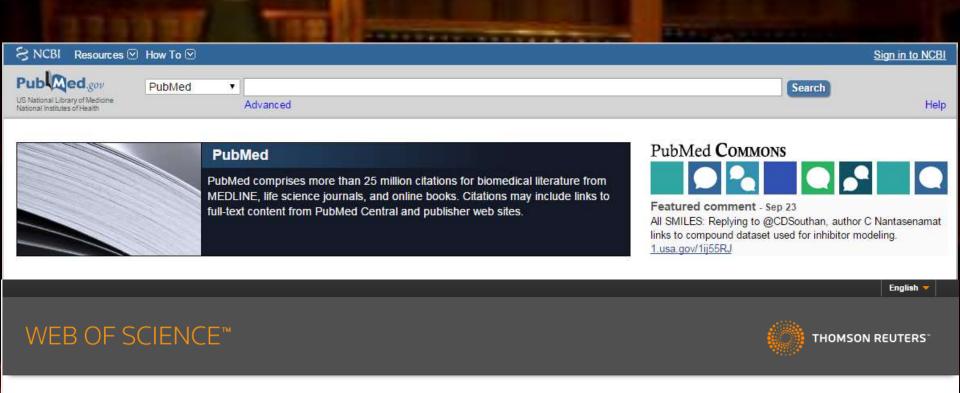


# Najčešće pogrješke u statističkoj obradbi podataka (i kako ih izbjeći)

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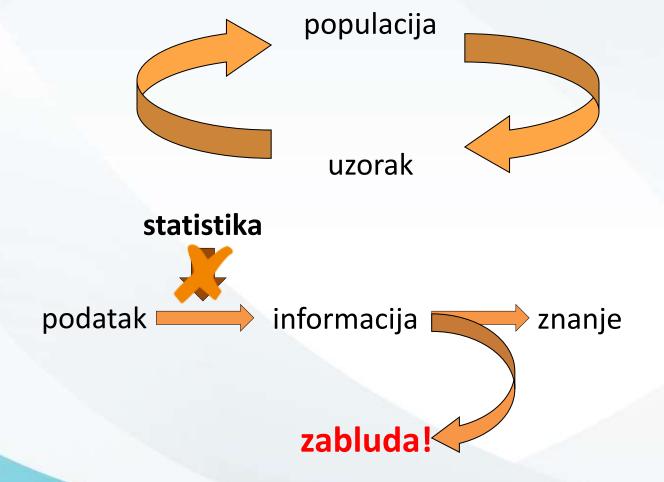


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### Zašto je važno NE griješiti





### Najčešće statističke pogrješke...

- ... u oblikovanju uzorka
- ... u odabiru mjernih varijabli
- ... u unosu i razvrstavanju podatka
- ... u prikazu podataka
- ... u odabiru statističkih testova
- … u prikazu rezultata statističkih testova
- ... u tumačenju rezultata statističkih testova



#### A. Errors related to p-values

- a. p-values given in closed form,
- p-values lacking after statistical tests,
- c. Incorrect p-values,
- d. Incorrect demonstration of p-values

#### B. Errors related to tests

- 1. Statistical technique used but not defined,
- II. Insufficient data presented for the statistical test,
- III. Incorrect name of the statistical test,
- IV. Statistical technique defined but not used,
- V. Use of incorrect test,
- VI. Statistical analysis required but not performed
- C. Errors in the summarization of data
- D. Mathematical demonstration errors
- E. Statistical symbol errors
- F. Incomprehensible statistical terms
- G. Inappropriate interpretation
- H. Errors in (statistical) terminology
- Incorrect and insufficient demonstration of descriptive statistics
- J. Presentation of statistical method-analysis and results in the incorrect section of the manuscript



### Statistical Errors in Medical Publication

#### Abstract

While errors can be application-related, they can also occur at different stages of the study such as planning, implementation, analysis, interpretation, and presentation, all of which are related to the statistical topics. The statistical errors in the study process can be categorized as the ones that occur

- (i) In the research process (before reporting)
- (ii) In presentations or publications.

Some statistical errors in a publication can be assessed, while some others cannot be. In publications, not all of the statistical quantities can be checked; it is only possible to check the accuracy of some of the statistics via reported descriptive values. In addition, some terminology, demonstration and interpretation errors can be identified. As such, discussions related to the statistical errors in publications are limited to errors that can possibly be determined.

Review Article

Volume 2 Issue 1 - 2015

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# Statistical errors in medical research – a review of common pitfalls

Alexander M. Strasak, Qamruz Zaman, Karl P. Pfeiffer, Georg Göbel, Hanno Ulmer

Department of Medical Statistics, Informatics and Health Economics, Medical University Innsbruck

#### Table 1

Statistical errors and deficiencies related to the design of a study. Study aims and primary outcome measures not clearly stated or unclear

Failure to report number of participants or observations (sample size)

Failure to report withdrawals from the study

No a priori sample size calculation/effect-size estimation (power calculation)

No clear a priori statement or description of the Null-Hypothesis under investigation

Failure to use and report randomisation

Method of randomisation not clearly stated

Failure to use and report blinding if possible

Failure to report initial equality of baseline characteristics and comparability of study groups

Use of an inappropriate control group

Inappropriate testing for equality of baseline characteristics



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#### Table 2

Statistical errors and deficiencies related to data analysis.

#### Use of wrong statistical tests

Incompatibility of statistical test with type of data examined

Unpaired tests for paired data or vice versa

Inappropriate use of parametric methods

Use of an inappropriate test for the hypothesis under investigation

#### Inflation of Type I error

Failure to include a multiple-comparison correction

Inappropriate post-hoc Subgroup analysis

#### Typical errors with Student's t-test

Failure to prove test assumptions

Unequal sample sizes for paired t-test

Improper multiple pair-wise comparisons of more than two groups

Use of an unpaired t-test for paired data or vice versa

#### Typical errors with χ2-tests

No Yates-continuity correction reported if small numbers

Use of chi-square when expected numbers in a cell are <5

No explicit statement of the tested Null-Hypotheses

Failure to use multivariate techniques to adjust for confounding factors



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#### Table 3

Errors related to the documentation of statistical methods applied. Failure to specify/define all tests used clear and correctly

Failure to state number of tails

Failure to state if test was paired or unpaired

Wrong names for statistical tests

Referring to unusual or obscure methods without explanation or reference

Failure to specify which test was applied on a given set of data if more than one test was done

"Where appropriate" statement



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#### Table 4

Statistical errors and deficiencies related to the presentation of study data. Inadequate graphical or numerical description of basic data

Mean but no indication of variability of the data

Giving SE instead of SD to describe data

Use of mean (SD) to describe non-normal data

Failure to define ± notion for describing variability or use of unlabeled error bars

Inappropriate and poor reporting of results

Results given only as p-values, no confidence intervals given

Confidence intervals given for each group rather than for contrasts

"p = NS", "p <0.05" or other arbitrary thresholds instead of reporting exact p-values

Numerical information given to an unrealistic level of precision



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#### Table 5

Statistical errors and deficiencies related to the interpretation of study findings.

#### Wrong interpretation of results

"non significant" interpreted as "no effect", or "no difference"

Drawing conclusions not supported by the study data

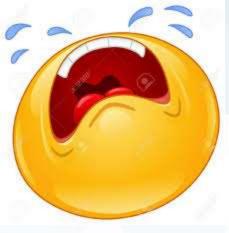
Significance claimed without data analysis or statistical test mentioned

#### Poor interpretation of results

Disregard for Type II error when reporting non-significant results

Missing discussion of the problem of multiple significance testing if done

Failure to discuss sources of potential bias and confounding factors



### Biochemia Medica 2007;17(1):10-5

#### Odabrane teme iz biostatistike

Lessons in biostatistics

Što treba znati kada izračunavamo koeficijent korelacije? What we need to know when calculating the coefficient of correlation?

Martina Udovičić<sup>1</sup>, Ksenija Baždarić<sup>1</sup>, Lidija Bilić-Zulle<sup>1,2</sup>, Mladen Petrovečki<sup>1,3</sup>

- uvjeti za izračunavanje povezanosti (veličina uzorka i raspodjela podataka)
- tumačenje značajnosti koeficijenta korelacije
- zaključivanje o uzročno posljedičnoj vezi
- usporedba dvaju koefcijenata korelacije

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### Biochemia Medica 2009:19(3):294-300

### Izvorni stručni članak

### Original professional article

# Statističke pogreške u rukopisima zaprimljenim u časopis *Biochemia Medica*Statistical errors in manuscripts submitted to *Biochemia Medica* journal

Ana-Maria Šimundić, Nora Nikolac

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**TABLICA 1.** Učestalost statističkih pogrešaka u člancima zaprimljenih u uredništvo časopisa *Biochemia Medica*, u periodu od 2006. do 2009. Pogreške su poredane prema učestalosti u padajući niz.

**TABLE 1.** The frequency of statistical errors in manuscripts submitted to Biochemia Medica during 2006-2009. Errors are sorted according to their frequency.

Error	Error rate N (proportion)
Power analysis not provided	55/55 (1.0)
Incorrect use of statistical test for comparing three or more groups for differences	21/28 (0.75)
Incorrect presentation of P value	36/54 (0.66)
Incorrect choice of the statistical test	34/55 (0.62)
Incorrect interpretation of correlation analysis	11/20 (0.55)
Incorrect use or presentation of descriptive analysis	19/55 (0.35)
Incorrect interpretation of P value	12/54 (0.22)

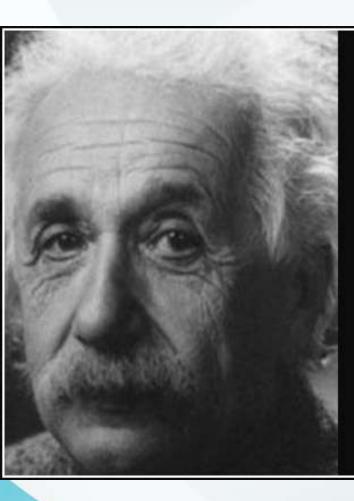












# The only thing more dangerous than ignorance is arrogance

— Albert Einstein —

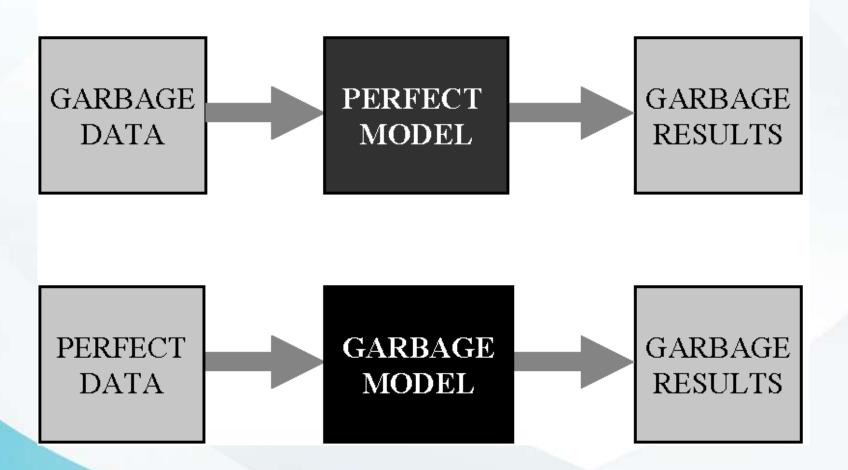
AZ QUOTES





### MODEL CALCULATIONS

"Garbage In-garbage Out" Paradigm



# "If you torture the data long enough, it will confess."

Ronald Coase

Professor Emeritus of Economics University of Chicago Law School





# WhatYouCanDo:

- spoznati važnost pravilne obrade podataka
- naučiti osnove biostatistike
- uključiti statističara u tim prije početka istraživanja
- dati rad na statističku predrecenziju
- ne kopirati tuđe statističke obrade
- oprez s lako dostupnom programskom potporom za obradu podataka



### Što časopisi mogu učiniti...

- objaviti opširne upute za autore
- uvoditi statističke urednike i recenzente
- za svaki rad s obradom podataka učiniti statističku recenziju
- educirati recenzente, autore i urednike





### Zahvaljujem na pozornosti 😊





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