

Re: Canadian doctors coming to the US

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.med.nutrition/2004-09/0160.html>

From: Herman Rubin (hruhin_at_odds.stat.purdue.edu)

Date: 09/02/04

Date: 2 Sep 2004 09:40:34 -0500

In article <mqEYc.4785\$JT3.18@newsread3.news.atl.earthlink.net>, George Conklin <nilknoc@earthlink.net> wrote:

> "Orac" <orac@mac.com> wrote in message

> news:orac-EF355F.16333529082004@news4-ge1.srv.hcvlny.cv.net...

>> In article <cgt8fn\$22fi@odds.stat.purdue.edu>,

>> hruhin@odds.stat.purdue.edu (Herman Rubin) wrote:

>>> In article <orac-A727DC.21270928082004@news4-ge1.srv.hcvlny.cv.net>,

>>> Orac <orac@mac.com> wrote:

>>>> In article <cgra53\$4a0m@odds.stat.purdue.edu>,

>>>> hruhin@odds.stat.purdue.edu (Herman Rubin) wrote:

>>>>> In article <41309b16\$0\$18253\$79c14f64@nan-newsreader-05.noos.net>,

>>>>> Lictor <ghostmlNOSPAM-REMOVE@online.fr> wrote:

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> Herman denies that the usual test of statistical significance is a vaid

> test of how effective medicine is. Thus anything the government posts would

> automatically be invalid in his mind. I have never really understood why he

> insists that only Bayesian analysis be used, since he has never shown that

> the results would be changed if you change the test. Anyway.....

A test of statistical significance tests whether the observations would be "sufficiently unlikely" if the null hypothesis is EXACTLY true, and NOTHING else.

It does not take into account how effective the procedure is under the alternatives, nor the magnitude of the effect under the null, and hence does not balance the various components of risk. If 50% of the people exposed to a disease without treatment died, and 51% of 1,000,000 people given a treatment survived, this would be HIGHLY significant. If there was a new treatment given to 4, and they all survived, this would not meet the customary significance level. Which treatment would YOU choose?

sci.med.nutrition: Re: Canadian doctors coming to the US

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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.
Herman Rubin, Department of Statistics, Purdue University
hrubin@stat.purdue.edu Phone: (765)494-6054 FAX: (765)494-0558