

- Run-in period that determines response to chemotherapy, where chemotherapy is provided before initiation of the clinical trial (25)
- Two study arms, where one arm uses sequential dosing with two drugs, while the other arm uses concurrent administration of the same two drugs (26)
- Comparing neoadjuvant therapy with adjuvant therapy (27)
- Schema where each study arm uses both neoadjuvant therapy, followed by surgery, followed by adjuvant therapy (28)
- Two study arms, where the first arm uses a specific order of administration of two different drugs, while the second arm uses the reverse order of administration of the two drugs (29)
- Patients receiving three different drugs, each drug having its own different schedule (30).

Burstein et al. (31) provide an interesting thumbnail diagram depicting a dozen different schema for various oncology clinical trials. Chittick et al. (32) provide a particularly interesting schema from a clinical trial on infections.

b. Sequential treatment versus concurrent treatment – the Perez schema

In a clinical trial with three arms, Perez et al. (33) disclosed the first arm as the control arm, the second arm as a sequential arm, and the third arm as a concurrent arm (Fig. 2.5). In the control arm, patients received an active control (AC) followed by paclitaxel. The abbreviation “AC” refers to doxorubicin, which is an anthracycline (AC) drug.

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