

Preprints for clinical trials: Their acceptability and progress to peer-reviewed journals

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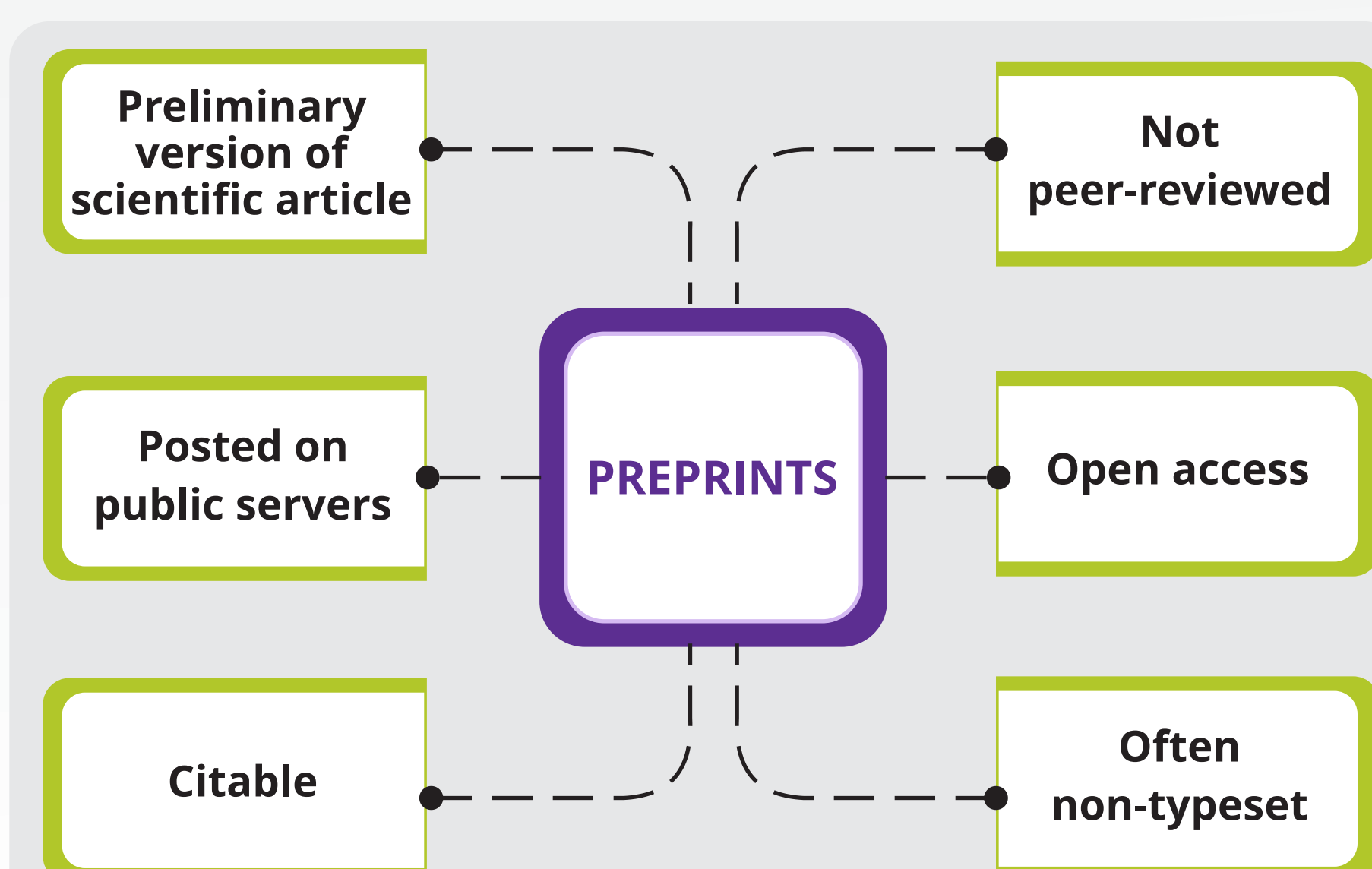
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Background

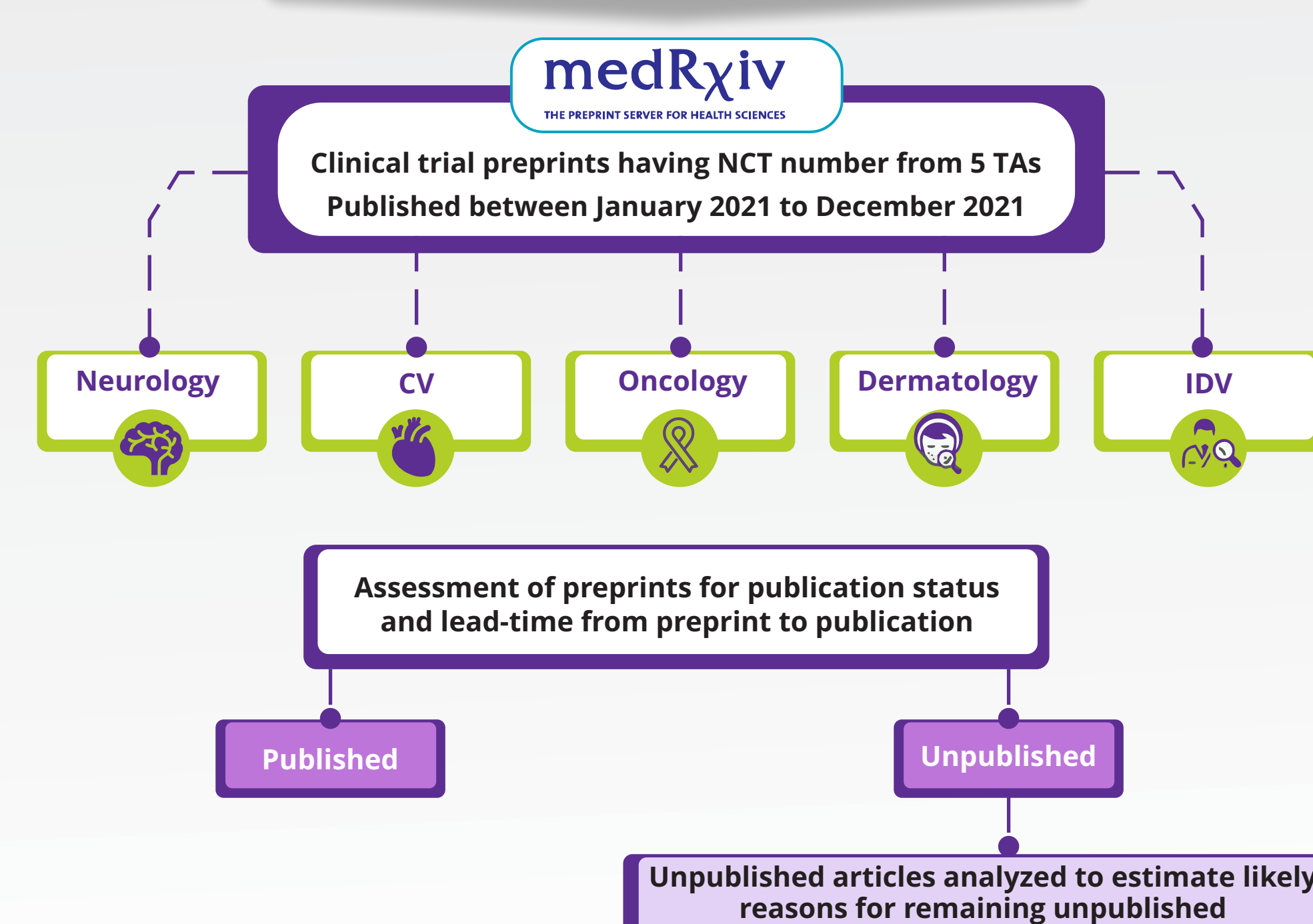
- Journal peer-review (PR), required to maintain integrity and accuracy of clinical trial publications, is often a time consuming process and impedes the prompt dissemination of scientific information to the target audience.^{1,2}
- The recent Covid-19 pandemic has emphasized the importance of timely and widespread access to relevant scientific information during critical times.^{1,2}
- 'Preprints', which bypass the rigorous PR process, have become an avenue for rapid dissemination of clinical research data.^{1,2}



Objective

- We assessed the acceptability rate of preprinted data in PR journals, the lead time for progression of preprints to publications and key reasons for remaining unpublished in PR journals.

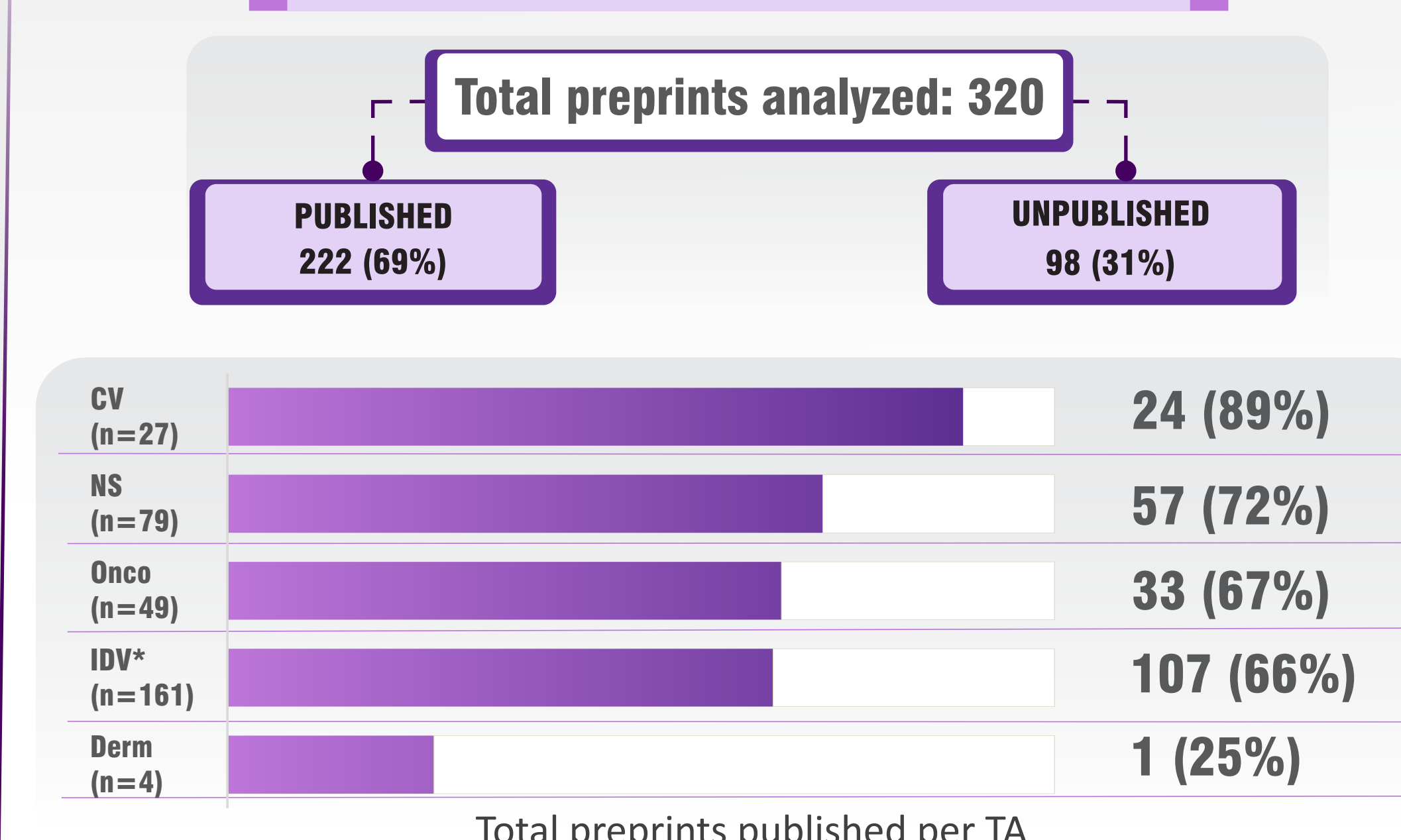
Methods



CV, cardiovascular; IDV, infectious disease and Vaccines

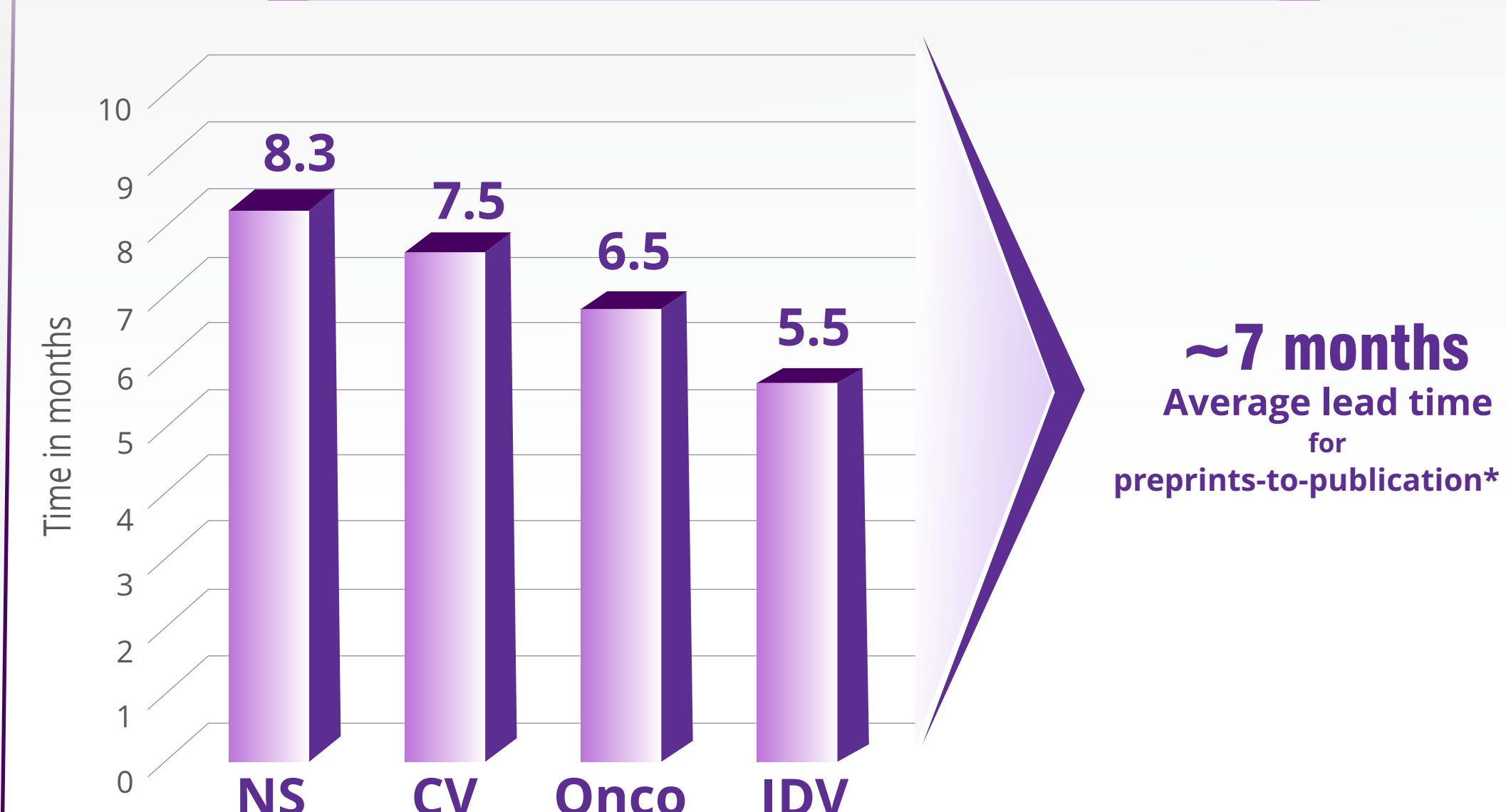
Results

Preprint publication status



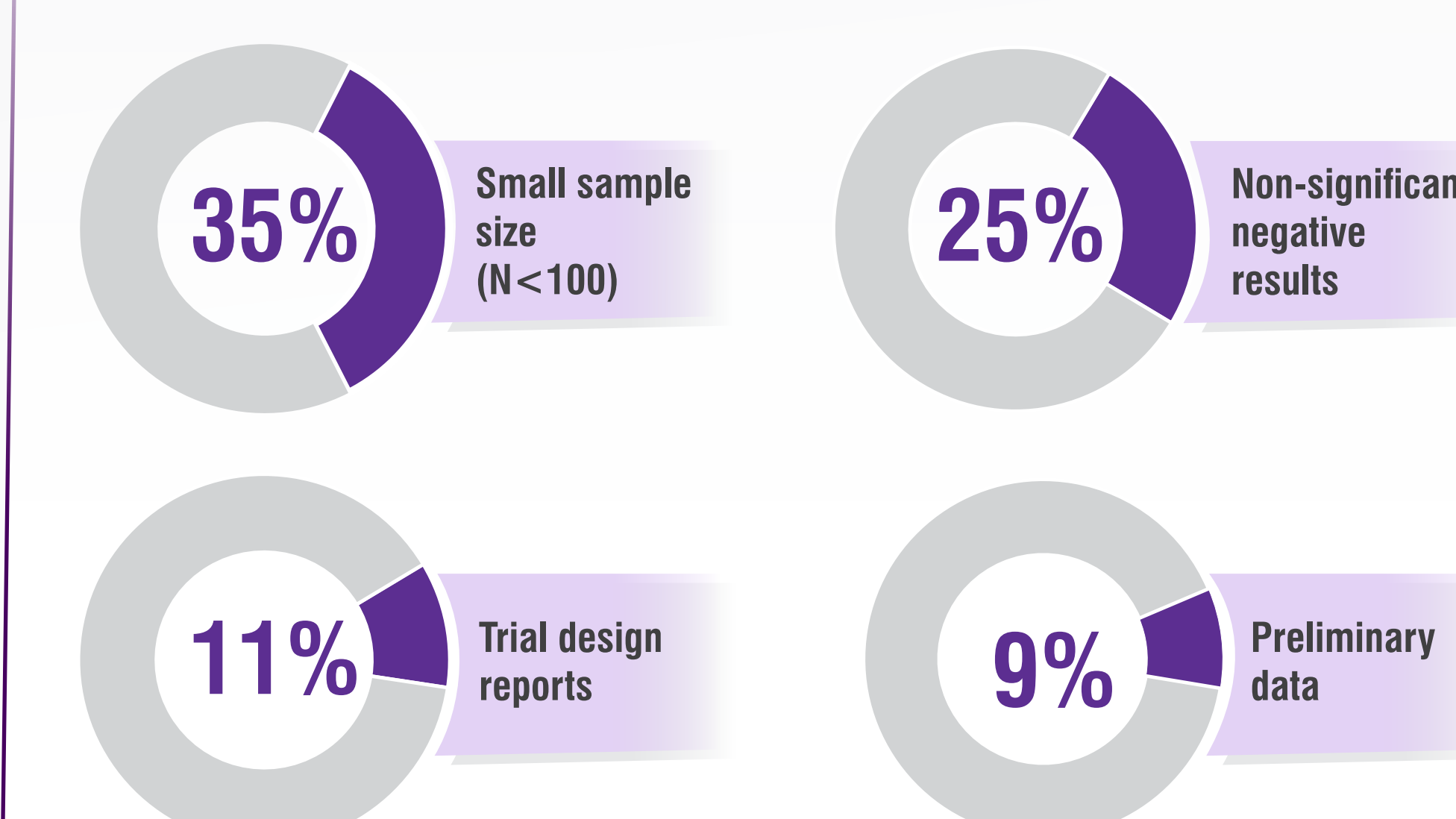
*Analysis in IDV was limited to 161 preprints due to a high volume of COVID-19-related (>70%) preprints. CV, cardiovascular; Derm, dermatology; IDV, infectious diseases and vaccines; onco, oncology; NS, neuroscience; TA, therapy area.

Published preprints: Lead time to publication



* Dermatology preprints were not included in the analysis due to a low number of preprints in this TA. CV, Cardiovascular diseases; IDV, Infectious Diseases and vaccines; NS, Neurosciences; Onco, oncology; TA, therapy area.

Unpublished preprints: Likely reason for non-progression to PR journal



Note: Analysis was conducted in all 98 unpublished articles, of which 80% fall into predefined categories as mentioned above, while rest 20% did not fall under any of the defined category.

Conclusions

- Although preprints are not peer-reviewed, a large majority (~70%) of clinical trial preprints progressed to be published in PR journals
- Most preprints were published in PR journals within ~7 months, suggesting minimal time-lag from preprint to publication
- Further studies targeting more databases with longer timeframe are required to corroborate these results and to observe evolving trends in preprints

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References:

- M Maria Glymour, American Journal of Epidemiology, 2023, kwad052
- Fernando Alfonso, et al. European Heart Journal, Volume 44, Issue 3, 14 January 2023, Pages 171–173

Disclosures:

All authors are employees of SIRO Clinpharm Pvt Ltd.

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