

# Newbie: How do I...

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*Source:* <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.stat.math/2005-12/msg00263.html>

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  - *Date:* 23 Dec 2005 19:34:36 -0800
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Hey people,

I'm new to this group, so please hear me out. I work in healthcare and am trying to use SPSS to help analyze a study I recently completed.

What I am trying to do is to prove that there is no difference between two groups. It's pretty easy to use the null hypothesis that  $\text{mean}(a) = \text{mean}(b)$ , use the  $t$ -test and I get a  $p$ -value of 0.74 – which means I was unable to detect any significant difference between the means, and cannot reject the null hypotheses. (Using  $\alpha = 0.05$ ) – unfortunately this means I can only say "we were unable to detect a significant difference between the two groups" and not "we were able to detect no significant difference between the two groups"

stop me if I'm wrong...

So if I understand correctly, I need to use a null hypothesis that the absolute difference between the two means is greater than a predefined clinical threshold, (called tolerance?) i.e.  $H_0$  is  $\text{mean}(a) - \text{mean}(b) > \delta$ , where  $\delta$  is the tolerance. if I can run a test on this hypothesis and reject it, I will prove that the two means are similar.

Anybody know how to do this using SPSS?

MW

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