

Oncology clinical research management.

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To each his own.

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Background

The presence of the Clinical Research Coordinator (CRC) in most of the Italian cancer research centers is now a fact, as well as the evidence that this presence is pivotal in terms of speeding up the submission procedures, increase the potential of accrual and improve the qualitative and ethical standards of the study.

What is less clear, especially due to the lack of professional recognition and the lack of official training courses, is their specific job description, that often adapt to the specific work demands or local requirements.

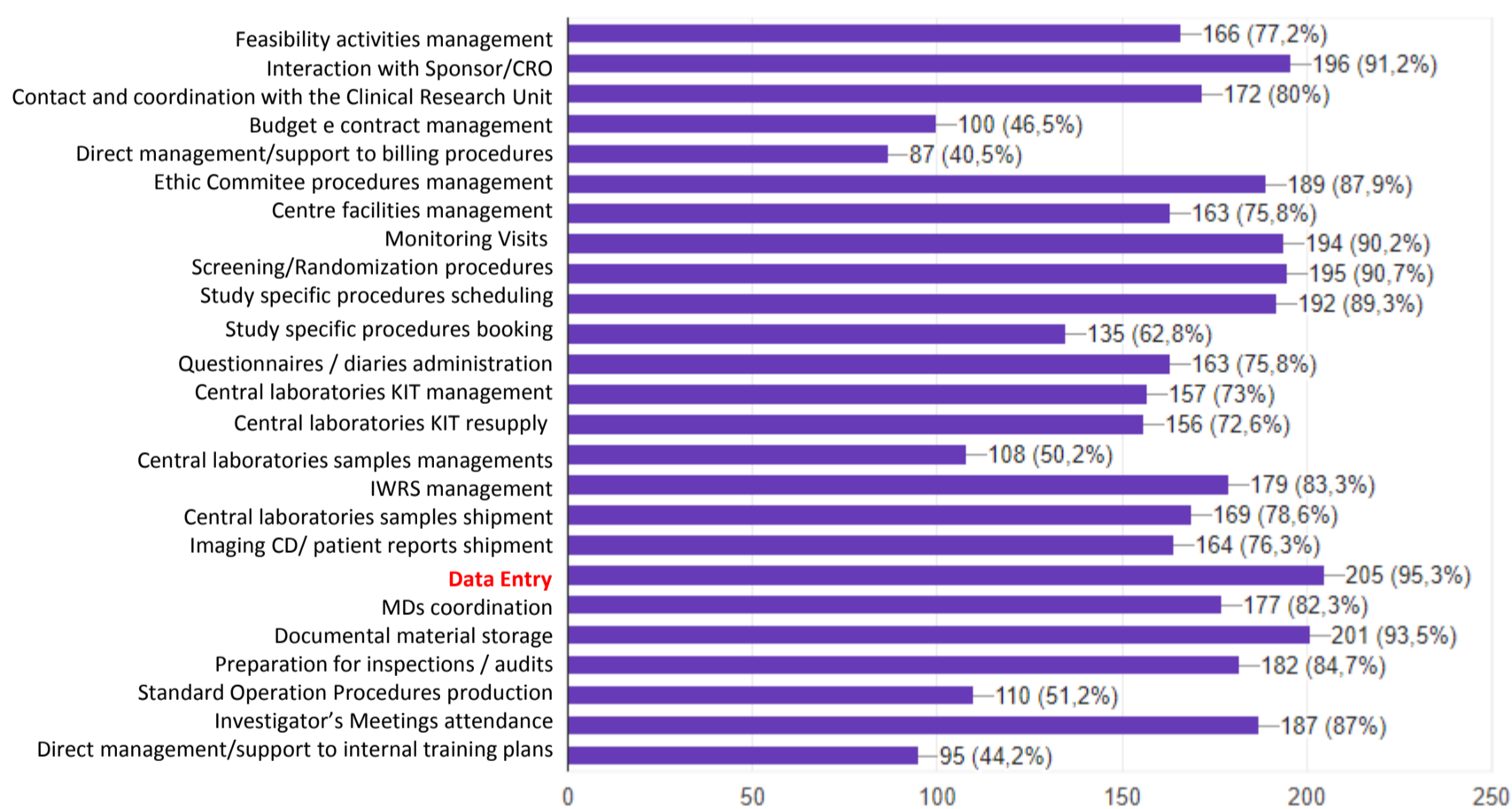
Material and methods

During the first quarter of 2018, the Gruppo Italiano Data Manager interviewed, through a web survey, 215 CRC.

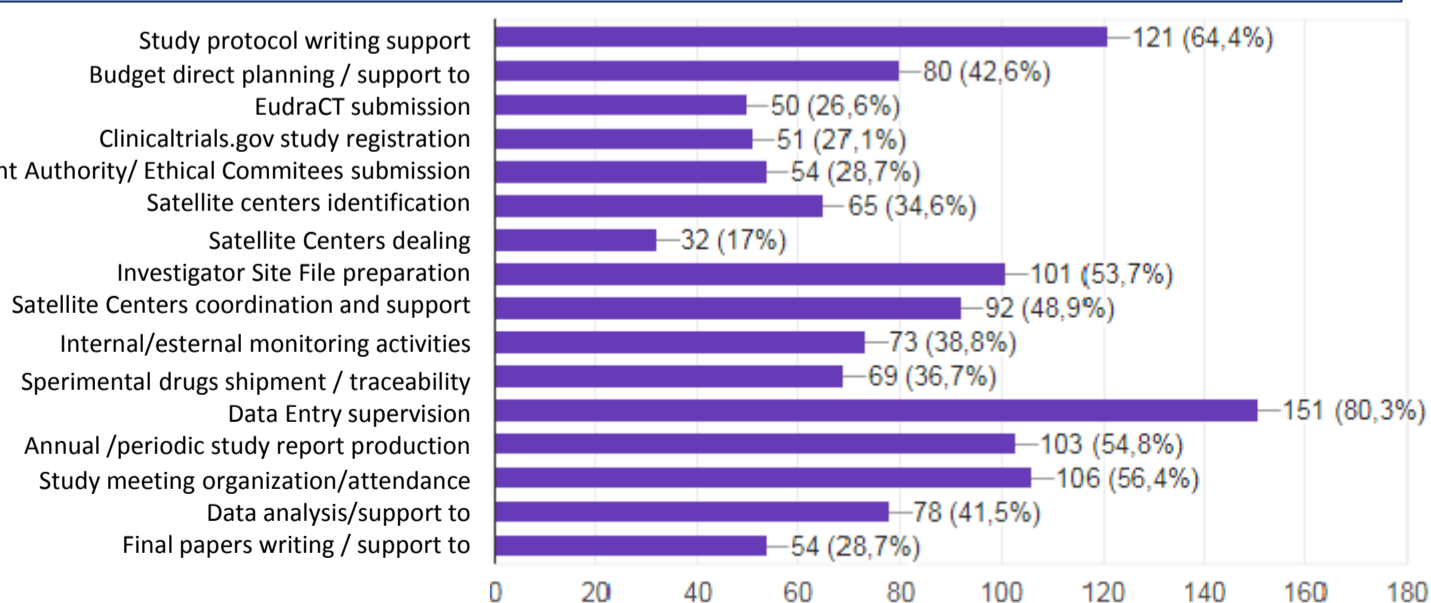
Respondents were asked to select from a list of activities, identified by a scientific committee composed of 7 CRC experts and divided by type of study management (as local site, profit or not profit studies, or as Sponsor for academic studies), which they actually perform.

Results

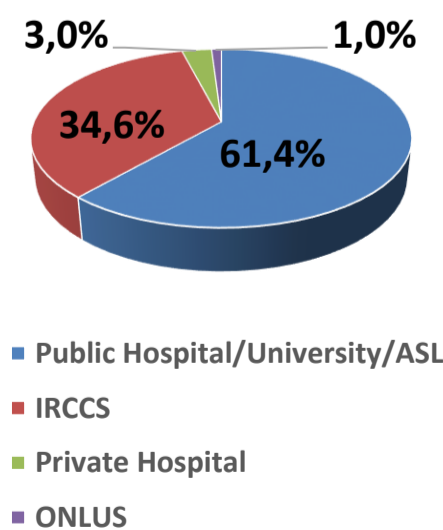
CRC task for Profit studies



CRC tasks for No Profit studies promoted by its Centre



CRC workplace type



Conclusion

The way for the definition of an official features of the CRC work is still long, as evidenced by the lack of specific activities (also the one that should be the main one, data entry) carried out by all the interviewees.

The lack of a specific job description, in addition to rowing against obtaining an institutional recognition, can cause a dangerous overlap of activities and responsibilities with other professional figures, such as research nurses and biologists.