The Essentials of Pilot Studies: The What, Why and How

A pilot trial is the best way to assess feasibility of a large, expensive full-scale study, and in fact is often an essential pre-requisite to enhance the likelihood of success of the main study. Based on the paper by Thabane et al (BMC Medical Research Methodology 2010, 10:1), the presentation will cover some key aspects of pilot studies for phase III trials including:

1) reasons for conducting a pilot study
2) misconceptions about pilot studies
3) criteria for evaluating the success of a pilot study
4) ethical considerations
5) an update on the development of CONSORT extension for pilot trials.

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