions and outcomes over time. Let's break down the key components:

Retrospective: The study looks back at existing data and events that have already occurred. Researchers analyze historical data to identify patterns, associations, or outcomes without intervening in the natural course of events.

Multicenter: The study involves the collaboration of multiple healthcare centers or institutions. Data is collected from diverse sources, which can enhance the generalizability of the findings and increase the sample size.

Cohort Study: In a cohort study, participants are initially classified (cohorts) based on certain characteristics or exposures. In this context, the study follows individuals who have a specific exposure or characteristic (e.g., a certain medical condition, treatment, or risk factor) and compares their outcomes with those who do not have the exposure.

In summary, a retrospective multicenter cohort study involves analyzing historical data from multiple healthcare centers to investigate the relationship between exposures or interventions and outcomes by following groups of individuals over time. This type of study design is particularly useful for examining the long-term effects of various factors on health outcomes in a diverse and representative population.

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