
Contents

Summary Tables.....	xxix
Preface.....	xxxv
Frequently Used Notations.....	xxxvii
1. Medical Uncertainties.....	1
1.1 Uncertainties in Health and Disease.....	2
1.1.1 Uncertainties due to Intrinsic Variation.....	2
1.1.1.1 Biologic Variability.....	2
1.1.1.2 Genetic Variability.....	3
1.1.1.3 Variation in Behavior and Other Host Factors.....	3
1.1.1.4 Environmental Variability.....	3
1.1.1.5 Sampling Fluctuations.....	3
1.1.2 Natural Variation in Assessment.....	4
1.1.2.1 Observer Variability.....	4
1.1.2.2 Variability in Treatment Strategies.....	4
1.1.2.3 Instrument and Laboratory Variability.....	4
1.1.2.4 Imperfect Tools.....	4
1.1.2.5 Incomplete Information on the Patient.....	5
1.1.2.6 Poor Compliance with the Regimen.....	5
1.1.3 Knowledge Limitations.....	5
1.1.3.1 Epistemic Uncertainties.....	5
1.1.3.2 Chance Variability.....	6
1.1.3.3 Diagnostic, Therapeutic, and Prognostic Uncertainties.....	6
1.1.3.4 Predictive and Other Uncertainties.....	6
1.2 Uncertainties in Medical Research.....	7
1.2.1 Empiricism in Medical Research.....	7
1.2.1.1 Laboratory Experiments.....	7
1.2.1.2 Clinical Trials.....	7
1.2.1.3 Surgical Procedures.....	7
1.2.1.4 Epidemiological Research.....	8
1.2.2 Elements of Minimizing the Impact of Uncertainties on Research.....	8
1.2.2.1 Proper Design.....	8
1.2.2.2 Improved Medical Methods.....	8
1.2.2.3 Analysis and Synthesis.....	9
1.3 Uncertainties in Health Planning and Evaluation.....	9
1.3.1 Health Situation Analysis.....	9
1.3.1.1 Identification of the Specifics of the Problem.....	10
1.3.1.2 Magnitude of the Problem.....	10
1.3.1.3 Health Infrastructure.....	10
1.3.1.4 Feasibility of Remedial Steps.....	11
1.3.2 Evaluation of Health Programs.....	11
1.4 Management of Uncertainties: About This Book.....	11
1.4.1 Contents of the Book.....	12
1.4.1.1 Chapters.....	12
1.4.1.2 Limitations and Strengths.....	13
1.4.1.3 New in the Fourth Edition.....	14
1.4.1.4 Unique Contribution of This Book.....	14

1.4.2	Salient Features of the Text.....	15
1.4.2.1	System of Notations.....	15
1.4.2.2	Guide Chart of the Biostatistical Methods.....	16
References	16
Exercises	16
2.	Basics of Medical Studies.....	17
2.1	Study Protocol.....	17
2.1.1	Problem, Objectives, and Hypotheses.....	17
2.1.1.1	Problem.....	17
2.1.1.2	Broad and Specific Objectives.....	18
2.1.1.3	Hypotheses.....	18
2.1.2	Protocol Content.....	19
2.2	Types of Medical Studies.....	21
2.2.1	Elements of a Study Design.....	22
2.2.2	Basic Types of Study Design.....	22
2.2.2.1	Descriptive Studies.....	23
2.2.2.2	Analytical Studies and Their Basic Types.....	24
2.2.3	Choosing a Design.....	24
2.2.3.1	Recommended Design for Particular Setups.....	24
2.2.3.2	Choice of Design by Level of Evidence.....	25
2.3	Data Collection.....	27
2.3.1	Nature of Data.....	27
2.3.1.1	Factual, Knowledge-Based, and Opinion-Based Data.....	27
2.3.1.2	Method of Obtaining the Data.....	27
2.3.2	Tools of Data Collection.....	28
2.3.2.1	Existing Records.....	28
2.3.2.2	Questionnaires and Schedules.....	28
2.3.2.3	Likert Scale.....	29
2.3.2.4	Guttman Scale.....	30
2.3.3	Pretesting and Pilot Study.....	30
2.4	Nonsampling Errors and Other Biases.....	31
2.4.1	Nonresponse.....	31
2.4.2	Variety of Biases to Guard Against.....	31
2.4.2.1	List of Biases.....	31
2.4.2.2	Steps for Minimizing Bias.....	35
References	35
Exercises	36
3.	Sampling Methods.....	37
3.1	Sampling Concepts.....	37
3.1.1	Advantages and Limitations of Sampling.....	37
3.1.1.1	Sampling Fluctuations.....	37
3.1.1.2	Advantages of Sampling.....	38
3.1.1.3	Limitations of Sampling.....	38
3.1.2	Some Special Terms Used in Sampling.....	38
3.1.2.1	Unit of Inquiry and Sampling Unit.....	38
3.1.2.2	Sampling Frame.....	39
3.1.2.3	Parameters and Statistics.....	39
3.1.2.4	Sample Size.....	39
3.1.2.5	Nonrandom and Random Sampling.....	39
3.1.2.6	Sampling Weight.....	39
3.2	Common Methods of Random Sampling.....	40

3.2.1	Simple Random Sampling	40
3.2.2	Stratified Random Sampling	41
3.2.3	Multistage Random Sampling	43
3.2.4	Cluster Random Sampling	43
3.2.5	Systematic Random Sampling	45
3.2.6	Choice of the Method of Random Sampling	46
3.3	Some Other Methods of Sampling	46
3.3.1	Other Random Methods of Sampling	46
3.3.1.1	Probability Proportional to Size Sampling	47
3.3.1.2	Area Sampling	47
3.3.1.3	Inverse Sampling	47
3.3.1.4	Consecutive Subjects Attending a Clinic	48
3.3.1.5	Sequential Sampling	48
3.3.2	Nonrandom Methods of Sampling	48
3.3.2.1	Convenience Sample	48
3.3.2.2	Other Types of Purposive Samples	49
	References	49
	Exercises	49
4.	Designs for Observational Studies	51
4.1	Some Basic Concepts	51
4.1.1	Antecedent and Outcome	51
4.1.2	Confounders	52
4.1.3	Effect Size	53
4.1.4	Ecological Studies	53
4.2	Prospective Studies	53
4.2.1	Variations of Prospective Studies	54
4.2.1.1	Cohort Study	54
4.2.1.2	Longitudinal Study	54
4.2.1.3	Repeated Measures Study	55
4.2.2	Selection of Subjects for a Prospective Study	55
4.2.2.1	Comparison Group in a Prospective Study	55
4.2.3	Potential Biases in Prospective Studies	56
4.2.3.1	Selection Bias	56
4.2.3.2	Bias due to Loss in Follow-Up	56
4.2.3.3	Assessment Bias and Errors	56
4.2.3.4	Bias due to Change in the Status	57
4.2.3.5	Confounding Bias	57
4.2.3.6	Post Hoc Bias	57
4.2.4	Merits and Demerits of Prospective Studies	57
4.2.4.1	Merits of Prospective Studies	57
4.2.4.2	Demerits of Prospective Studies	57
4.3	Retrospective Studies	58
4.3.1	Case-Control Design	58
4.3.1.1	Nested Case-Control Design	59
4.3.2	Selection of Cases and Controls	59
4.3.2.1	Selection of Cases	60
4.3.2.2	Selection of Controls	60
4.3.2.3	Sampling Methods in Retrospective Studies	60
4.3.2.4	Confounders and Matching	60
4.3.3	Merits and Demerits of Case-Control Studies	61
4.3.3.1	Merits of Case-Control Studies	61
4.3.3.2	Demerits of Case-Control Studies	61