

Contents

Blossoms on a Healthy Plant.....	1
Epidemiology and Biostatistics	1
Association and Causation.....	2
The Central Core of Epidemiology.....	3
Scurvy.....	4
Cholera	5
Causality and Common Sense	6
Biostatisticians and Sampling Error	7
Cooperation Between the Disciplines.....	7
The Eye of the Beholder.....	10
Controversy 1: Biased by Nature?	10
The Supremacy of Mathematics?	12
Hammer Blows.....	13
The Rise and Decline of Significance Testing.....	14
Advice to the Physician–Scientist.....	17
References	18
Chapter 1. Fundamentals of Clinical Trial Design	21
1.1 The Definition of a Clinical Trial	21
1.2 Principles of Randomization.....	22
1.2.1 Random Selection of Subjects from the Population	22
1.2.2 Random Allocation of Therapy	23
1.2.3 Stratified Randomization	25
1.3 The Use of Blinding.....	25
1.3.1 Single-Blinded Trials.....	26
1.3.2 Double-Blind Studies.....	27
1.3.3 Arthroscopy and the Art of the Double-Blind	28
1.4 Interim Monitoring of Clinical Trials	30

1.4.1 The Need for Trial Monitoring	30
1.4.2 Test Statistic Trajectories.....	31
1.4.3 Group Sequential Procedures.....	37
1.4.4 Stochastic Curtailment.....	39
1.5 Intention to Treat Analyses.....	39
1.6 Measures of Effect.....	40
1.7 The Goal of Statistical Hypothesis Testing	41
1.8 Sampling Error and Significance Testing	42
1.9 Statistical Power	43
1.10 Sample Size Computations	44
1.11 Analysis	44
References	45
Chapter 2. Multiple Analyses and the Random Experiment	47
2.1 Introduction	49
2.1.1 Advisory Committee Discussions.....	50
2.2 Prevalent Perceptions.....	50
2.3 Calling Your Shot.....	51
2.3.1 Vesnarinone	52
2.3.2 Losartan	54
2.3.3 Amlodipine	55
2.3.4 Carvedilol	56
2.3.5 Experimental Inconsistencies	58
2.4 Samples as Reflections	59
2.5 Representative Samples That Mislead?	60
2.6 Estimators	63
2.7 Random Experiments.....	64
2.7.1 What Is a Random Protocol?	64
2.7.2 Crippled Estimators in Random Experiments.....	65
2.7.3 Untrustworthy	65
2.8 Collecting the Entire Population.....	66
2.9 Regulatory Example	67
2.10 Additional Comments	68
2.10.1 Don't Rush to Judgment	68
2.10.2 Random Research in Extremis.....	69
2.10.3 Requirements of Investigators and Readers.....	69
2.11 Conclusions	70

Problems	70
References	71
Chapter 3. The Lure and Complexity of Multiple Analyses	75
3.1 Definition of Multiple Analyses	75
3.2 Why Do Multiple Analyses?	76
3.2.1 Logistical Efficiency.....	77
3.2.2 Epidemiologic Strength	77
3.2.3 The Need to Explore.....	79
3.3 Hypothesis Testing in Multiple Analyses.....	80
3.3.1 Nominal P-Values.....	80
3.3.2 The Error of Interest: Familywise Error.....	81
3.3.3 Initial Computations for ξ	82
3.3.4 FDA and Strength of Evidence	84
3.4 Is Tight Control of the FWER Necessary?	85
3.5 Community Protection.....	86
3.6 Efficacy and Drug Labels	89
3.7 The Bonferroni Inequality	90
3.8 Who Was Bonferroni?	93
3.9 Alternative Approaches	94
3.9.1 Sequentially Rejective Procedures.....	94
3.9.2 Who Chooses the α Level Threshold?	95
3.9.3 Resampling P-Values.....	98
3.10 Conclusions	99
Problems	100
References	101
Chapter 4. Multiple Analyses and Multiple Endpoints	105
4.1 Introduction	105
4.2 Important Assumptions.....	106
4.3 Clinical Trial Result Descriptors	106
4.3.1 Positive and Negative Trials	106
4.3.2 Null Results Versus Uninformative Results	107
4.4 The Strategy for Multiple Endpoint Analysis	108
4.5 Tactic 1: Triage the Endpoints.....	110
4.5.1 The Process of Endpoint Triage.....	111
4.5.2 An Example of the Endpoint Triage Process	111

4.5.3 Other Motivations for Triageing Endpoints.....	112
4.5.4 Endpoint Triageing and Labeling Indications	113
4.6 Endpoint Descriptors	113
4.6.1 Primary Endpoints	114
4.6.2 Secondary Endpoints	115
4.6.3 Exploratory Endpoints	116
4.6.4 Choose Wisely	119
4.6.5 Planning Well to Learn Well	119
4.7 Mapping Out the Manuscript.....	121
4.7.1 The Design Manuscript.....	121
4.7.2 Laying Out the Manuscripts	122
4.8 Multiple Primary Endpoint Interpretations.....	124
4.9 Tactic 2: Differential α Allocation.....	126
4.9.1 Differential α Rate Allocation	127
4.9.2 Clinical Decisions in Allocating α	130
4.9.3 Example 1: Different Community Standards.....	131
4.9.4 Example 2: The Underpowered Environment	135
4.9.5 Example 3: Efficacy Reconsideration.....	139
4.9.6 Example 4: Multiple Endpoints	143
4.10 Multiple Analyses.....	145
4.10.1 Example	146
4.11 Theory Versus Reality	148
Problems	152
References	153
Chapter 5. Introduction to Multiple Dependent Analyses I.....	155
5.1 Rationale for Dependent Testing	155
5.1.1 Review	155
5.2 The Notion of Dependent Analyses.....	156
5.2.1 The Nature of Relationships	156
5.2.2 Endpoint Coincidence and Correlation.....	158
5.2.3 Surrogate Endpoint Definition.....	162
5.3 Literature Review	163
5.3.1 Tukey's Procedure and Related Ad Hoc Computations	163
5.4 Hypothesis Test Dependency: Notation.....	166
5.5 The Independence Scenario	167
5.6 Demonstration of Perfect Dependence	169
5.7 Scenario Contrasts	171

5.8 Creation of the Dependency Parameter	172
5.9 Solving for α_2 as a Function of D	176
5.10 Example 1: Implantable Cardiac Devices.....	177
5.11 Example 2: The CURE Trial	181
5.12 Example 3: Paroxysmal Atrial Fibrillation.....	183
5.13 Choosing the Dependency Parameter	187
5.13.1 Overestimation of Dependency Parameter	187
5.13.2 Guides to Choosing the Dependency Parameter.....	188
5.14 Hyperdependent Analyses	191
5.14.1 Hyperdependence as a Disadvantage.....	191
5.14.2 Hyperdependence as an Advantage	193
Problems	195
References	196
Chapter 6. Multiple Dependent Analyses II.....	199
6.1 Three Multidependent Analyses.....	199
6.1.1 Example of Dependency Among Three Endpoints.....	202
6.2 The Solution for Four Dependent Analyses.....	205
6.3 K Multidependent Analyses	206
6.4 Conservative Dependence	207
6.5 Generalization of the Bonferroni Inequality	209
6.6 Subclass Dependence.....	210
6.6.1 Solutions for Two Subclasses	210
6.6.2 Therapy for CHF.....	212
6.7 Conclusions	216
Problems	217
References	218
Chapter 7. Introduction to Composite Endpoints	219
7.1 Introduction	219
7.2 Definitions and Motivations	220
7.3 Notation	220
7.4 Motivations for Combined Endpoints.....	220
7.4.1 Epidemiologic Considerations	221
7.4.2 Sample Size Concerns	221
7.4.3 Improved Resolving Power	223

7.5 Properties of Combined Endpoints	225
7.6 Component Endpoint Coherence	225
7.7 Coincidence	225
7.8 Mutual Exclusivity and Disparate Events.....	227
7.9 The Problem with Mutual Exclusivity.....	228
7.10 Balancing the Separation	229
7.11 Component Endpoint Equivalence	230
7.12 Therapy Homogeneity	232
7.13 Composite Endpoint Measurement Rules.....	234
7.14 Prospective Identification	234
7.15 Combined Endpoint Ascertainment.....	235
7.16 Conclusions	236
Problems	237
References	237
Chapter 8. Multiple Analyses and Composite Endpoints	239
8.1 Examples of Composite Endpoint Use	239
8.2 Lipid Research Clinics.....	240
8.3 UKPDS	241
8.4 HOPE.....	245
8.5 Principles of Combined Endpoint Use.....	247
8.6 α Allocation and Combined Endpoints.....	249
8.6.1 Familywise Error Control Procedures	249
8.6.2 Multiple Analyses and Composite Endpoint Distress.....	249
8.7 Example 1: Design for a Heart Failure Trial	251
8.8 Composite Endpoints: Diabetes Mellitus.....	256
8.9 “Soft” Components.....	261
8.10 Conclusions	263
Problems	264
References	264
Chapter 9. Introduction to Subgroup Analyses	267
9.1 Introduction	267

9.2 Definitions and Basic Concepts.....	268
9.2.1 Subgroups Versus Subgroup Strata	268
9.3 Interpretation Difficulties	269
9.4 Random Subgroups.....	269
9.5 Stratified Randomization.....	271
9.6 Proper Versus Improper Subgroups.....	274
9.7 “Intention-to-Treat” Versus “As Treated”	278
9.8 Example 1: Diabetes Mellitus in SAVE	279
9.9 Subgroup Result Depiction.....	281
Problems	283
References	284
Chapter 10. Subgroups II: Effect Domination and Controversy	287
10.1 Effect Domination Principle	287
10.2 Assessment of Subgroup Effects	288
10.2.1 Effect Modification and Interaction Analyses	288
10.2.2 Within-Stratum Effects	290
10.3 Problematic Subgroup Analyses.....	291
10.4 The MERIT Trial.....	292
10.5 Ethnicity and ACE-i therapy.....	295
10.6 The NETT Study	298
10.7 The Difficulties Continue	300
Problems	301
References	301
Chapter 11. Subgroups III: Confirmatory Analyses	303
11.1 Introduction	303
11.2 Focus on Stratum-Specific Effects	304
11.3 Confirmatory Analyses Requisites	305
11.4 Incorporating Subgroup Dependency	305
11.4.1 Therapy Homogeneity in Subgroup Evaluations	307
11.5 Subgroup Stratum-Specific Endpoints.....	310
11.5.1 Choosing the Subcohort Endpoints.....	311
11.5.2 Example	311

11.5.3 Dependency Parameter's Minimal Impact.....	316
11.6 Differential Event Rate	316
11.6.1 Event Rate Differences	318
11.7 Differential Efficacy	322
11.7.1 The Relationship Between Efficacy and Sample Size	322
11.7.2 Choosing an Efficacy Level.....	324
11.7.3 Matching Clinical and Statistical Significance	327
11.7.4 Example	328
11.8 The Differential Use of Event Precision.....	332
11.8.1 Sample Sizes for Continuous Endpoints.....	332
11.8.2 Cohort-Dependent Precision.....	333
11.9 Conclusions	335
Problems	337
Note	337
References	339
Chapter 12. Multiple Analyses and Multiple Treatment Arms	341
12.1 Introduction and Assumptions	341
12.2 Literature Review	342
12.3 Treatment Versus Treatment	343
12.4 Dose–Response Effects	350
12.5 Conclusions	356
References	357
Chapter 13. Combining Multiple Analyses	359
13.1 Introduction	359
13.2 Creating a Multiple Analysis Environment	360
13.3 Composite Endpoints Within Subgroups.....	363
13.4 Majority Subgroups in Clinical Trials	366
13.5 Atherosclerotic Disease Trial Designs.....	370
13.6 Multiple Treatment Groups Revisited	375
References	378
Chapter 14. Conclusions: The Two-Front War	379
14.1 Compromise and Sampling Error	379

14.2 The Handcuffs	381
References	384
Appendix A. Case Reports and Causality	385
A.1 Causality Tenets.....	387
A.2 Do Case Reports Prove Causality?	390
References	392
Appendix B. Estimation in Random Research.....	393
B.1 Introduction.....	393
B.2 Dichotomous Clinical Events.....	394
B.2.1 Event Rate for the Fixed Research Paradigm.....	394
B.2.2 Event Rates in Random Research	397
B.3 Hypothesis Testing.....	401
Appendix C. Relevant Code of Federal Regulations	403
C.1 Indications for Prescription Drugs	403
C.2 Adequate and Well-Controlled Trials	404
Appendix D. Sample Size Primer	409
D.1 General Discussion of Sample Size	409
D.2 Derivation of Sample Size	412
D.3 Example	414
References	415
Appendix E. Additional Dependent Hypothesis Testing Results.....	417
E.1 Derivation of Dependence for $K = 4$	417
E.2 Induction Arguments.....	419
E.3 Additional Recursive Relationships	423
References	429
Index.....	431