

Case Study Comparing Bayesian and Frequentist Approaches for Multiple Treatment Comparisons

Methods Research Report

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(Juliet Mertz)

CASE STUDY COMPARING BAYESIAN AND FREQUENTIST APPROACHES FOR MULTIPLE TREATMENT COMPARISONS

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CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform. Paperback. Book Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. Paperback. 92 pages. Dimensions: 11.0in. x 8.5in. x 0.2in. There is growing interest in assessing the relative effects of treatments by comparing one with another. Because few studies are typically available to provide evidence from direct head-to-head comparisons; we must frequently rely on indirect comparisons that use statistical techniques to estimate the treatment effects from studies of each given treatment against controls under an assumption of consistency. A number of techniques have been proposed to address this challenge. The problems with such systematic reviews, metaanalysis, and synthesis in general are that the circumstances of each study and the samples examined may vary and controls may differ among studies. Mixed (or multiple) treatment comparisons (MTCs), sometimes called network meta-analysis, refers to methods that compare treatments by combining all available evidence from studies that form a network of evidence (including studies comparing three or more treatment arms) in the absence of direct head-to-head comparisons. By synthesizing direct and indirect comparisons, we can improve the precision of estimates for treatment effects. While frequentist methods for MTCs certainly exist, they become increasingly difficult to fit less constrained models. A Bayesian analysis can easily construct such complicated models with less assumptions and permits explicit posterior inference regarding the probability that each treatment is best for a specific outcome. Two major issues to be considered in MTC meta-analysis are statistical heterogeneity and evidence inconsistency. We conducted a systematic literature review that analyzed clinical comparative efficacy of pharmacological treatments for urgency urinary incontinence (UI) in adult women. Statistical heterogeneity represents effect size variability between studies. Since each study is conducted under different conditions and populations, study-specific effect sizes may vary even when they are drawn from an underlying population of study effects that has...



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