

## Re: Put your babies on statins

**Source:** <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.med.cardiology/2004-08/0105.html>

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**From:** Robert (*Robert\_at\_hotmail.com*)

**Date:** 08/02/04

Date: Sun, 1 Aug 2004 17:05:48 -0700

"Herman Rubin" <hrubin@odds.stat.purdue.edu> wrote in message  
news:cejm0f\$63p8@odds.stat.purdue.edu...

> *In article <10gom53ob994511@corp.supernews.com>,*

> *Robert <Robert@hotmail.com> wrote:*

>

> > *"Herman Rubin" <hrubin@odds.stat.purdue.edu> wrote in message*

> > *news:cehd6v\$268o@odds.stat.purdue.edu...*

> > > *In article <10gg4at6assd6c9@corp.supernews.com>,*

> > > *Robert <Robert@hotmail.com> wrote:*

>

> > > > *"Herman Rubin" <hrubin@odds.stat.purdue.edu> wrote in message*

> > > *news:ce8udv\$3gjj@odds.stat.purdue.edu...*

> > > > *In article <lzHNc.3492\$3L7.1370@newssvr32.news.prodigy.com>,*

> > > > *Bill <xxx@yy.zz> wrote:*

>

> > > > > *"Zee" <zwalanga@yahoo.com> wrote in message > And: Some industry*

> > *studies*

> > > *say*

>

> .....

>

>

> > > *I have addressed this issue; good fraud legislation will*

> > > *take care of this point.*

>

> > > *However, this will not solve the problem. We can consider,*

> > > *for example, dietary sodium. I doUbt that any companies are*

> > > *getting rich on low-sodium foods. The meta-analyses are in*

> > > *sharp disagreement. However, what I gather from the review*

> > > *paper in \_Science\_, the journal of the American Association*

> > > *for the Advancement of Science, is that some people are*

> > > *sensitive to sodium, and the other factors may be far more*

> > > *important for the rest. Papers without "significant" results*

> > > *are rarely published.*

>

> > *Some diabetics are more sensitive to sodium as far as hypertension.*

>

- > *This is true for both diabetics and non-diabetics.*
- >
- > *>Significant results not published? How can you judge something that is not*
- > *>published? There are various reasons why something isn't published.*

Private

- > *>companies do private company research not intended for publication.*
- > *>University research is all about publishing. Editors must approve*
- > *>"significant" articles after reviewing.*
- >
- > *One of the aspects of the statistical religion, highly relied*
- > *upon by editors, is the use of "statistical significance".*
- > *This means how unlikely the result would be if there was no*
- > *effect due to the treatment; to what extent the treatment has*
- > *an effect CANNOT be ascertained from this figure. This also*
- > *is much of what meta-analysis works on.*
- >
- > *To give you an idea of how misleading "significance" can be,*
- > *there was an article on the carcinogenicity of the compound*
- > *giving the flavor to broiled fish. This was fed to rats at*
- > *high doses. About half of the 25 (IIRC) male rats fed the*
- > *compund developed various cancers, while only one control rat*
- > *out of 25 did. This was considered a moderate effect because*
- > *the p-value was something like .03. If there were only 5*
- > *rats, it is unlikely that it would be reported, and if there*
- > *were 500, it is likely that it would be highly significant*
- > *and be considered a major effect.*

Study size is everything so most people consult with statisticians as to the appropriate size. Most of these are mini-studies for various reasons that are sometimes followed up or not with larger ones. There is a bias at work as to which ones to follow up or not or to even publish or not.

- >
- > *I also heard of a case where the editor rejected the paper*
- > *because the p-value was .08; he told the author to resubmit*
- > *when it gets down to .05. While this is an appropriate*
- > *strategy under some circumstances for Bayesians, for those*
- > *believing in p-values, it is not.*
- >
- > *>> The other point of that is when*
- > *>> >other individuals perform research, such as individuals which proudly*
- > *>remark*
- > *>> >non drug money input, have a predetermined intended interest and*
- > *results*
- > *>> >show a negative anti0interst finds they don't publish that. They may*
- > *>tweek*
- > *>> >the study to obtain results they wanted and then publish those.*
- > *>> >It takes money to perform research and those people providing it*
- > *already*
- > *>> >have a predetermined interest.*
- > *>> >It is pretty much like a court of law where competing expert witnesses*

> >are  
> >> >bought and paid for.  
>  
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> >> --  
> >> *This address is for information only. I do not claim that these views  
> >> are those of the Statistics Department or of Purdue University.  
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(765)494-0558*  
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