

Re: Really Dumb Question...

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- *From:* "Kevin E. Thorpe" <kevin.thorpe@xxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Thu, 14 Jun 2007 04:26:18 -0700
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On Jun 13, 5:50 pm, mcap <mca...@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

Dear All:

I know this is not a great question but I am curious. Here goes.....

If power is the ability to detect a significant difference given that one exists, then why is it important to evaluate it in studies where a significant difference was actually found (null was rejected). Is it because the rejection was based on the sample data but but the hypothesis refers to a theoretical population where the null is not true – two different things?

I know there is a bias towards type I errors in publication and not enough attention paid to type II errors.....

Thanks,
Marc

What you are describing is sometimes called "post-hoc power."
In my opinion, it is a pointless exercise no matter what the study outcome.