

Πως Διαβάζουμε μία Μελέτη: Ποιοτικός Έλεγχος και Κριτική Εκτίμηση μιας Εργασίας

Γιώτα Τουλούμη

Καθηγήτρια Βιοστατιστικής και Επιδημιολογίας
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Γιατί να δημοσιεύουμε τα αποτελέσματα της έρευνας μας?

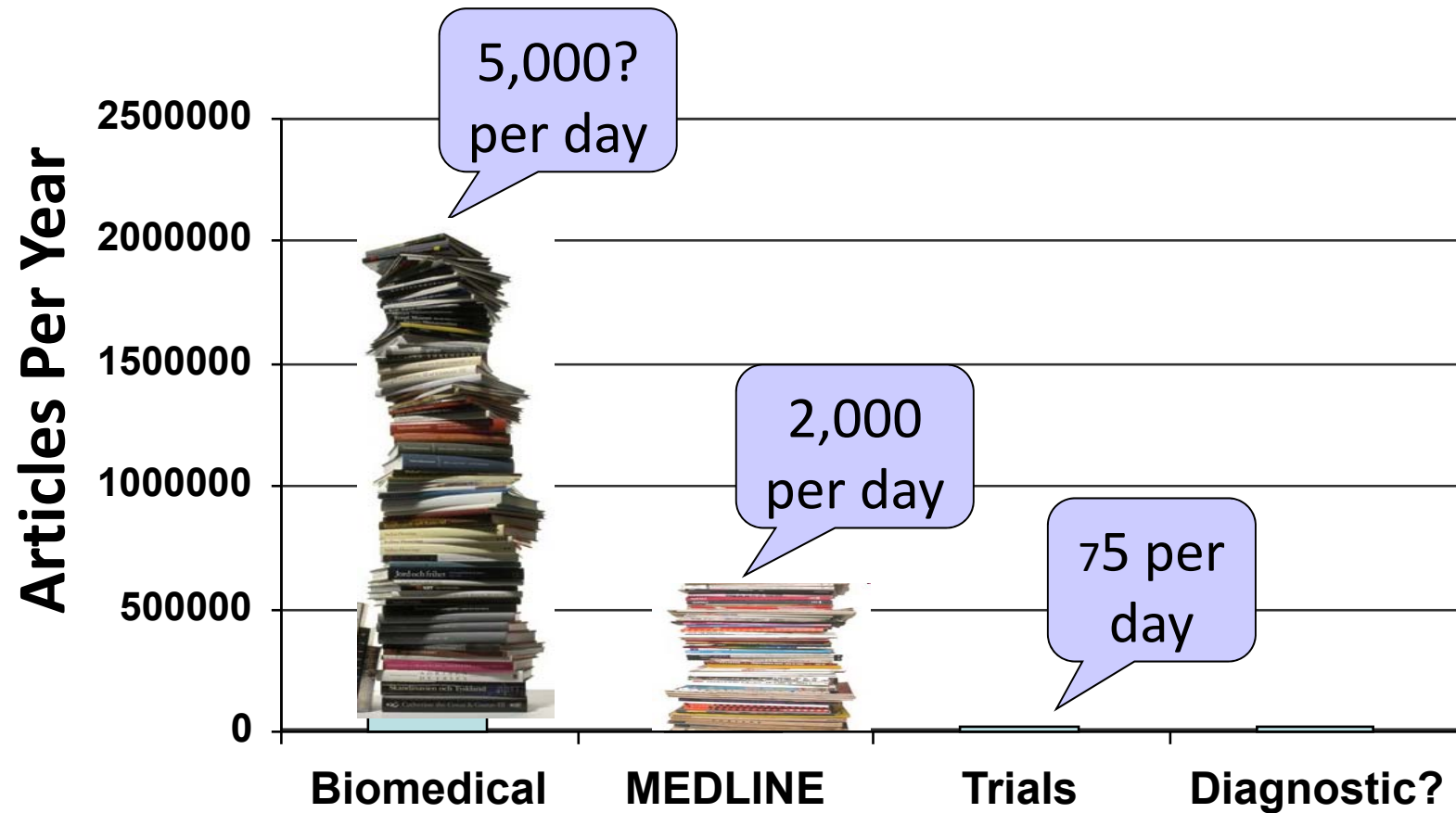
- Ο βασικός και κύριος στόχος της πραγματοποίησης μιας έρευνας είναι η πρόοδος της γνώσης σχετικά με το αντικείμενό της
- Το μεγαλύτερο μέρος των προληπτικών, διαγνωστικών και θεραπευτικών αποφάσεων σήμερα στηρίζεται στα «τεκμήρια», στα αποτελέσματα των ερευνών που δημοσιεύονται και αξιολογούνται ως σημαντικά
- (τεκμηριωμένη ιατρική, evidence-based medicine)

The scandal of poor medical research

"When I tell friends outside medicine that many papers published in medical journals are misleading because of methodological weaknesses they are rightly shocked....Why are errors so common? Put simply, much poor research arises because researchers feel compelled for career reasons to carry out research that they are ill equipped to perform, and nobody stops them."

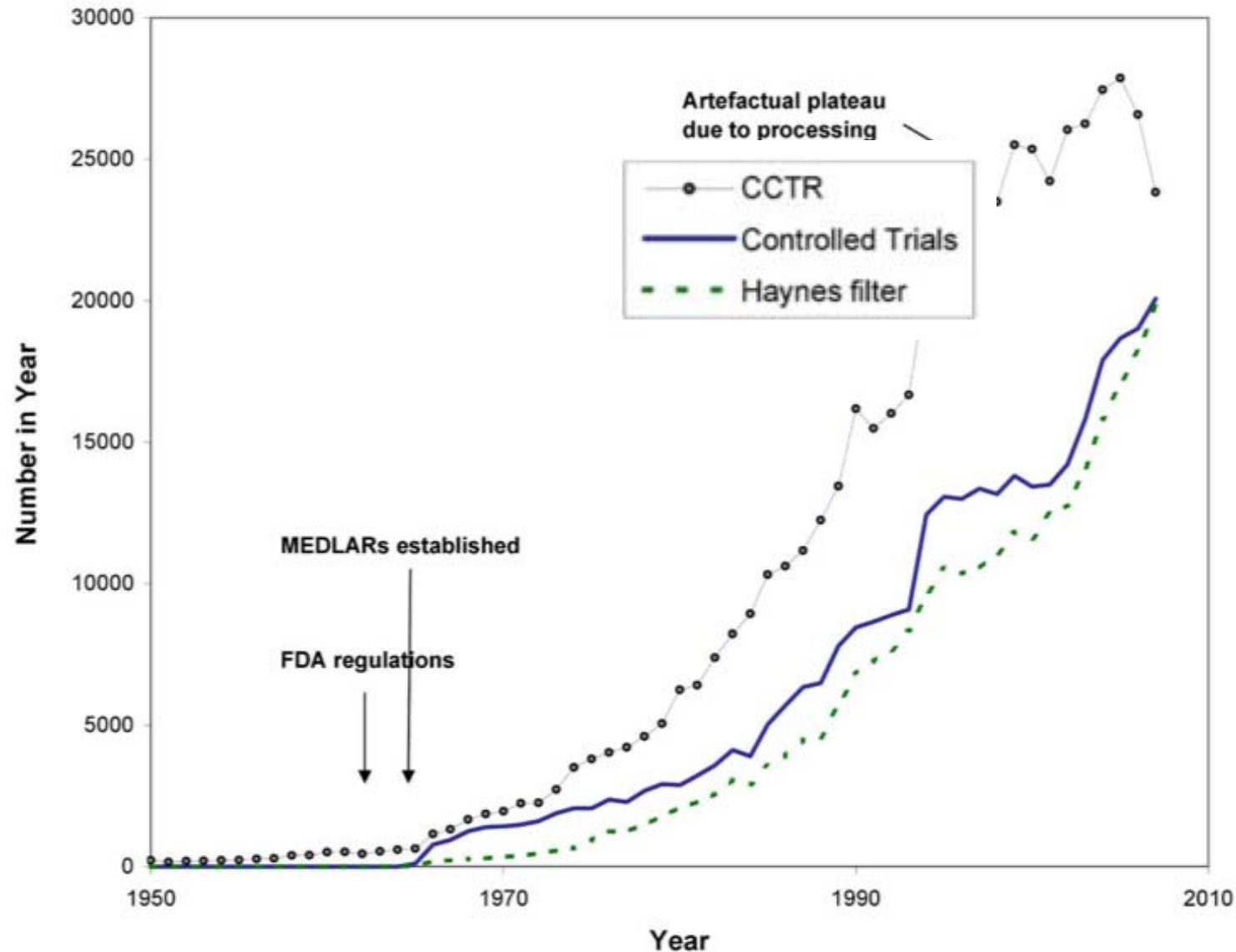
DG Altman, BMJ 1994;308:283

why do we need to use evidence efficiently?



EBP: informing decisions with the best up-to-date evidence

Clinical evidence increasing so rapidly we need better skills to keep up-to-date more efficiently than previous generations of clinicians



using evidence more critically

validity: most articles should be ignored

EBM Journal Process

- 140+ journals scanned
 - 60,000 articles
- Is it **valid**? (<5%)
 - Intervention: RCT
 - Prognosis: inception cohort
 - Etc
- Is it **relevant**?
 - 6-12 GPs & specialists asked: Relevant? Newsworthy?
- < 0.5% selected

Number Needed to Read
to find 1 valid is 20+



Number Needed to Read
to find 1 valid & relevant is 200+

Avoidable waste in the production and reporting of research evidence

Iain Chalmers, Paul Glasziou

Lancet 2009; 374: 86-89 Without accessible and usable reports, research cannot research involving patients have been powerful



The scandal of poor epidemiological research

Erik von Elm and Matthias Egger

BMJ 2004;329:868-869

doi:10.1136/bmj.329.7471.868



Research: increasing value, reducing waste 2

Increasing value and reducing waste in research design, conduct, and analysis

John P A Ioannidis, Sander Greenland, Mark A Hlatky, Muin J Khoury, Malcolm R Macleod, David Moher, Kenneth F Schulz, Robert Tibshirani

Lancet 2014; 383: 166-75 Correctable weaknesses in the design, conduct, and analysis of biomedical and public health research studies can produce misleading results and waste valuable resources. Small effects can be difficult to distinguish from bias.

Currently, many published research findings are false or exaggerated, and an estimated 85% of research resources are wasted.

Ioannidis, PLoS Medicine, 2014:e1001747

but many clinicians cannot tell good from poor quality research

BMJ study of 607 reviewers

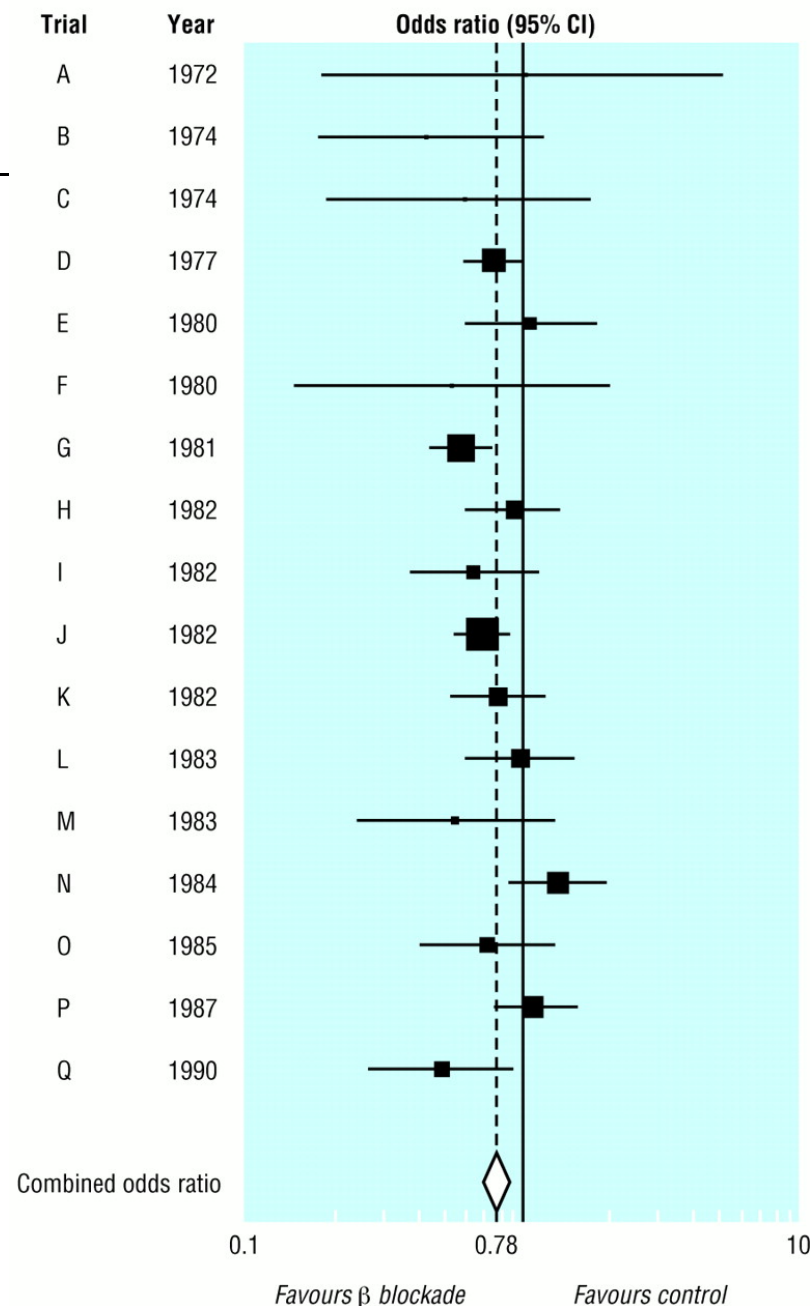
- 14 deliberate errors inserted

Detection rates

- On average <3 of 9 major errors detected
- Poor Randomisation (by name or day) - 47%
- Not intention-to-treat analysis - 22%
- Poor response rate - 41%

Schroter S et al, accepted for Clinical Trials

using evidence more systematically: meta-analysis

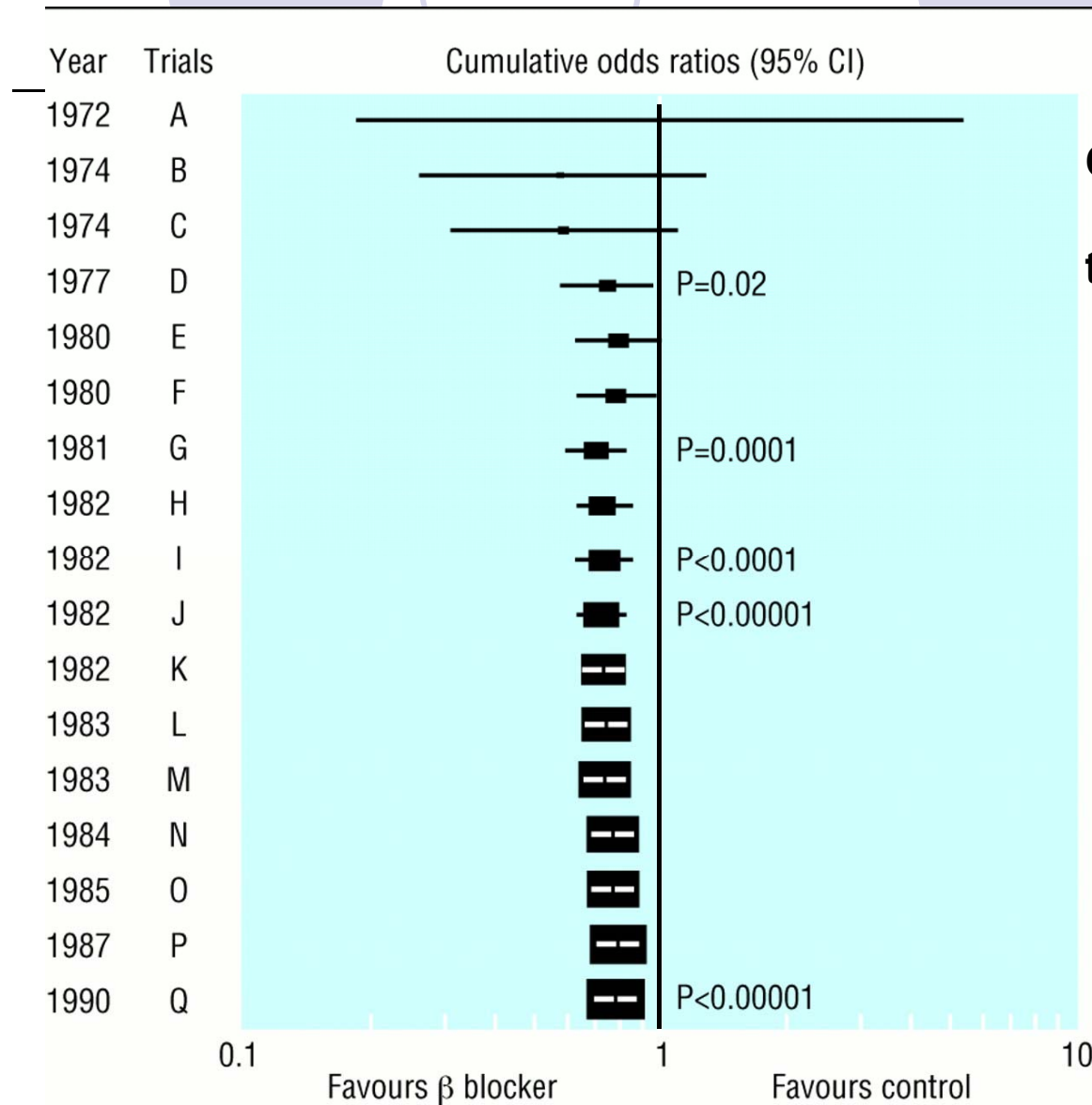


Total mortality from trials of β -blockers in 2° prevention after MI.

Black square & horizontal line correspond to odds ratio (OR) & 95% confidence interval (CI) for each trial. The size of the black square reflects the weight of each trial. The diamond represents the combined OR & 95 CI, showing a 22% reduction in odds of death

Egger, M. et al. BMJ 1997;315:1533-1537

using evidence more systematically: cumulative meta-analysis



Cumulative meta-analysis of total mortality results from trials of oral β -blockers after MI.

Size of squares reflect amount of statistical information available at a given point in time

Egger, M. et al. BMJ 1997;315:1371-1374

Κύρια Προβλήματα

- Μη Κατάλληλος Σχεδιασμός
- Μη Αντιπροσωπευτικό Δείγμα
- Μικρό Μέγεθος Δείγματος
- Μη Έγκυρη Στατιστική Ανάλυση
- Μη Κατάλληλη Ερμηνεία Αποτελεσμάτων

Επιστημονική Ερώτηση

- Πρωτότυπη
- Προάγει τη γνώση
- Ψάρεμα ερωτήσεων από δεδομένα ρουτίνας δεν συνιστάται
 - Ελλειπείς Πληροφορίες
 - Συστηματικά Σφάλματα / συγχυτικοί παράγοντες

Σφάλματα (Errors)

- Τυχαία Σφάλματα (Random Errors)
 - Οφείλονται στη τύχη
- Συστηματικά Σφάλματα (Systematic Errors, Bias)
 - Σφάλματα στη Συλλογή, Ανάλυση, Ερμηνεία, Δημοσίευση ή Μετα-ανάλυση δεδομένων που οδηγούν σε συμπεράσματα που συστηματικά διαφοροποιούνται από την «αλήθεια» (Lost 2001)
- Συγχυτικοί Παράγοντες (Confounding)
 - Η σχέση μεταξύ του παράγοντα που μελετάμε (έκθεση) και της έκβασης (νόσο) συγχέεται από την παρουσία άλλου (τρίτου) παράγοντα

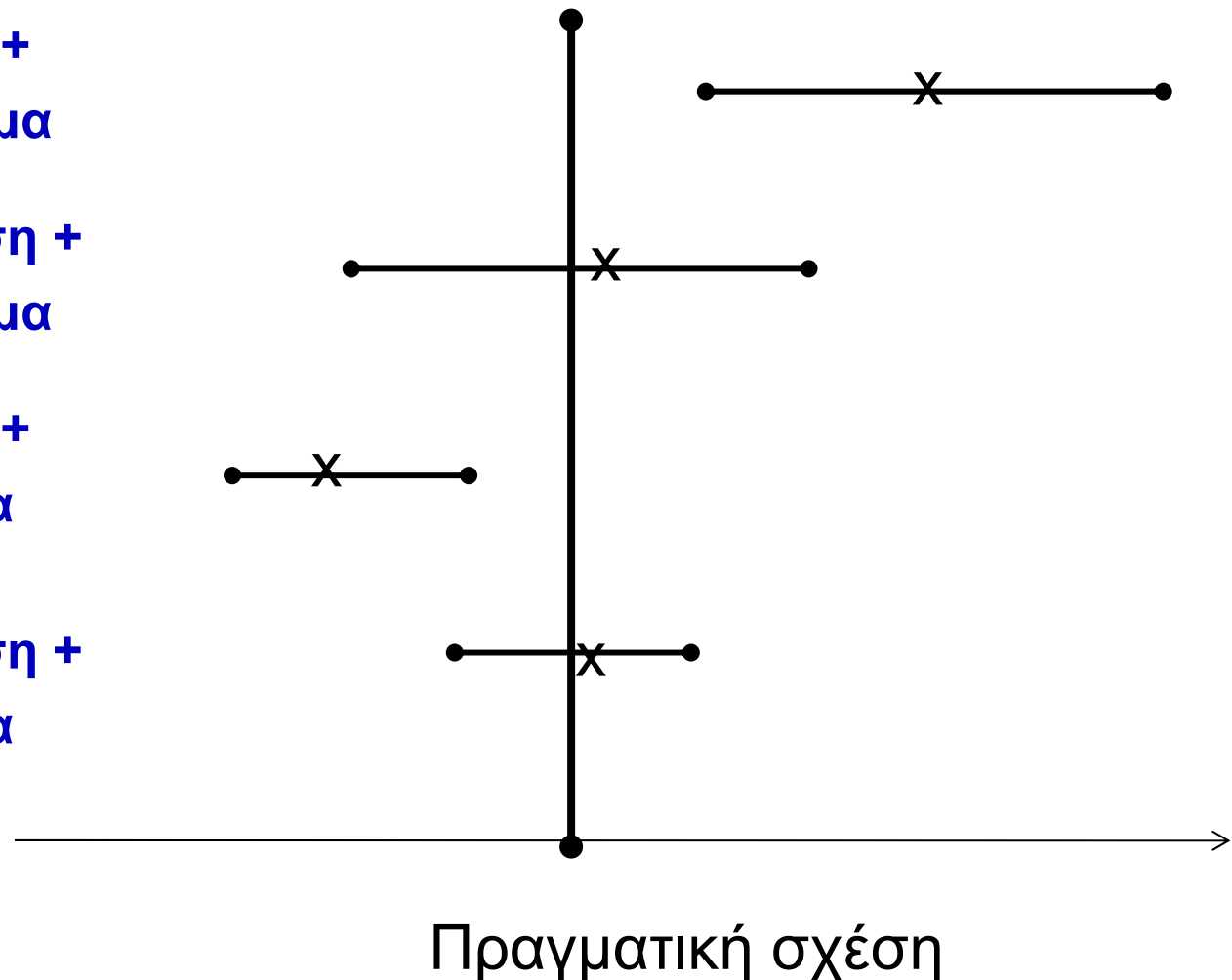
Η έννοια του τυχαίου σφάλματος και του συστηματικού σφάλματος

Συστηματικό σφάλμα +
Μεγάλο πιθανό σφάλμα

Ανεπηρέαστη εκτίμηση +
Μεγάλο πιθανό σφάλμα

Συστηματικό σφάλμα +
Μικρό πιθανό σφάλμα

Ανεπηρέαστη εκτίμηση +
Μικρό πιθανό σφάλμα



Είδη Συστηματικών Σφαλμάτων

- **Σφάλμα Επιλογής (selection bias)**
 - Συστηματικές διαφορές στα χαρακτηριστικά συμμετεχόντων και μη συμμετεχόντων στη μελέτη
- **Σφάλμα Παρατήρησης ή Πληροφορίας (Information bias)**
 - Σφάλμα στη μέτρηση της έκβασης ή της έκθεσης με αποτέλεσμα διαφορετική ακρίβεια μετρήσεων στις συγκρινόμενες ομάδες
- **Δυσταξινόμηση (missclassification)**
 - Σφάλμα στη κατάταξη της έκθεσης ή της νόσου

Σφάλματα

Σφάλμα

Τυχαίο σφάλμα (πιθανό
σφάλμα εκτίμησης)

Συστηματικό σφάλμα (bias)

Μέγεθος δείγματος στην μελέτη

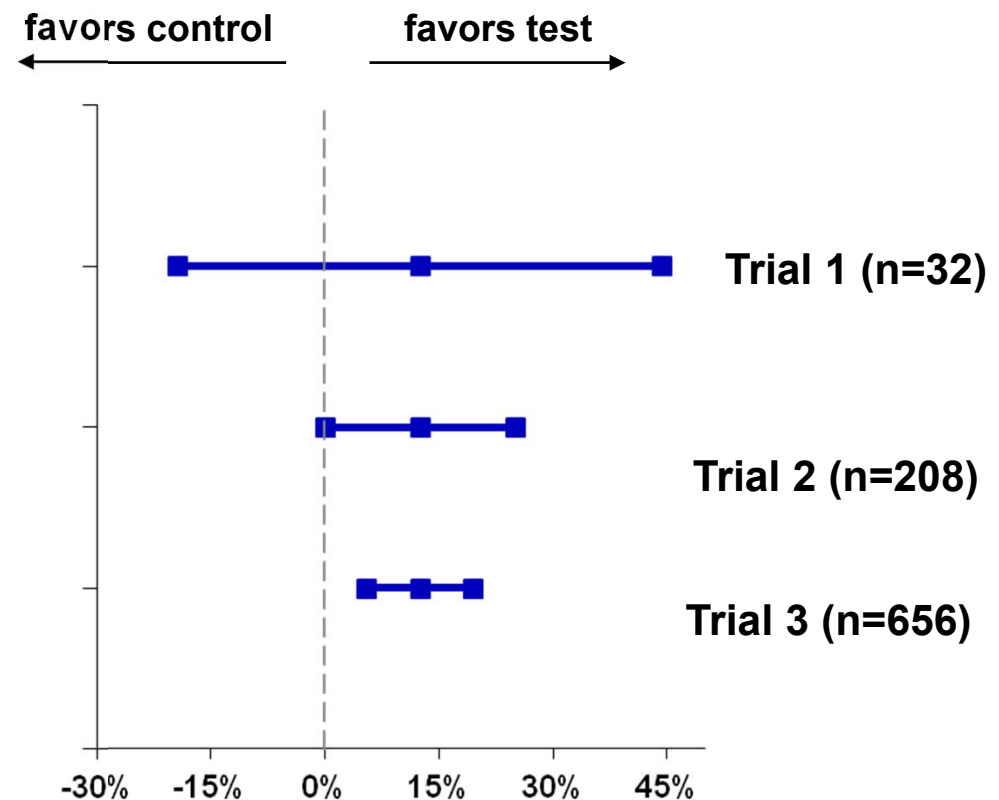
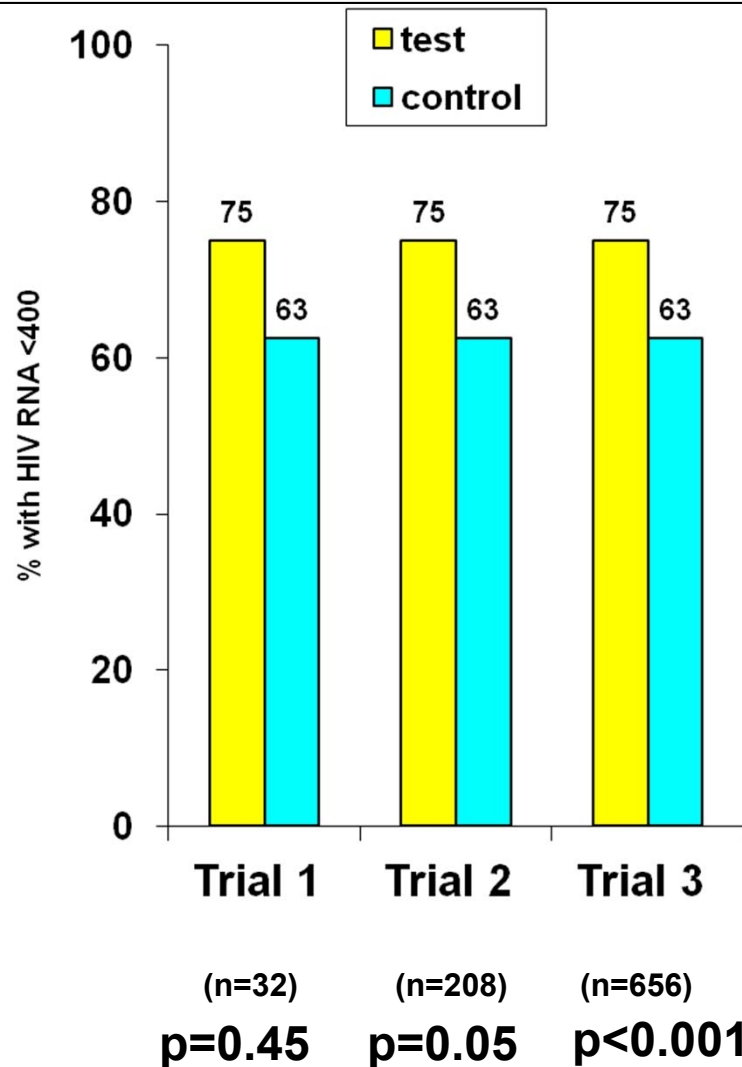
Υπολογισμός μεγέθους δείγματος (sample size)

Γιατί πρέπει να εκτιμήσουμε το απαιτούμενο μέγεθος δείγματος **ΠΡΙΝ** την έναρξη της μελέτης;

- **Μικρό δείγμα:**
 - Η μελέτη μπορεί να αποτύχει να απαντήσει το ερώτημα
- **Μεγάλο δείγμα:**
 - Κόστος, χρόνος
- Ο σκοπός είναι να εκτιμηθεί ο «κατάλληλος» αριθμός ασθενών που απαιτούνται για τη μελέτη

P-value και όρια αξιοπιστίας ανάλογα με το μέγεθος του δείγματος

ΙΣΧΥΣ: Πιθανότητα να ανιχνεύσω μια διαφορά δεδομένου ότι αυτή υπάρχει



95% CI for difference in response rates

Άλλα σφάλματα σχεδιασμού

- Τυχαιοποίηση
 - Σημαντικές διαφορές στα βασικά χαρακτηριστικά των συγκρινόμενων ομάδων
- Τυφλότητα
- Ορισμός των εκβάσεων
 - Υποκειμενική
 - Κλινική έκβαση / αναπληρωτής δείκτης (surrogate marker)
 - Απλή ή σύνθετη έκβαση
 - % ανταπόκρισης / Μέση διαφορά

Θέματα Ηθικής



- Έντυπο ενημέρωσης και συναίνεσης συμμετεχόντων
- Έγκριση από κατάλληλη επιτροπή Ηθικής και Δεοντολογίας
- Απαραίτητες προϋποθέσεις σε όλες τις μελέτες (όχι μόνο σε RCTs)
- Προϋπόθεση για τη δημοσίευση των αποτελεσμάτων

Υπερβολική έμφαση στα p-values

- Συχνά δίνονται οι τιμές των p-values χωρίς πολλές φορές να δίνεται καν το είδος της σχέσης
 - π.χ. Response to treatment was associated with age (p=0.002)
- Η πληροφορία για τη σχέση θα πρέπει να δίνεται με στοιχεία που να επιτρέπουν στον αναγνώστη να καταλάβει το είδος και το μέγεθος της σχέσης (π.χ. το odds ratio με το 95% CI)
 - π.χ. Patients older than 40 years old had 2.1 (95% CI: 1.4, 3.3) higher risk of relapse as compared to patients <40 yrs (p=0.002)

P-values και 95% CIs

- **Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals:** "When possible, quantify findings and present them with appropriate indicators of measurement error or uncertainty (such as confidence intervals).

Avoid relying solely on statistical hypothesis testing, such as *P* values, which fail to convey important information about effect size"

- **Consort statement:** "Authors should accompany this [the estimate of the treatment effect] by a confidence interval for the estimated effect, which indicates a central range of uncertainty for the true treatment effect"

Πολλαπλές συγκρίσεις

Treatment	Response	
	Yes	No
Drug A	180 (60.0%)	120 (40.0%)
Drug B	170 (56.7%)	130 (43.3%)
Drug C	130 (43.3%)	170 (56.7%)
Drug D	130 (43.3%)	170 (56.7%)

$p < 0.001$

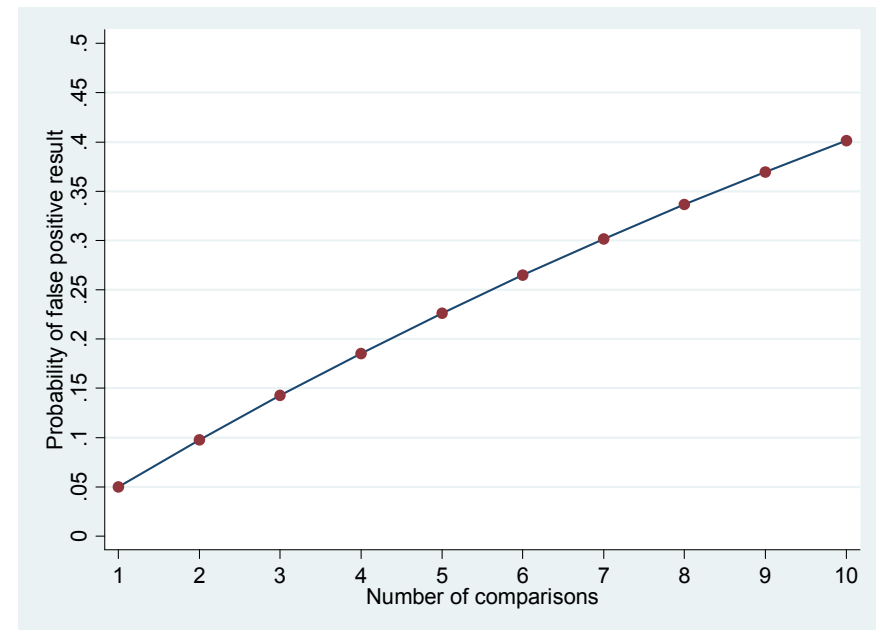
Αυτό σημαίνει ότι υπάρχει στατιστικά σημαντική σχέση μεταξύ θεραπείας και έκβασης ΑΛΛΑ δεν δίνει πληροφορία για τις επιμέρους συγκρίσεις π.χ.

A vs. B	A vs. C
A vs. D	B vs. C
B vs. D	C vs. D

Πολλαπλές συγκρίσεις

- Επίπεδο σημαντικότητας 0.05 σημαίνει ότι η πιθανότητα σε ένα στατιστικό τεστ να βρεθεί μία στατιστικά σημαντική σχέση κατά τύχη είναι 5%

- Αν πραγματοποιήσουμε περισσότερα από ένα τεστ, η πιθανότητα να βρεθεί μία στατιστικά σημαντική σχέση κατά τύχη είναι $>5\%$

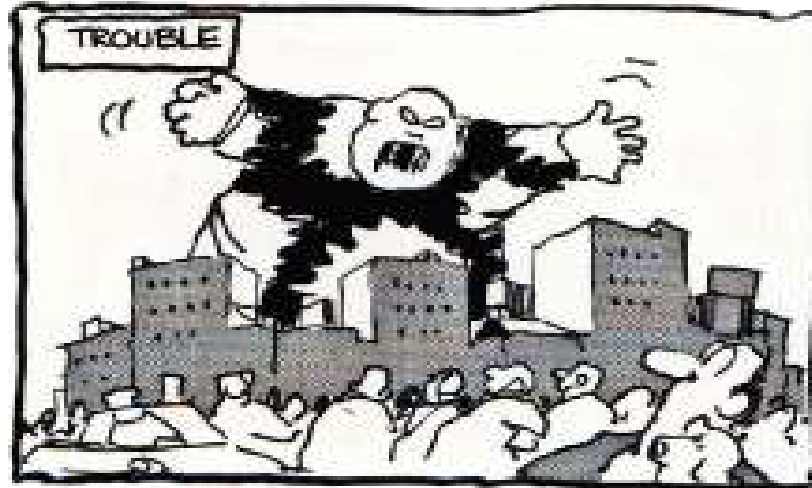


- Αποφεύγουμε τις πολλαπλές συγκρίσεις ή π.χ. πολλαπλές συγκρίσεις με κατάλληλο επίπεδο σημαντικότητας (π.χ. Bonferroni correction, αν και αρκετά συντηρητική μέθοδος)

Άλλα σφάλματα κατά τη στατιστική ανάλυση

- Κατάλληλη στατιστική μεθοδολογία
 - Time to response vs % ανταπόκρισης vs μέση διαφορά
 - Απλή vs σύνθετη έκβαση
 - Εξαρτάται από το είδος της έκβασης
- Χειρισμός ελλειπουσών τιμών / Μη-συμμόρφωσης / Αλλαγών στη θεραπεία

Ελλείπουσες τιμές: Γιατί είναι σημαντικές;



Συχνές σε βιοϊατρικά δεδομένα

Μη-ανταπόκριση, διακοπή παρακολούθησης

Μη καταγραφή επιμέρους δεδομένων

Μελέτες πεδίου (π.χ. επιπολασμού)

Άρνηση απάντησης σε συγκεκριμένες ερωτήσεις

Άρνηση συμμετοχής στη μελέτη

Γιατί οι ελλείπουσες τιμές είναι πρόβλημα;

1. Μείωση Ισχύος
Δεν μπορεί να επανακτηθεί κατά την ανάλυση
2. Οποιαδήποτε ανάλυση στηρίζεται σε μη-ελεγχόμενες (untestable) υποθέσεις για τις ελλείπουσες τιμές
Λάθος υποθέσεις \Rightarrow εσφαλμένες εκτιμήσεις
3. Μερικές δημοφιλείς μέθοδοι ανάλυσης εκτιμούν εσφαλμένα πιθανά σφάλματα (Standard Errors)
Ως αποτέλεσμα τα επίπεδα σημαντικότητας (P-values) και τα διαστήματα εμπιστοσύνης (confidence intervals) είναι εσφαλμένα
4. Μερικές δημοφιλείς μέθοδοι ανάλυσης είναι μη-επαρκείς
Διαστήματα εμπιστοσύνης ευρύτερα από ότι χρειάζεται

Per-Protocol (Βάση Πρωτοκόλλου)

Population
of patients

with a

condition

1152 pts

52 Dropped out (stopped the study drug)

Drug X

1152

- 52

- 150

+ 50

=1000

150

Unintentional
CROSS-OVER

50

1136 pts

36 Dropped out (stopped the study drug)

Drug A

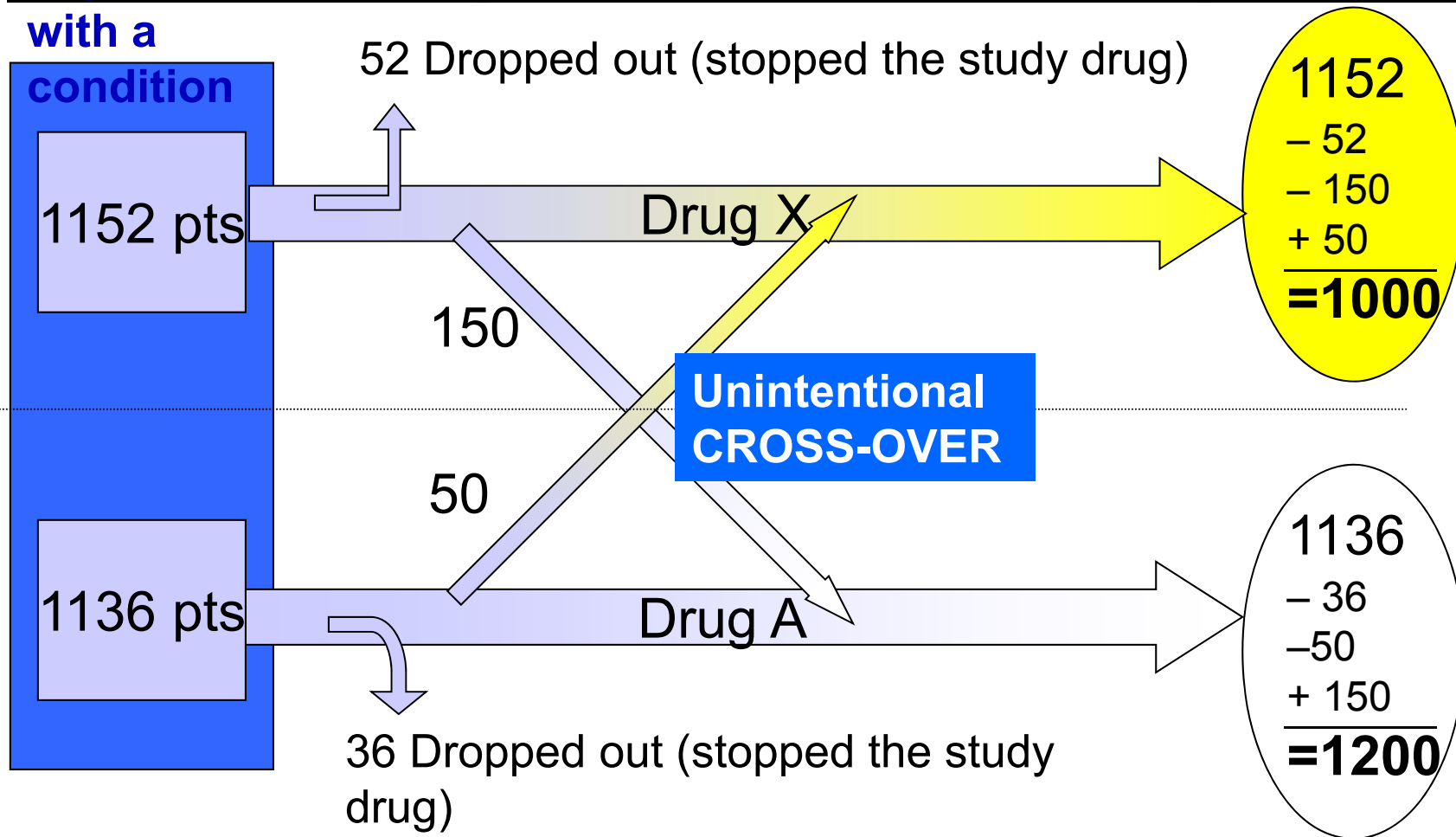
1136

- 36

- 50

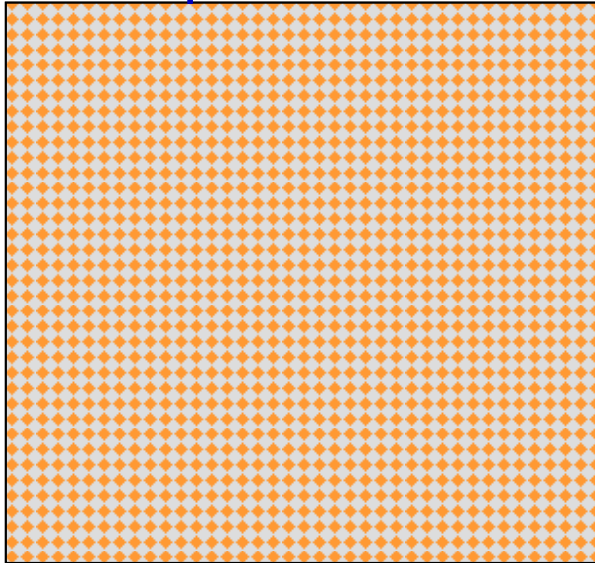
+ 150

=1200



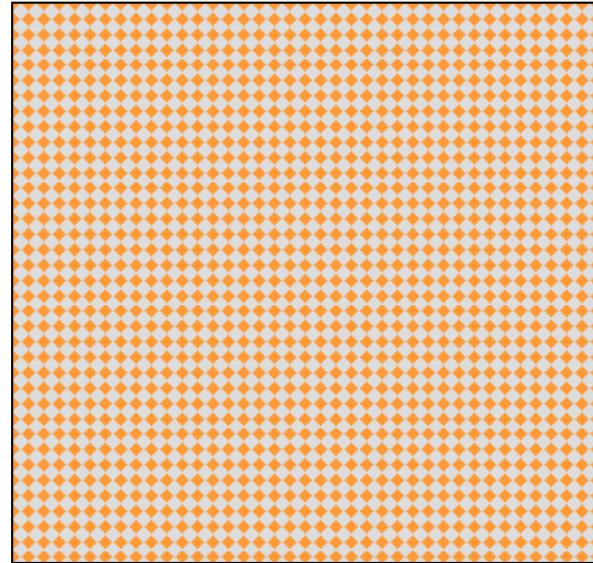
Drop outs change prognosis of original group

Experimental
Group



Ave Age = 58

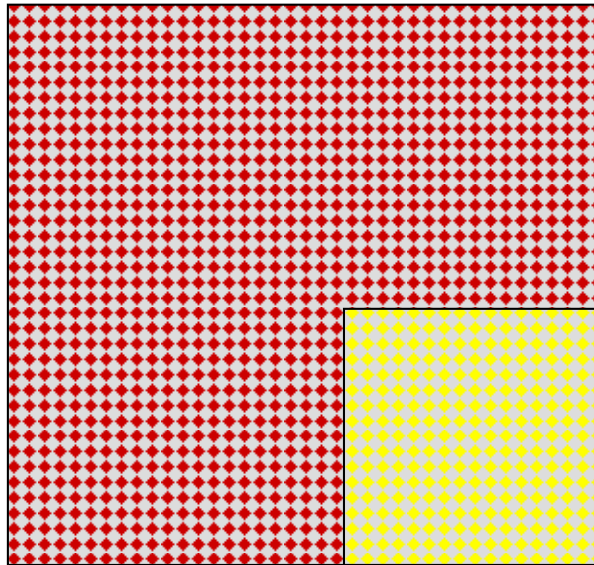
Control Group



Ave Age = 57

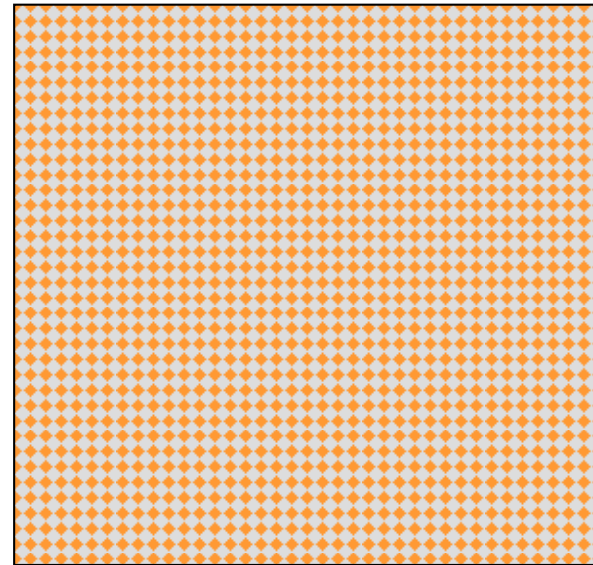
Drop outs change prognosis of original group

Experimental Group



Ave Age = 51 Ave Age = 72

Control Group

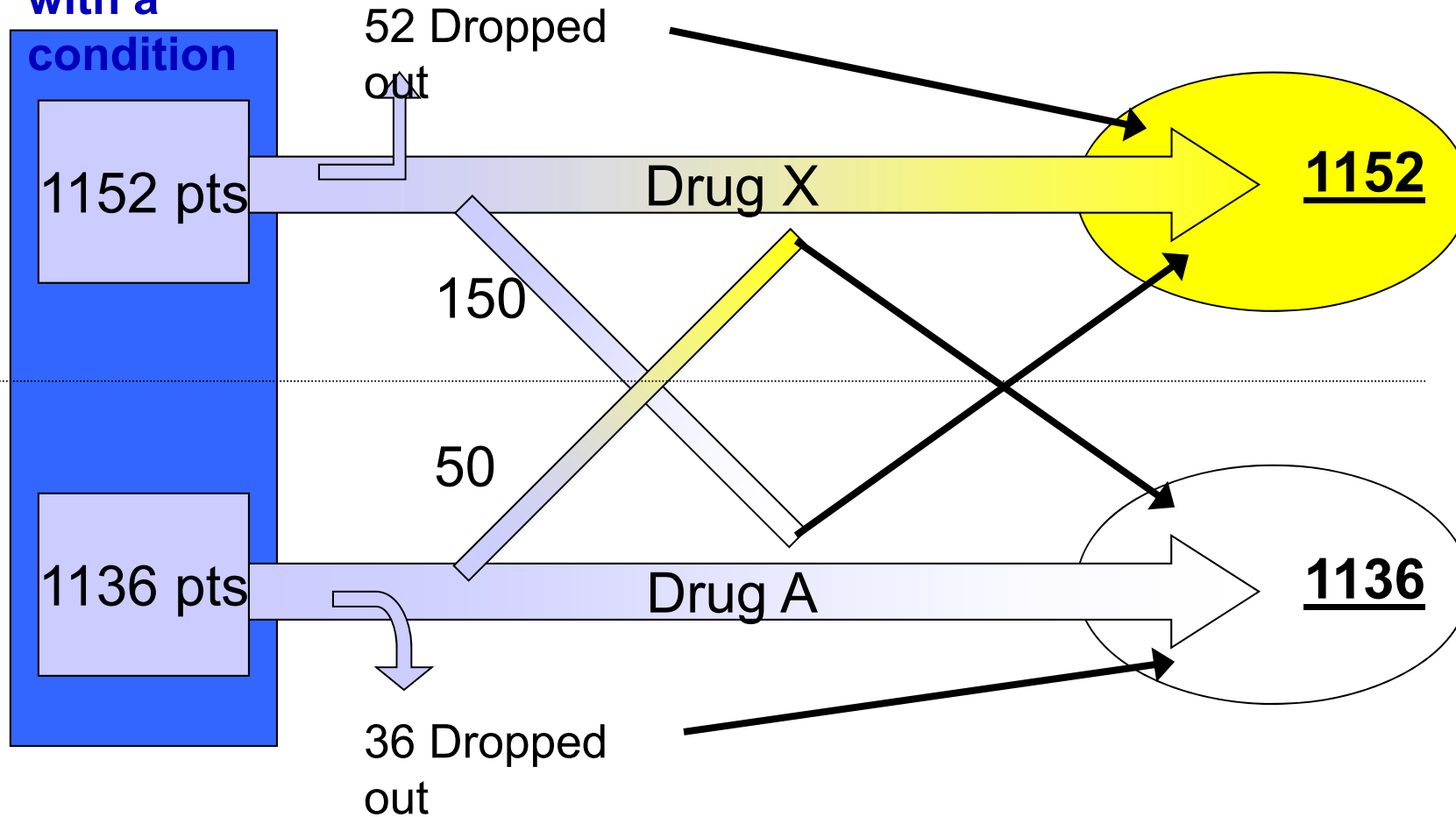


Ave Age = 57

Intention-to-Treat (Κατά πρόθεση Θεραπείας)

Population
of patients

with a
condition



Στατιστική Ανάλυση: Παράδειγμα

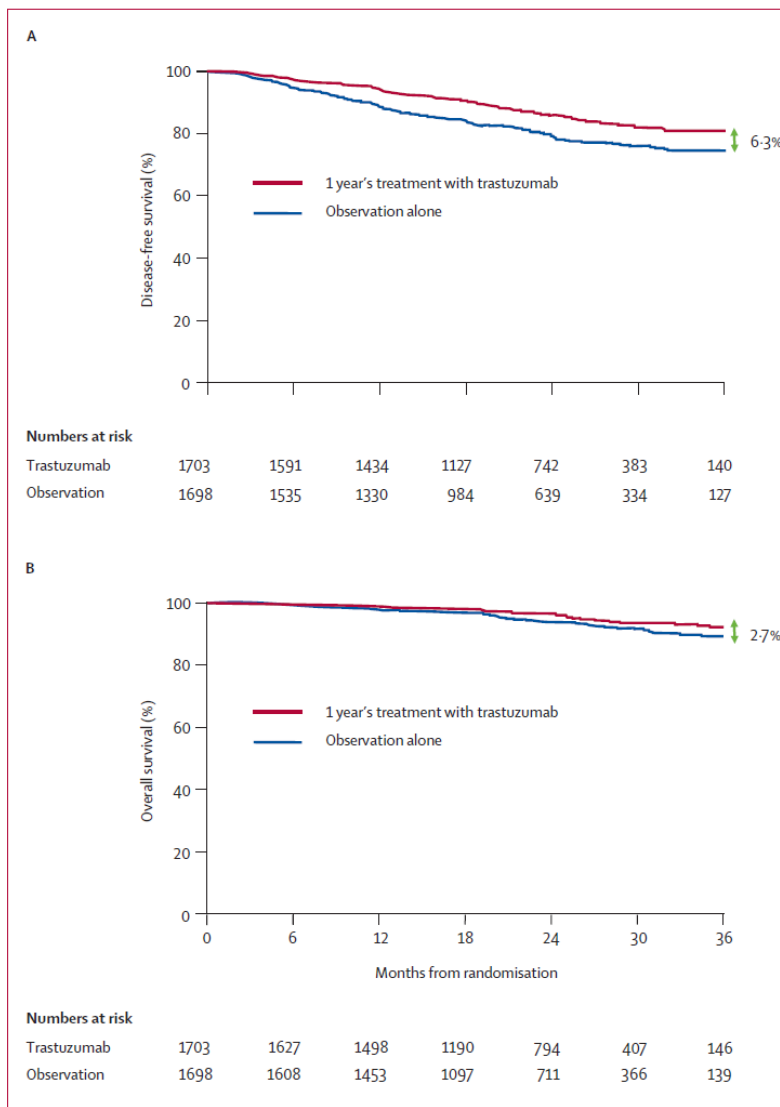


Figure 2: Kaplan-Meier estimates of disease-free survival and overall survival
(A) Disease-free survival for 1 year of trastuzumab vs observation with a median follow-up of 2 years. (B) Overall survival for 1 year of trastuzumab vs observation with a median follow-up of 2 years.

the site of first disease-free survival events. The unadjusted HR for the risk of an event in the trastuzumab group compared with the observation group was 0.64 (95% CI 0.54–0.76; $p < 0.0001$ by the log rank test), which corresponds to an absolute disease-free survival benefit of 6.3% (80.6% vs 74.3%) at 3 years (figure 2A).

In addition to the main intent-to-treat analysis, an analysis that censored women at the time of switching to trastuzumab has also been done to compensate for a potential effect of delayed administration of trastuzumab.

Τι σημαίνει ITT ανάλυση όταν η έκβαση δεν είναι γνωστή για κάποια άτομα;

- In new advice, the European Medicines Agency (2010) takes a more relaxed view:
 - "Full set analysis generally requires the imputation of values **or modelling** for the unrecorded data"
- The CONSORT (2010) statement says:
 - "We replaced mention of '**intention to treat analysis, a widely misused term**', by a more explicit request for information about retaining participants in their original assigned groups"

Στρατηγική για ITT ανάλυση σε μη-πλήρη δεδομένα

1. Προσπάθεια παρακολούθησης όλων των τυχαιοποιημένων ατόμων ακόμα και αν σταματήσουν την θεραπεία
2. Βασική ανάλυση όλων δεδομένων έχοντας ευλογοφανείς υποθέσεις για τα δεδομένα που λείπουν
3. Ανάλυση ευαισθησίας (*sensitivity analyses*)
4. Όλα τα τυχαιοποιημένα άτομα θα πρέπει να συμπεριλαμβάνονται τουλάχιστον στην ανάλυση ευαισθησίας

Αντιμετώπιση Ελλειπουσών τιμών Διεθνής Εμπειρία

Παρά τη συνεχή ανάπτυξη μεθόδων αντιμετώπισης
ελλειπουσών τιμών αυτές συνήθως δεν
αντιμετωπίζονται επαρκώς

Wood et al, Clinical Trials 2004

Ανασκόπηση 71 δημοσιευμένων εργασιών σε BMJ, JAMA, Lancet, NEJM

- 89% είχαν ελλείπουσες τιμές στην ανταπόκριση
- Σε 37 μελέτες με επαναλαμβανόμενες μετρήσεις ανταπόκρισης, έγινε ανάλυση ατόμων με πλήρη δεδομένα (complete case analysis)
- Μόνο 21% διεξήγαγε ανάλυση ευαισθησίας (sensitivity analysis)

Chan et al, Lancet, 2005

- Το 65% των μελετών σε PubMed περιοδικά δεν αναφέρουν πως χειρίζονται τις ελλείπουσες τιμές

- CONSORT κατευθυντήριες οδηγίες: Αναφορά των ελλειπουσών τιμών ανά ομάδα (θεραπείας ή έκθεσης)

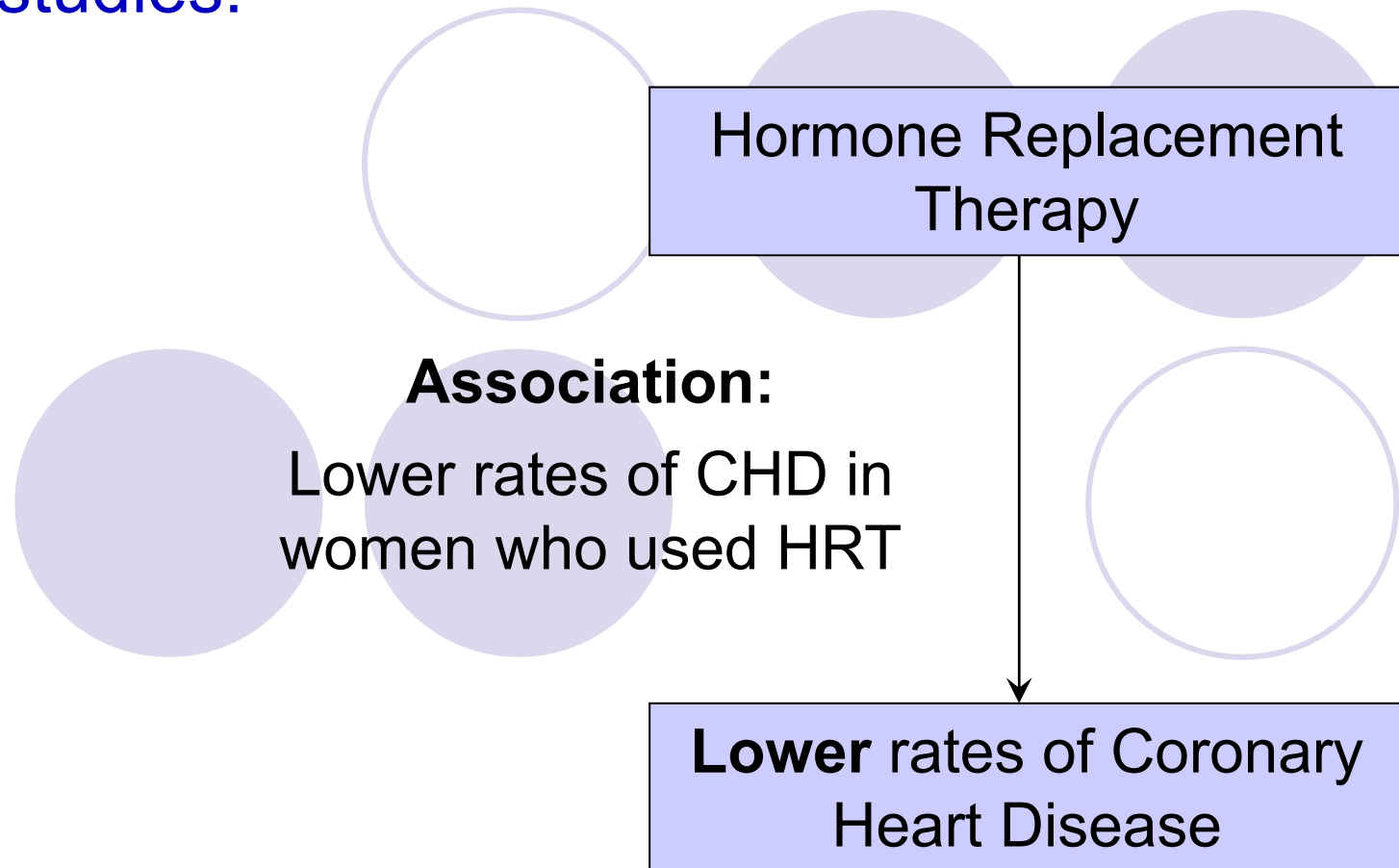


Ερμηνεία Αποτελεσμάτων

- Σφάλματα
- Συγχυτικοί Παράγοντες
- Γενικευσιμότητα αποτελεσμάτων

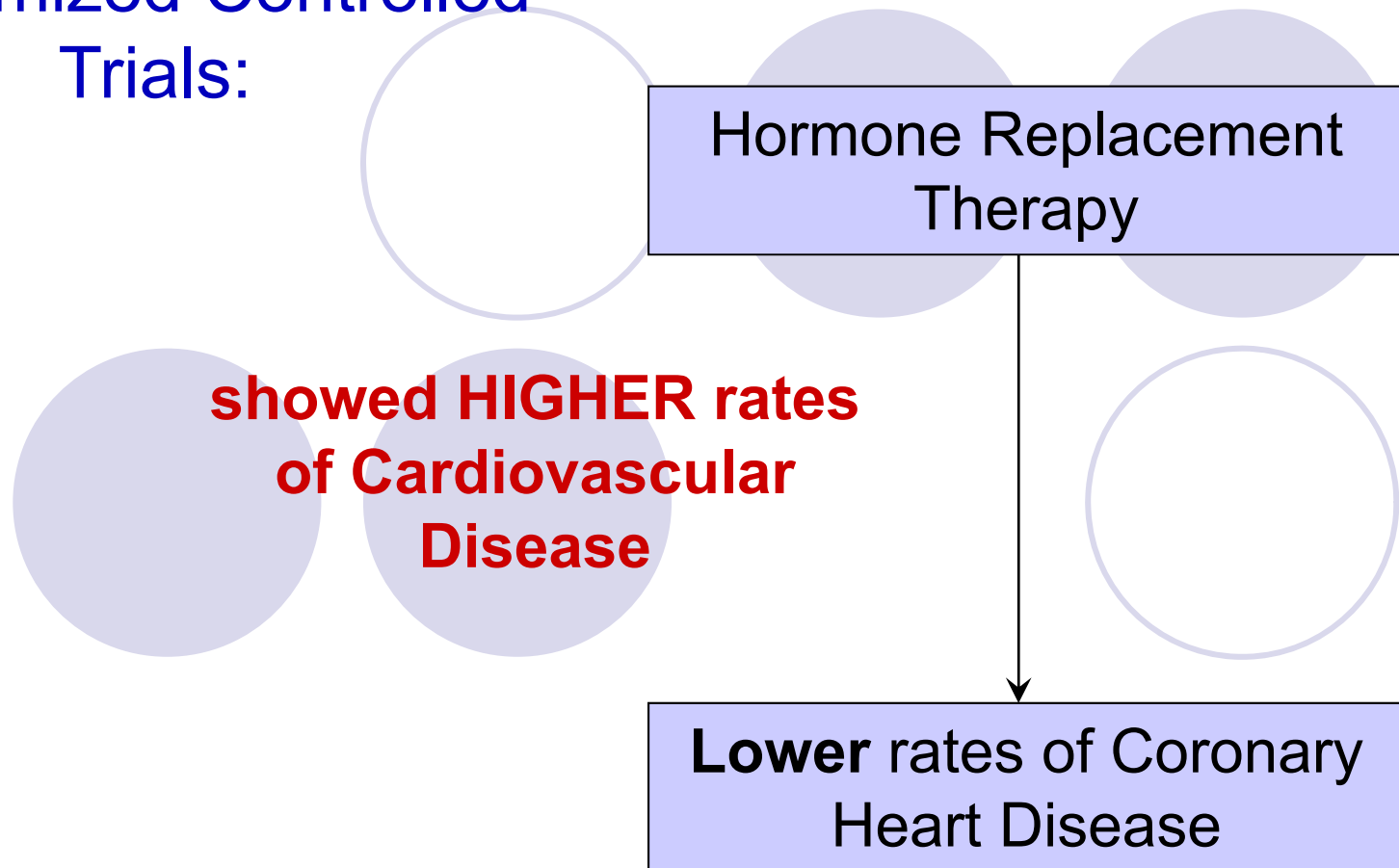
Channeling effect

Cohort studies:



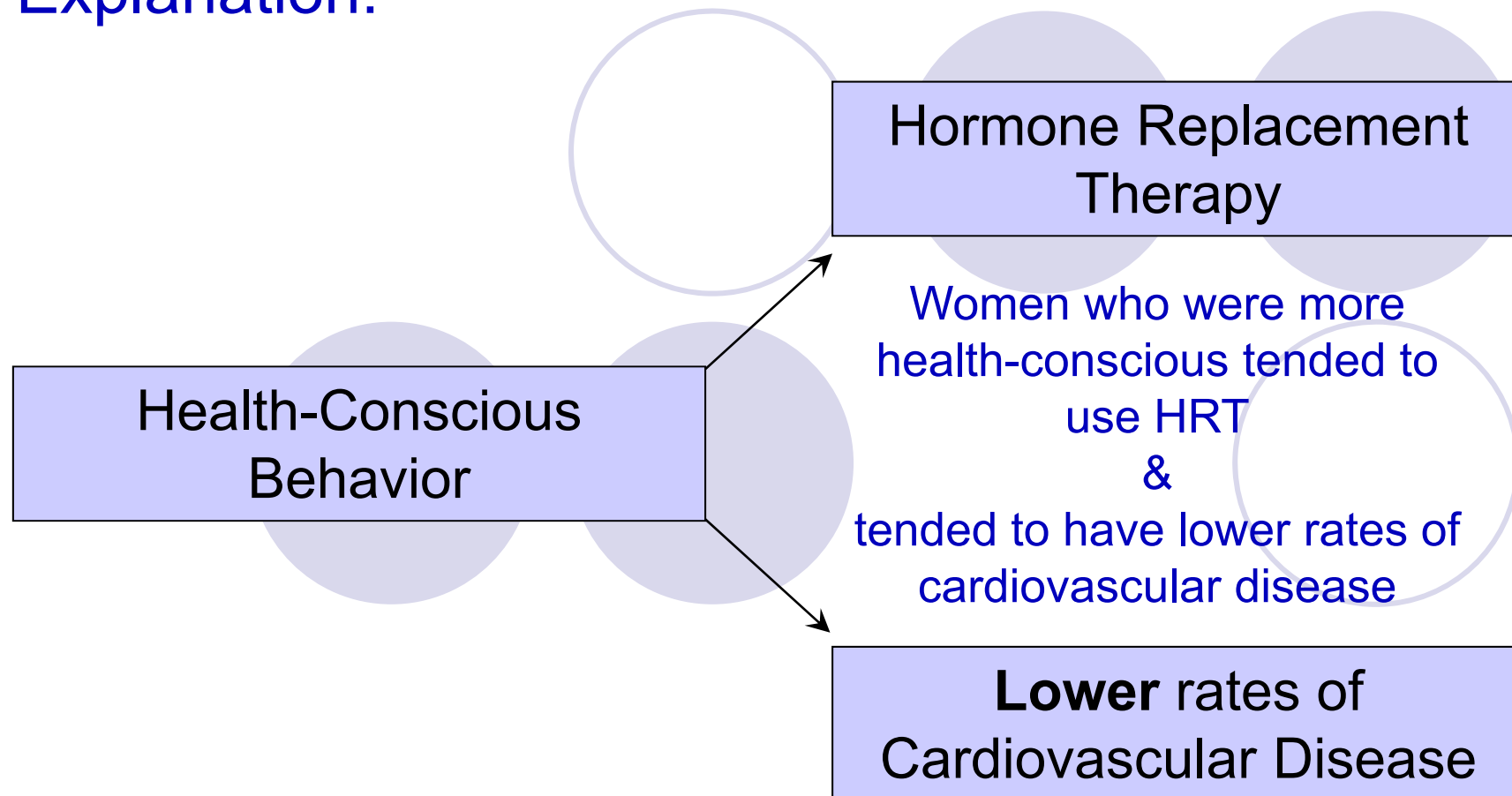
Channeling effect

Randomized Controlled
Trials:



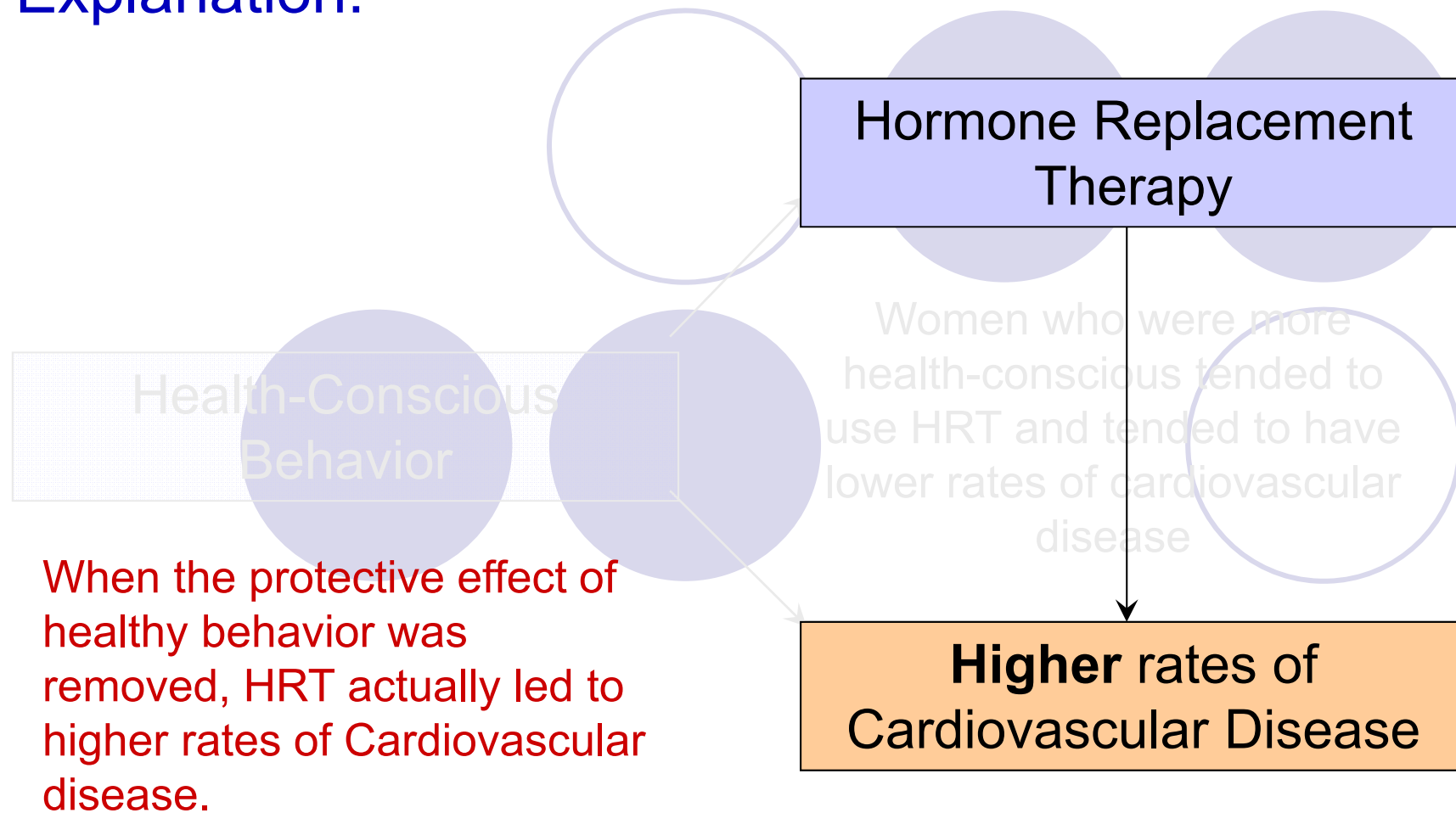
Channeling effect

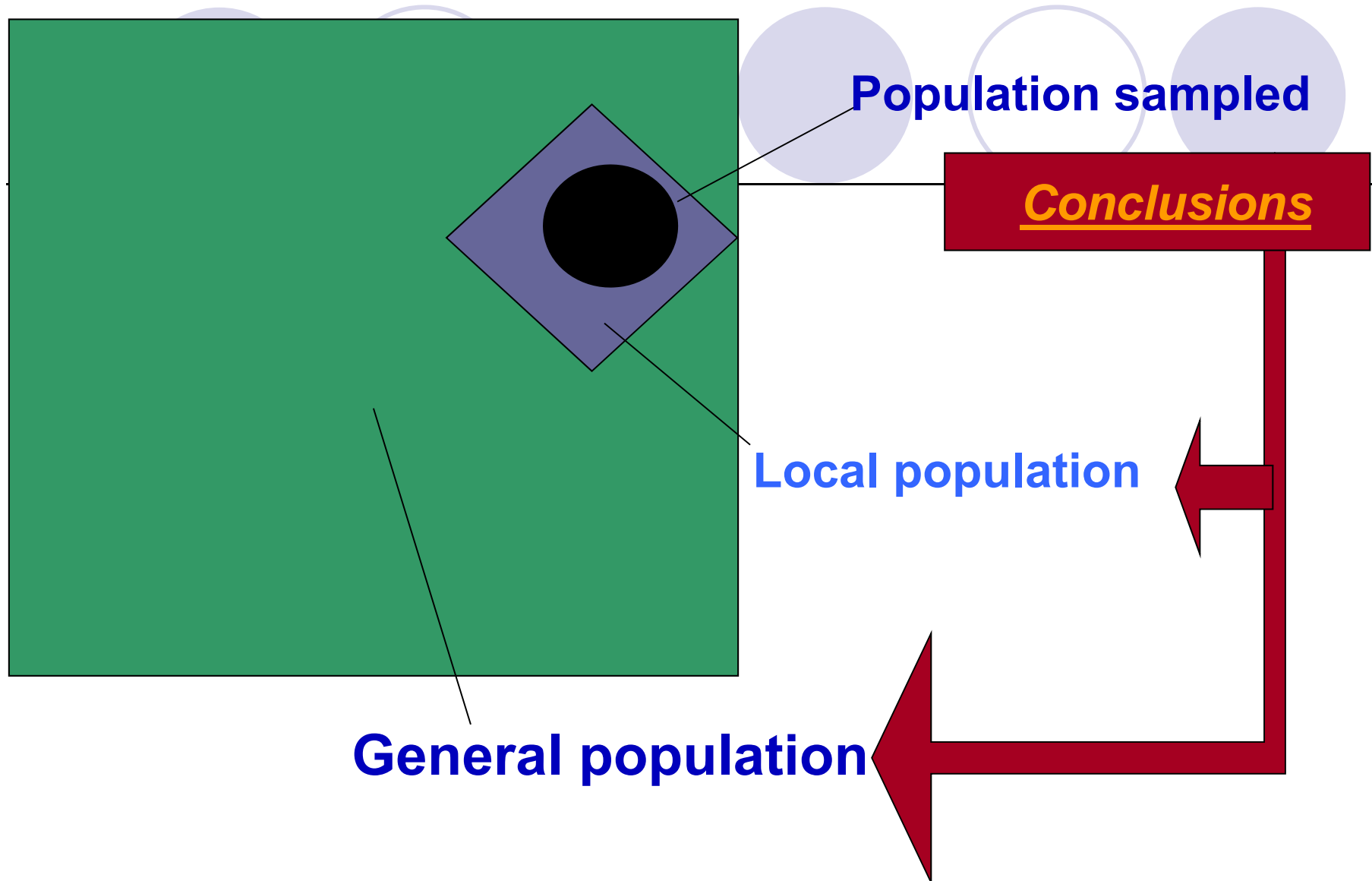
Explanation:



Channeling effect

Explanation:





External Validity (Generalizability)

Study quality in medicine

- ◆ Schulz (1995) evaluated study quality in 250 randomized clinical trials (RCTs) from 33 meta-analyses. Poor quality studies led to positively biased estimates:
 - ◆ lack of concealment (30-41%),
 - ◆ lack of double-blind (17%),
 - ◆ participants excluded after randomization (NS).
- ◆ Moher et al. (1998) reanalysed 127 RCTs randomized clinical trials from 11 meta-analyses for study quality.
 - ◆ Low quality trials resulted in significantly larger effect sizes, 30-50% exaggeration in estimates of treatment efficacy.
- ◆ Wood et al. (2008) evaluated study quality (1,346 RCTs from 146 meta-analyses).
 - ◆ subjective outcomes: inadequate/unclear concealment & lack of blinding resulted in substantial biases.
 - ◆ objective outcomes: no significant effects.
 - ◆ conclusion: systematic reviewers should assess risk of bias.

Διασφάλιση της ορθότητας των δημοσιευόμενων ερευνητικών αποτελεσμάτων

- Τα αποτελέσματα των ιατρικών ερευνών χρησιμοποιούνται στην πρόληψη και στην ιατρική πράξη, με διακύβευμα την υγεία και τη ζωή των ανθρώπων και επομένως είναι απαραίτητο να διασφαλιστεί όσο είναι δυνατόν η ποιότητα τους. Εξάλλου είναι δυνατόν εκ των υστέρων να αξιολογηθεί η ορθότητα τους.
- Η προσπάθεια βελτίωσης της ποιότητας οδήγησε σε εξειδικευμένη και εκτεταμένη βιβλιογραφία στην οποία μπορεί κανείς να αναφερθεί.

Επιστημονικές δημοσιεύσεις: Η πραγματικότητα

- Πολλές μελέτες από αυτές που απορρίπτονται αξίζουν καλύτερης παρουσίασης...
- Εάν μία μελέτη αξίζει συγγραφής, καλό θα ήταν η συγγραφή να γίνει καλά!

Επιστημονικές δημοσιεύσεις: Η πραγματικότητα

<p>RESULTS</p> <p>STUDY POPULATION</p> <p>Baseline characteristics (Table 1) of 439 patients were balanced between treatment groups. Patients had long-standing disease, with 40% having no prior MS therapies, a mean EDSS score of 4.6, and over half with 14.6 EDSS. At baseline, 28% of patients had Gd lesions, 19% of patients were 451 years of age. Of 439 patients, 84.4% in the placebo group and 83.3% in the rituximab group completed the 96-week (Table 2). Of 380 patients who completed the 96-week treatment period, 340 completed the 322-week safety follow-up (95.3% placebo, 92.9% rituximab).</p>	<p>Key Exploratory Endpoints</p> <p>Compared with placebo, rituximab patients had less worsening in the MSFC (trend 25; Post Hoc Test $p=0.04$, $p=0.076$, and $p=0.011$ at Weeks 48, 96, and 124, respectively). Results for other key exploratory endpoints (time to CSF, sustained for 124 weeks; change of MSFC, 6 weeks Post Hoc Test: Trend 25; Post Hoc Test from baseline to Week 48, 96, and 124) were similar between treatment groups.</p> <p>Subgroup Post Hoc Analyses</p> <p>Planned subgroup analyses of the primary endpoint (Table 3) indicate that age and presence of Gd lesions were predictive of response to treatment. Patients with placebo, time to CSF was delayed in younger patients (at least 1 year) ($p=0.001$), or those with Gd lesions (at least 1 year) ($p=0.001$). Moreover, an additive predictive effect of age and Gd lesions was found. For patients 451 years with baseline Gd lesions, the risk of having CSF was 5 times higher than placebo (95% CI 1.8-13.0, $p=0.006$).</p> <p>Patients with baseline Gd lesions with a short disease duration (12 years) received placebo had a longer time to CSF compared with the placebo receiving patients. However, the treatment effect on time to CSF was seen with younger patients (at least 1 year) ($p=0.001$) and older patients (at least 1 year) ($p=0.001$).</p>	<p>through Week 96 of treatment, B cell counts above the lower limit of normal (LLN, 80 cells/μL) was used as a measure of recovery. At Week 122, 36% of rituximab-treated patients had recovered peripheral B cell counts. Of patients who discontinued the treatment period early, 40% recovered peripheral B cells after 48 weeks from their last dose. Median CSF B cell counts were not appreciably altered by rituximab.</p> <p>At baseline during the study, immunoglobulin levels were below LLN (range 1-4% of patients for both IgG and IgM levels). IgM levels were below LLN in 31.7% of patients receiving rituximab and 5.9% of patients receiving placebo (Table 4).</p> <p>During the treatment or safety follow-up, 26 of 286 (7.3%) patients receiving rituximab and 8 of 142 (5.6%) patients receiving placebo were positive for human anti-chimeric antibodies (HACA). Among them, 18 (7.3%) patients receiving rituximab and 4 (2.8%) patients receiving placebo were HACA positive at approximately one year after last infusion (Table 4). There was no apparent association between HACA positivity and the type of adverse events or efficacy response.</p> <p>SAFETY</p> <p>The incidence of adverse events (AE) and serious AE was comparable between groups (Table 4). Serious AEs were proportionally higher in rituximab patients, attributable to patients who experienced multiple serious AEs. Using the CTCAE grading system, 38.6% of rituximab patients experienced Grade 1-2 (most moderate) AEs. Of 338 rituximab-treated patients, 6.9% reported severe (Grade 3) or disabling (Grade 4) drug-related AEs.</p>
<p>Page 10 of 21</p>	<p>Page 11 of 21</p>	<p>Page 12 of 21</p>
<p>infusion-related AEs were more common with rituximab, which were generally moderate in severity, decreasing with successive infusions. At least 74 patients received rituximab (16.9%) versus placebo (7.2%) patients. Of 74 patients receiving rituximab, 17 patients (23.1%) reported infusion-associated events were reported in 17 patients (23.1%) receiving rituximab and 17 patients (23.1%) receiving placebo. No infusion-associated events were reported in placebo patients.</p> <p>Infusions reported in 14% of either group included upper respiratory infections, urinary tract infections, and nasopharyngitis. Of 13 rituximab patients who reported infusion-associated AEs, 9 (69%) were 155 years of age and 4 (31%) had immunoglobulin levels (IgG or IgM) below the LLN at any time during the study.</p> <p>Three deaths occurred. One patient receiving two infusions of rituximab withdrew early from the study and died of pneumonia. Two patients receiving placebo died, one from cardiovascular failure during the study and the other contracted pneumonia and died after withdrawing from the trial.</p> <p>Page 13 of 21</p>	<p>DISCUSSION</p> <p>Primary progressive MS is thought to incorporate autoimmune-mediated neurodegeneration, however currently reported from clinical studies have not been shown to substantially alter disease course. Although the evidence was not met in this trial, our findings suggest key results for the role of inflammation and neurodegeneration in MS, insights that may contribute to our understanding of other autoimmune disorders.</p> <p>Despite the lack of statistical significance, treatment results in the overall PPMS population, however, were consistent with the hypothesis. As determined by confirmed, EDSS progression, a key exploratory endpoint, a key exploratory endpoint. In the placebo group and of both placebo and rituximab groups, there was a statistically significant difference in the rate of progression in younger patients (451 years) and older patients with inflammation based on Gd-enhancing lesions on MRI. This treatment effect was independent of disease duration in younger patients. These findings provide insights that may change our concepts of the pathogenesis and treatment of PPMS but also of progression in all subtypes of MS.</p> <p>Our current thinking is that a significant proportion of neurological disease progression in PPMS is driven by slow degeneration of axons after their immune-mediated demyelination. However, the fact that even a small amount of inflammation, as evidenced by Gd-enhancing lesions, influenced the rate of progression and the response to treatment in this trial argues for a neuroinflammatory component of progression as well. This observation is supported in a study in which evidence of acute mild inflammation evident on MRI in PPMS was associated with more rapid disease progression¹¹. In addition, a 5-</p> <p>year longitudinal, 3-Tesla, triple-view Gd-enhancing MRI study of PPMS patients (MAGNIMS) noted that more PPMS patients demonstrate MRI enhancement than previously believed when exposed earlier in the course of their disease¹². This suggests that inflammation may be more common in PPMS than previously thought, albeit quantitatively less than RMS, and that newer MRI imaging techniques may be helpful to define patient populations at risk for rapid disease progression.</p> <p>These findings, coupled with our data, suggest several conclusions. First, early treatment of PPMS aimed at decreasing disease progression, may be beneficial, before the advent of irreversible neuronal loss. This has been well documented in RMS trials, in which treatment at the time of diagnosis was shown to reduce the risk of progressive disability^{13,14}.</p> <p>Second, in our study, the slowing of disability was driven by an effect on ambulation despite the observation that patients with PPMS showed a paucity of Gd-enhancing lesions in the spinal cord compared with the brain. This observation, in conjunction with the MAGNIMS results, suggests that other components of the immune system, such as perivascular cuffs and B cells, not imaged by conventional MRI, may play a role in perpetuating the disease^{15,16}.</p> <p>Third, the treatment effect in younger patients, particularly with evidence of acute blood-brain barrier breakdown on neuroimaging irrespective of disease duration, argues for a change in disease neurobiology over time. This influence of age has been recently reported for RMS in terms of a more rapid clinical relapse¹⁷. Several factors may be implicated, including alteration in the immune system with aging (immunosenescence)^{18,19}. Thus, identifying patients amenable to treatment with an acceptable risk to benefit</p> <p>Page 14 of 21</p>	<p>Page 15 of 21</p>

«Χαρισματικός» και «έξυπνος» τρόπος γραφής δεν μπορεί να «διορθώσει» για κακό σχεδιασμό, πραγμάτωση, και ανάλυση των δεδομένων μίας επιστημονικής μελέτης...

Αλλά μία κακή/ελλιπής συγγραφή μπορεί να κάνει μία καλή μελέτη να απορριφθεί!

Συγγραφή επιστημονικής δημοσίευσης

- Σαφής και ξεκάθαρη παρουσίαση της μελέτης,
- Στον editor του περιοδικού καταρχήν...
- Και στους αναγνώστες...
- Οι συγγραφείς θα πρέπει να θυμούνται σε ποιους (ή μάλλον σε πόσους) απευθύνονται...



Ένα σύνηθες «πρόβλημα»

Η μελέτη

- Καλός σχεδιασμός
- Πρωτοτυπία
- Επιτυχής πραγμάτωση
- Έγκυρη ανάλυση

Η προς υποβολή εργασία

- Όχι τόσο προσεκτικός σχεδιασμός, αδυναμίες στην συγγραφή, απορρίψεις/καθυστερήσεις στη δημοσίευση
- Αναστρέψιμη διαδικασία

Γιατί οι μελέτες αποτυγχάνουν να δημοσιευθούν;

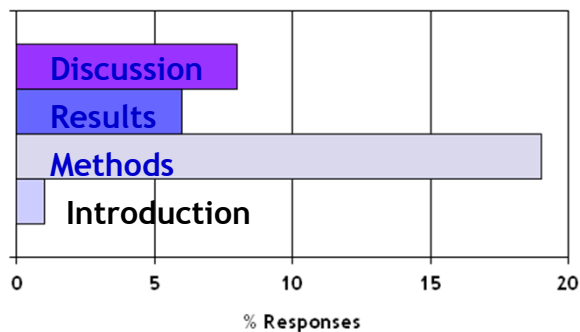
57 articles evaluated to *Emergency Medicine*—28 accepted, 29 rejected
Of these 29:

Ambiguous methods	77%
Ambiguous results	70%
Conclusions not warranted by data	72%
Poor referencing	56%
Inadequate study design description	51%
Unclear tables	49%
Overly long discussion	49%
Inadequate definition of terms	49%

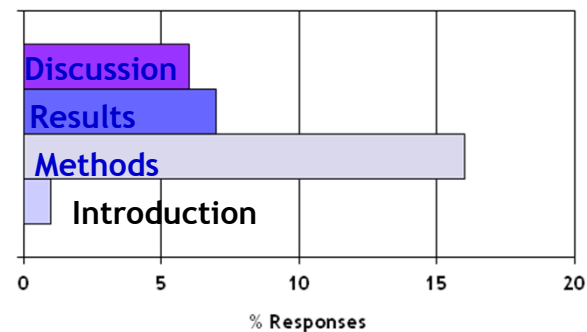
"Deficiencies in manuscript preparation are more frequent than mistakes in study design and execution. Specific training...in manuscript preparation is recommended."

Editors' Responses

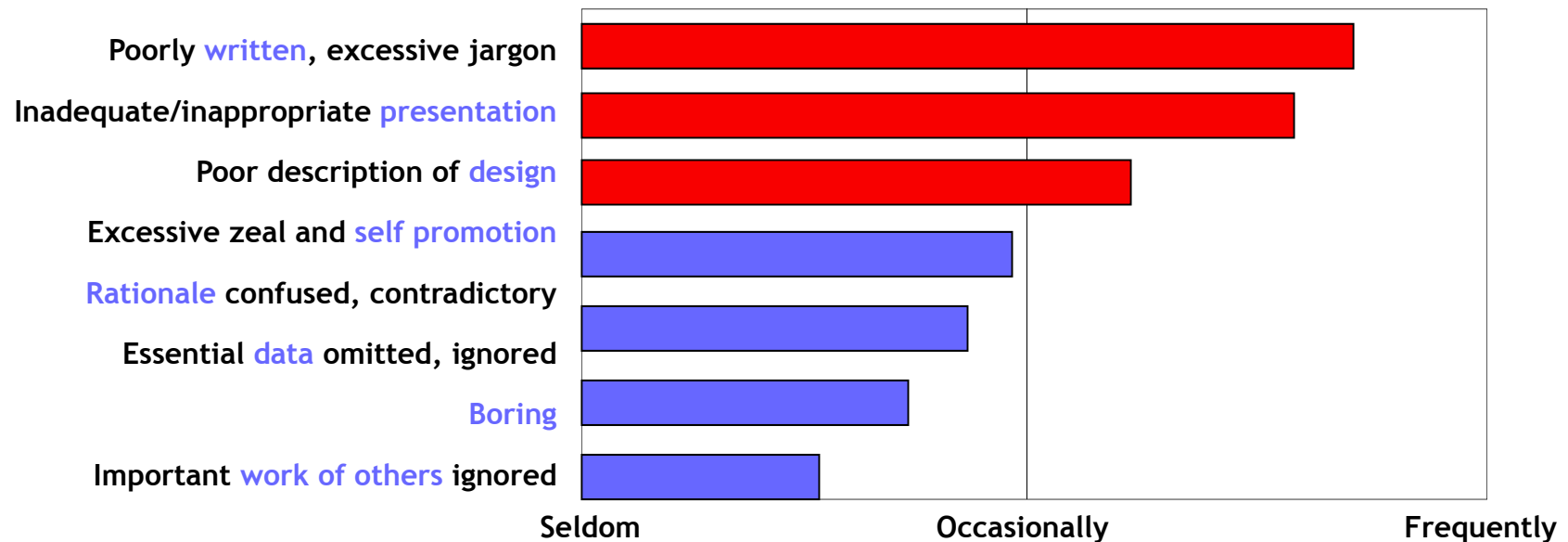
What section contains the **most flaws**?



What section responsible for **outright rejection**?



How frequently do Editors encounter manuscript problems?



Τα χαρακτηριστικά μιας καλής δημοσίευσης

Τίτλος: Περιεκτικός και σαφής

Περίληψη: Σαφής, περιεκτική και σύμφωνα με τα κριτήρια του περιοδικού (δομή/ αριθμός λέξεων)

Εισαγωγή: Πλαίσιο - σύντομο και περιεκτικό

Ερευνητική υπόθεση: Ξεκάθαρη και απλή διατύπωση

Βιβλιογραφία: Σχετική και περιεκτική

Μέθοδοι/Υλικό: Λεπτομερής περιγραφή των μεθόδων που ακολουθήθηκαν καθώς και των στατιστικών μεθόδων που ακολουθήθηκαν

Πίνακες/γραφήματα: Αυτόνομοι, να υποστηρίζουν τα συμπεράσματα, καλή εμφάνιση

Αποτελέσματα: Ξεκάθαρη παρουσίαση αποτελεσμάτων - σαφής και περιεκτική

Συζήτηση: Πώς τα ευρήματα συνδέονται (απαντούν και με ποιόν τρόπο) με την αρχική υπόθεση

Τρόπος γραφής: Ξεκάθαρος και λογικός

Κείμενο, Πίνακες, Βιβλιογραφία: Σύμφωνα με τους κανόνες του περιοδικού!

Reporting guidelines

1996	CONSORT	RCTs
1999	QUOROM	Meta-analyses of RCTs <i>new: PRISMA</i>
2001	CONSORT II	RCTs
2003	STARD	Diagnostic studies
2005	REMARK	Tumour marker studies
2007	STROBE	Case-control studies Cross-sectional studies Cohort studies

The Revised CONSORT Statement for Reporting Randomized Trials: Explanation and Elaboration

**Douglas G. Altman, DSc; Kenneth F. Schulz,
PhD; David Moher, MSc; Matthias Egger, MD;
Frank Davidoff, MD; Diana Elbourne, PhD; Peter
C. Gøtzsche, MD; and Thomas Lang, MA, for the
CONSORT Group**

17 April 2001 | Annals of Internal Medicine | Volume 134 □ Number 8
663

CONSORT (Consolidated Standards of Reporting)

- "Intent is to make experimental process more clear, flawed or not, so that users of the data can more appropriately evaluate its validity for their purposes"
 - checklist
 - figure
 - available at www.consort-statement.org
- Χρησιμοποιείται από αρκετά περιοδικά υψηλού συντελεστή απήχησης
- Διαθέσιμη λίστα σε 6 γλώσσες



CONSORT 2010 checklist of information to include when reporting a randomised trial*

Section/Topic	Item No	Checklist item	Reported on page No
Title and abstract			
	1a	Identification as a randomised trial in the title	_____
	1b	Structured summary of trial design, methods, results, and conclusions (for specific guidance see CONSORT for abstracts)	_____
Introduction			
Background and objectives	2a	Scientific background and explanation of rationale	_____
	2b	Specific objectives or hypotheses	_____
Methods			
Trial design	3a	Description of trial design (such as parallel, factorial) including allocation ratio	_____
	3b	Important changes to methods after trial commencement (such as eligibility criteria), with reasons	_____
Participants	4a	Eligibility criteria for participants	_____
	4b	Settings and locations where the data were collected	_____
Interventions	5	The interventions for each group with sufficient details to allow replication, including how and when they were actually administered	_____
Outcomes	6a	Completely defined pre-specified primary and secondary outcome measures, including how and when they were assessed	_____
	6b	Any changes to trial outcomes after the trial commenced, with reasons	_____
Sample size	7a	How sample size was determined	_____
	7b	When applicable, explanation of any interim analyses and stopping guidelines	_____
Randomisation:			
Sequence generation	8a	Method used to generate the random allocation sequence	_____
	8b	Type of randomisation; details of any restriction (such as blocking and block size)	_____
Allocation concealment mechanism	9	Mechanism used to implement the random allocation sequence (such as sequentially numbered containers), describing any steps taken to conceal the sequence until interventions were assigned	_____
Implementation	10	Who generated the random allocation sequence, who enrolled participants, and who assigned participants to interventions	_____
Blinding	11a	If done, who was blinded after assignment to interventions (for example, participants, care providers, those	_____

		assessing outcomes) and how	
	11b	If relevant, description of the similarity of interventions	
Statistical methods	12a	Statistical methods used to compare groups for primary and secondary outcomes	
	12b	Methods for additional analyses, such as subgroup analyses and adjusted analyses	
Results			
Participant flow (a diagram is strongly recommended)	13a	For each group, the numbers of participants who were randomly assigned, received intended treatment, and were analysed for the primary outcome	
	13b	For each group, losses and exclusions after randomisation, together with reasons	
Recruitment	14a	Dates defining the periods of recruitment and follow-up	
	14b	Why the trial ended or was stopped	
Baseline data	15	A table showing baseline demographic and clinical characteristics for each group	
Numbers analysed	16	For each group, number of participants (denominator) included in each analysis and whether the analysis was by original assigned groups	
Outcomes and estimation	17a	For each primary and secondary outcome, results for each group, and the estimated effect size and its precision (such as 95% confidence interval)	
	17b	For binary outcomes, presentation of both absolute and relative effect sizes is recommended	
Ancillary analyses	18	Results of any other analyses performed, including subgroup analyses and adjusted analyses, distinguishing pre-specified from exploratory	
Harms	19	All important harms or unintended effects in each group (for specific guidance see CONSORT for harms)	
Discussion			
Limitations	20	Trial limitations, addressing sources of potential bias, imprecision, and, if relevant, multiplicity of analyses	
Generalisability	21	Generalisability (external validity, applicability) of the trial findings	
Interpretation	22	Interpretation consistent with results, balancing benefits and harms, and considering other relevant evidence	
Other information			
Registration	23	Registration number and name of trial registry	
Protocol	24	Where the full trial protocol can be accessed, if available	
Funding	25	Sources of funding and other support (such as supply of drugs), role of funders	

*We strongly recommend reading this statement in conjunction with the CONSORT 2010 Explanation and Elaboration for important clarifications on all the items. If relevant, we also recommend reading CONSORT extensions for cluster randomised trials, non-inferiority and equivalence trials, non-pharmacological treatments, herbal interventions, and pragmatic trials. Additional extensions are forthcoming: for those and for up to date references relevant to this checklist, see www.consort-statement.org.

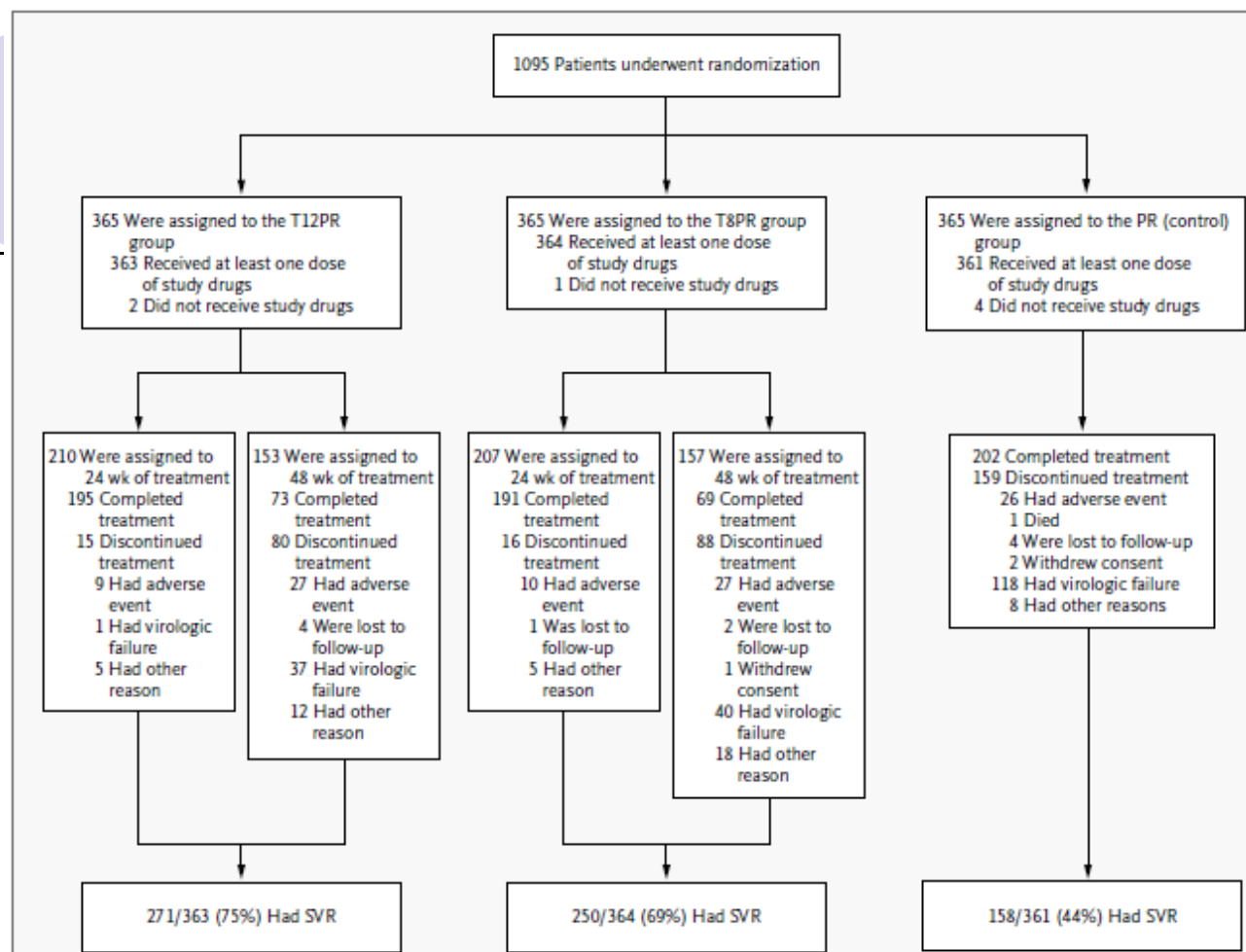


Figure 1. Randomization and Sustained Virologic Response (SVR) in Study Patients.

The T12PR group was assigned to receive telaprevir combined with peginterferon alfa-2a and ribavirin for 12 weeks, followed by peginterferon–ribavirin alone for 12 weeks if hepatitis C virus (HCV) RNA was undetectable at weeks 4 and 12 or for 36 weeks if HCV RNA was detectable at either time point; the T8PR group was assigned to receive telaprevir with peginterferon–ribavirin for 8 weeks and telaprevir-matched placebo plus peginterferon–ribavirin for 4 weeks, followed by peginterferon–ribavirin alone for 12 weeks if HCV RNA was undetectable at weeks 4 and 12 or by peginterferon–ribavirin for 36 weeks if HCV RNA was detectable at either time point; the PR (control) group was assigned to receive telaprevir-matched placebo plus peginterferon–ribavirin for 12 weeks, followed by peginterferon–ribavirin alone for 36 weeks. Of the 1095 patients who underwent randomization, 1088 received at least one dose of the study drugs and 7 did not receive any study drugs. In the T12PR group, 3 patients had an extended rapid virologic response but were assigned to the 48-week treatment group, and 1 patient who did not have an extended rapid virologic response was assigned to receive 24 weeks of treatment; however, this patient also met the week-12 stopping rule and discontinued treatment after the week-12 visit.

Strengthening the Reporting of Observational Studies in Epidemiology (STROBE): Explanation and Elaboration

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Funding: The initial STROBE workshop was funded by the European Science Foundation (ESF). Additional funding was received from the Medical Research Council Health Services Research Collaboration and the National Health Services Research & Development Methodology Programme. The funders had no role in study design, data collection and analysis, decision to publish, or preparation of the manuscript.

Competing Interests: The authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

Citation: Vandenbroucke JP, von Elm E, Altman DG, Gøtzsche PC, Mulrow CD, et al. (2007) Strengthening the Reporting of Observational Studies in Epidemiology (STROBE): Explanation and Elaboration. *PLoS Med* 4(10): e297. doi:10.1371/journal.pmed.0040297

Received: July 20, 2007

Accepted: August 30, 2007

Published: October 16, 2007

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ABSTRACT

Much medical research is observational. The reporting of observational studies is often of insufficient quality. Poor reporting hampers the assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of a study and the generalisability of its results. Taking into account empirical evidence and theoretical considerations, a group of methodologists, researchers, and editors developed the Strengthening the Reporting of Observational Studies in Epidemiology (STROBE) recommendations to improve the quality of reporting of observational studies. The STROBE Statement consists of a checklist of 22 items, which relate to the title, abstract, introduction, methods, results and discussion sections of articles. Eighteen items are common to cohort studies, case-control studies and cross-sectional studies and four are specific to each of the three study designs. The STROBE Statement provides guidance to authors about how to improve the reporting of observational studies and facilitates critical appraisal and interpretation of studies by reviewers, journal editors and readers. This explanatory and elaboration document is intended to enhance the use, understanding, and dissemination of the STROBE Statement. The meaning and rationale for each checklist item are presented. For each item, one or several published examples and, where possible, references to relevant empirical studies and methodological literature are provided. Examples of useful flow diagrams are also included. The STROBE Statement, this document, and the associated Web site (<http://www.strobe-statement.org/>) should be helpful resources to improve reporting of observational research.

Table 1. The STROBE Statement—Checklist of Items That Should Be Addressed in Reports of Observational Studies

	<i>Item number</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>
TITLE and ABSTRACT	1	(a) Indicate the study's design with a commonly used term in the title or the abstract (b) Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found
INTRODUCTION		
<i>Background/rationale</i>	2	Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported
<i>Objectives</i>	3	State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses
METHODS		
<i>Study design</i>	4	Present key elements of study design early in the paper
<i>Setting</i>	5	Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection
<i>Participants</i>	6	(a) Cohort study—Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants. Describe methods of follow-up Case-control study—Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of case ascertainment and control selection. Give the rationale for the choice of cases and controls Cross-sectional study—Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants (b) Cohort study—For matched studies, give matching criteria and number of exposed and unexposed Case-control study—For matched studies, give matching criteria and the number of controls per case
<i>Variables</i>	7	Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable
<i>Data sources/measurement</i>	8*	For each variable of interest, give sources of data and details of methods of assessment (measurement). Describe comparability of assessment methods if there is more than one group
<i>Bias</i>	9	Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias
<i>Study size</i>	10	Explain how the study size was arrived at
<i>Quantitative variables</i>	11	Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen, and why
<i>Statistical methods</i>	12	(a) Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding (b) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions (c) Explain how missing data were addressed (d) Cohort study—If applicable, explain how loss to follow-up was addressed Case-control study—If applicable, explain how matching of cases and controls was addressed Cross-sectional study—If applicable, describe analytical methods taking account of sampling strategy (e) Describe any sensitivity analyses
RESULTS		
<i>Participants</i>	13*	(a) Report the numbers of individuals at each stage of the study—e.g., numbers potentially eligible, examined for eligibility, confirmed eligible, included in the study, completing follow-up, and analysed (b) Give reasons for non-participation at each stage (c) Consider use of a flow diagram
<i>Descriptive data</i>	14*	(a) Give characteristics of study participants (e.g., demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders (b) Indicate the number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest (c) Cohort study—Summarise follow-up time (e.g., average and total amount)
<i>Outcome data</i>	15*	Cohort study—Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures over time Case-control study—Report numbers in each exposure category, or summary measures of exposure Cross-sectional study—Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures
<i>Main results</i>	16	(a) Give unadjusted estimates and, if applicable, confounder-adjusted estimates and their precision (e.g., 95% confidence interval). Make clear which confounders were adjusted for and why they were included (b) Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized (c) If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time period
<i>Other analyses</i>	17	Report other analyses done—e.g., analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses
DISCUSSION		
<i>Key results</i>	18	Summarise key results with reference to study objectives
<i>Limitations</i>	19	Discuss limitations of the study, taking into account sources of potential bias or imprecision. Discuss both direction and magnitude of any potential bias
<i>Interpretation</i>	20	Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence
<i>Generalisability</i>	21	Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results

Οδηγίες συγγραφής επιστημονικής δημοσίευσης σε κάθε επιστημονικό περιοδικό

1. Instructions to Authors
2. Περιέχει την διαμόρφωση που πρέπει να ακολουθεί η εργασία υπό-υποβολή προκειμένου να γίνει αποδεκτή ως υποβαλλόμενη!!!!
3. Περιλαμβάνει όλες τις ενότητες μίας εργασίας
4. Οι συγγραφείς υποχρεούνται να διαμορφώσουν την εργασία τους σύμφωνα με τους κανόνες του εκάστοτε περιοδικού



Πίνακες/Γραφήματα

Αυτόνομοι, Επαρκείς, Λιτοί

Πίνακες και Γραφήματα

- **Κρίσιμοι**—για τους συντάκτες και τους αναγνώστες - συνήθως αποτελούν την πρώτη ανάγνωση από την δημοσίευση
- **Οι συντάκτες** «κρίνουν» καταρχήν την υποβαλλόμενη δημοσίευση από το πόσο καλά οι πίνακες έχουν διαμορφωθεί όσον αφορά περιεχόμενο και εμφάνιση
- **Αυτόνομοι**: παρουσίαση της δημοσίευσης χωρίς να χρειάζεται να διαβαστεί η δημοσίευση!
- **Σαφής** παρουσίαση των αποτελεσμάτων με μια ματιά!

Πίνακας ή κείμενο:

Table 2. Response during and after the Treatment Period, According to Treatment Group.

Response	T12PR (N= 363)	T8PR (N= 364)	PR (N= 361)
Undetectable HCV RNA during treatment period — no. (%) [*]			
At week 4	246 (68)	242 (66)	34 (9)
At weeks 4 and 12	212 (58)	207 (57)	29 (8)
Undetectable HCV RNA at end of treatment period — no. (%)	314 (87)	295 (81)	229 (63)
Undetectable HCV RNA 24 wk after end of treatment: sustained virologic response — no./total no. (%) [†]			
All patients [‡]	271/363 (75)	250/364 (69)	158/361 (44)
Patients with undetectable HCV RNA at weeks 4 and 12	189/212 (89)	171/207 (83)	28/29 (97)
Patients with detectable HCV RNA at weeks 4 or week 12	82/151 (54)	79/157 (50)	130/332 (39)
Patients with undetectable HCV RNA at week 4	206/246 (84)	188/242 (78)	32/34 (94)
Patients with detectable HCV RNA at week 4	65/117 (56)	62/122 (51)	126/327 (39)
Undetectable HCV RNA at 72 wk — no. (%) [§]	265 (73)	243 (67)	158 (44)
Relapse among patients with undetectable HCV RNA at end of treatment period — no./total no. (%)			
All patients	27/314 (9)	28/295 (9)	64/229 (28)
Patients who completed treatment	17/264 (6)	18/247 (7)	51/189 (27)

^{*} Patients with undetectable HCV RNA at week 4 met the criterion for a rapid virologic response, and patients with undetectable HCV RNA at weeks 4 and 12 met the criterion for an extended rapid virologic response.

[†] Sustained virologic response (undetectable HCV RNA 24 weeks after the end of treatment) was the primary end point.

[‡] All patients who received at least one dose of study drug were included in the analysis. The difference in response rates was 31 percentage points (95% confidence interval [CI], 24 to 38) between the T12PR and PR groups and 25 percentage points (95% CI, 18 to 32) between the T8PR and PR groups.

[§] The 72-week assessment was performed 24 weeks after the end of treatment in patients who received 48 weeks of treatment and 48 weeks after end of treatment in patients who received 24 weeks of treatment.

Αποφυγή επανάληψης των δεδομένων των πινάκων - γραφημάτων

Table 2.—Selected Pregnancy Outcomes and Neonatal Measurements in the Zinc Supplement and Placebo Subgroups by Body Mass Index (BMI) Categories

	BMI ≥ 26			BMI < 26		
	Zinc Supplement (n=155)	Placebo (n=145)	P	Zinc Supplement (n=134)	Placebo (n=134)	P
Maternal Characteristics						
Age, y	24.8	24.2	.32	22.9	21.2	.01
BMI, kg/m ²	33.4	33.0	.64	22.3	22.2	.57
Current smoker, %	7.7	5.5	.44	3.0	3.0	.98
Pregnancy Outcome						
Birth weight, g	3240	3241	.99	3190	2942	.005
Gestational age, wk	39.0	38.7	.47	38.6	37.9	.08
Preterm birth < 32 wk, %	3.2	5.5	.33	3.0	6.8	.15
Birth weight < 1500 g, %	3.9	3.5	.84	2.3	6.0	.12
Anthropometric Measurements						
Crown-heel length, cm	50.2	49.8	.41	50.3	49.7	.20
Head circumference, cm	34.3	34.0	.50	34.1	33.4	.005
Abdominal circumference, cm	33.3	33.1	.64	32.8	32.6	.58
Arm length, cm	9.9	9.7	.27	9.9	9.6	.03
Subscapular skinfold, mm	4.2	3.9	.05	3.9	3.6	.06
Neonatal Outcome						
Neonatal hospital stay, d	3.9	4.5	.47	3.1	4.9	.10
Neonatal sepsis, %	0.7	1.4	.52	0	2.2	.08

As shown In Table 2 the mean age of women in the Zinc group with BMI ≥ 26 was 24.8 and for women in the placebo group with BMI ≥ 26 kg/m² mean age was 24.2 and the difference was not statistically significant (p=0.32)...

KEIMENO = ΠΙΝΑΚΑΣ

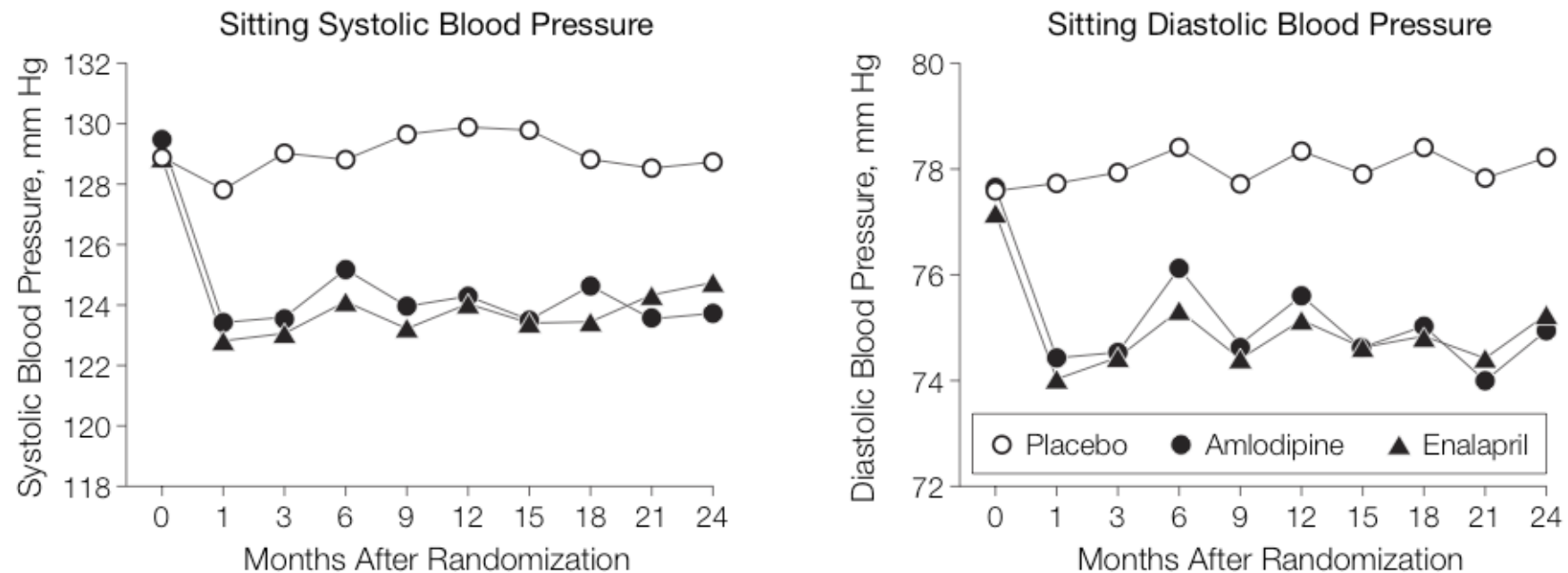
ΓΡΑΦΗΜΑΤΑ



- Εύκολη αποτύπωση του μηνύματος
- "Μία εικόνα αξίζει όσο χίλιες λέξεις"
- Στόχος δεν είναι να «ομορφύνουν» το κείμενο αλλά να μεταφέρουν την πληροφορία με άμεσο τρόπο
- Όσον αφορά το περιεχόμενο ισχύει ό,τι και στους πίνακες

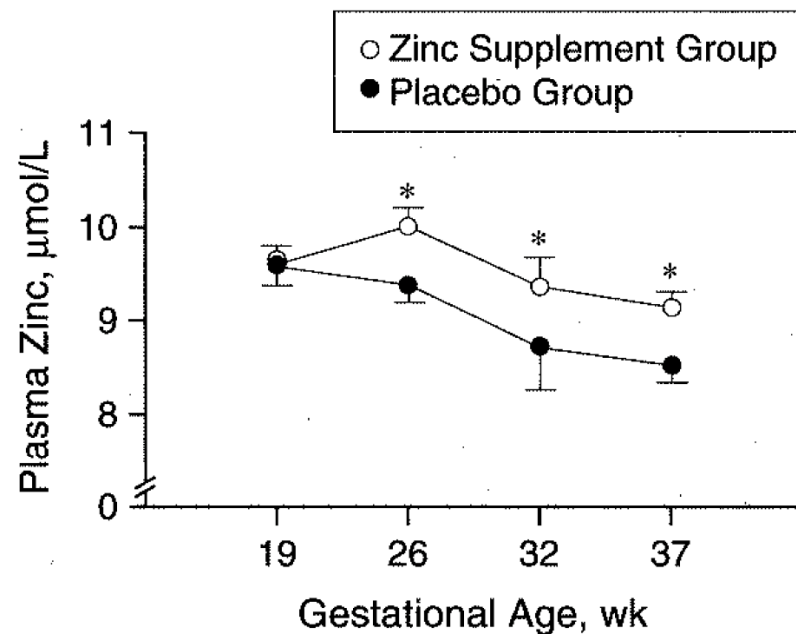
Γραφήματα: Απλά

Figure 2. Mean Patient Blood Pressure at Baseline and During Treatment



- >3-4 ομάδες - Πολύπλοκα
- Μικρός αριθμός συμβόλων
- Τυπική απόκλιση, P-values εάν χρειάζονται

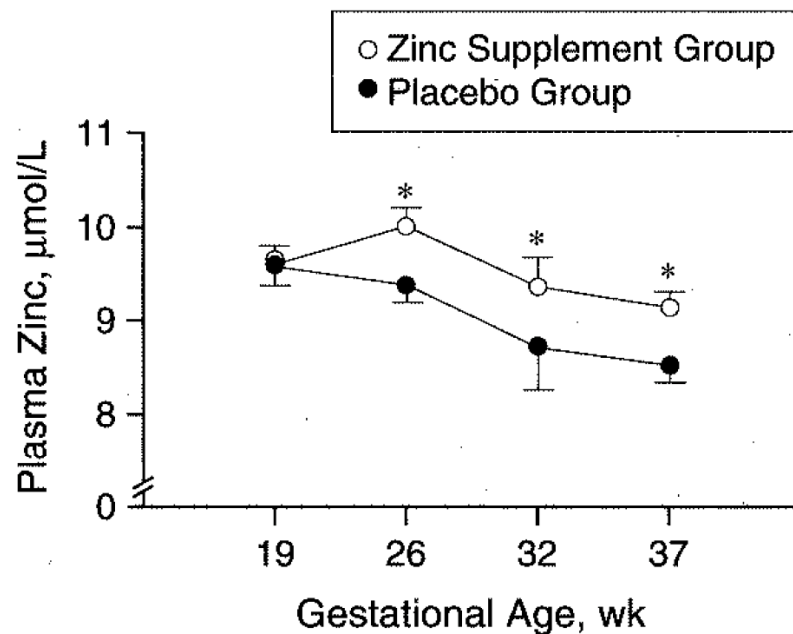
Αποφυγή διατύπωσης του προφανούς



Changes in plasma zinc concentrations. Asterisk indicates significant difference between the values of the zinc supplement and placebo groups ($P \leq .05$). Vertical bars indicate SEMs.

Figure 1 is a line graph illustrating the plasma zinc levels ($\mu\text{mol/L}$) over the 37 weeks versus gestational age in both the zinc supplement group and placebo group. The placebo and the zinc group both decreased over the 37 weeks of the study, but the differences were significant for the zinc group.

Αλλά διατύπωση του σημαντικού!



Changes in plasma zinc concentrations. Asterisk indicates significant difference between the values of the zinc supplement and placebo groups ($P \leq .05$). Vertical bars indicate SEMs.

We measured mothers' plasma zinc levels before randomization (week 19) and at 26, 32, and 37 weeks' gestational age (Fig 1).

Beginning as early as 26 weeks and at each timepoint, differences in plasma zinc levels between placebo and zinc supplement groups were statistically significant after randomization.

Γραφήματα: Κάποια κοινά λάθη

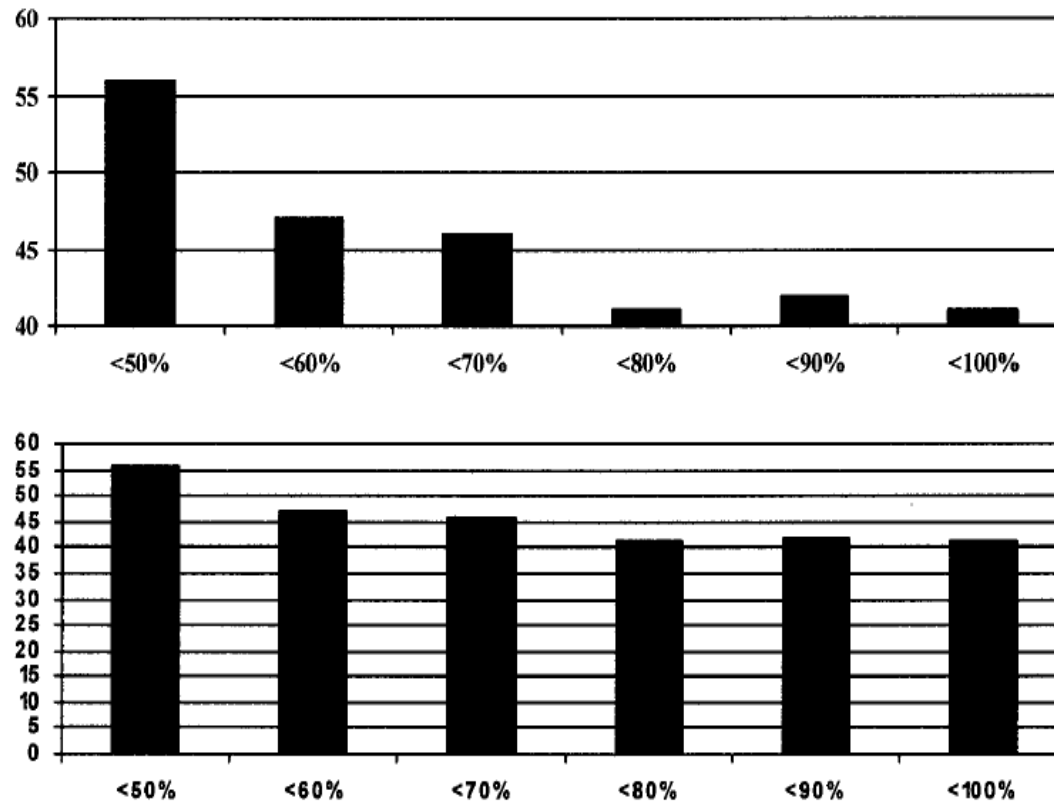


Fig. 7. Improper axis starting points and/or scale can give a misleading appearance that differences are statistically significant. The truncated ordinal axis (ie, zero–40 is missing) in the upper graph makes the differences appear large, whereas in the lower panel the ordinate values begin at zero and the graph is vertically compressed, which visually suggests that the differences are smaller.



ΣΥΖΗΤΗΣΗ

***ΕΡΜΗΝΕΙΑ ΤΩΝ
ΑΠΟΤΕΛΕΣΜΑΤΩΝ***

ΔΟΜΗ



1. Κύρια αποτελέσματα και τι αυτά σημαίνουν
2. Πώς συνδέονται με την βιβλιογραφία
3. Προτερήματα-Αδυναμίες της μελέτης - Καινούριες υποθέσεις που πιθανά αναδύονται
4. Μελλοντικές μελέτες
5. Συμπέρασμα - η τελευταία παράγραφος!!!

Αποφυγή πλατειασμών

- Συνηθισμένα λάθη:
 - Υπερεκτίμηση της σπουδαιότητας των ευρημάτων
 - Μεγαλόσχημα συμπεράσματα που δε υποστηρίζονται από τα ευρήματα
 - Υπερεκτίμηση στατιστικά σημαντικών αποτελεσμάτων χωρίς κριτική αντιμετώπιση
- Συνήθως οδηγούν σε Συζητήσεις μεγάλου μήκους (κουραστικές, επαναλαμβανόμενα ευρήματα) – Περιοδικά υψηλού συντελεστή απήχησης έχουν όριο για το μέγεθος του άρθρου – 3500 – 4000 λέξεις
- **Επιτυχία:** Τα δεδομένα μιλούν από μόνα τους για την μελέτη μας και όχι εμείς για αυτά

ΣΥΜΠΕΡΑΣΜΑ ΤΗΣ ΕΡΓΑΣΙΑΣ

- Διατυπώσεις οι οποίες γίνονται κατανοητές αφού διαβαστεί όλη η εργασία
- Ένα επιτυχημένο συμπέρασμα αναδεικνύει πλευρές για το συγκεκριμένο θέμα οι οποίες δεν έχουν διατυπωθεί στην Εισαγωγή
- Το συμπέρασμα έχει να κάνει με τις επιπτώσεις της συγκεκριμένης έρευνας στο πλαίσιο στο οποίο κινείται

Το «ιστορικό» των δημοσιεύσεων

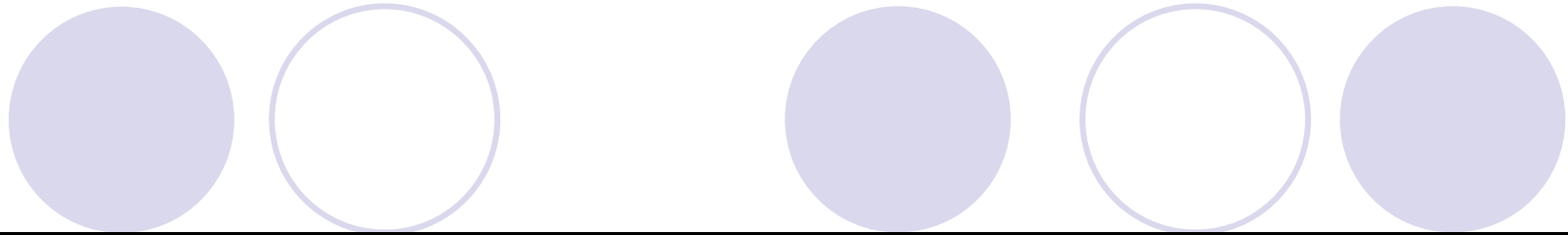
- 1976: ~ 5,000 biomedical journals, only in libraries
 - 2009: >25,000 biomedical journals, electronic on internet
 - The number of subspecialties and new vocabularies has increased 5-10-fold over past 20 years
- Το αναγνωστικό κοινό χρειάζεται δημοσιεύσεις που να χαρακτηρίζονται από
 - Σαφήνεια
 - Απλότητα

“We must strive to make our articles increasingly ‘reader friendly’ and cross-discipline in language...”



The NEW ENGLAND
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Jerome Kassier, M.D.
Former Editor, NEJM



**We need less research, better research, and
research done for the right reasons.....**

DG Altman, BMJ 1994; 308:283