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Basic & Clinical Biostatistics (LANGE Basic Science)



Synopsis

A Doody's Core Title for 2015! A comprehensive user-friendly introduction to biostatistics and epidemiology applied to medicine, clinical practice, and research. Features • Presenting Problems • (case studies) drawn from studies published in the medical literature, end-of-chapter, and a CD-ROM with data sets and statistical software programs.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

1. Huge breadth: covers topics of interest to clinicians and plenty of material (see below) for aspiring researchers. Algorithms and lay-out keeps the big picture easily in view. 2. Solved problems: methodical answers, clear, instructive. 3. Appropriate depth: is mathematically correct -- not oversimplified at the cost of accuracy -- while introducing the key formulas and concepts. Much explanatory text makes the ideas clear rather than esoteric derivations. 4. Includes statistics software: menu-driven so "user friendly," has basic and advanced functions. 5. Practical approach: sample problems and exercises are modelled around cases rather than just theory. These cases have data-base directly on the accompanying software so readers may 'learn' and then 'do' immediately. 6. I learned a lot from this book :-)

I bought this book in 1990 (an older version) and have never had a statistics course. I have found it to be an extremely helpful starting point for the application of statistical tests to biomedical

problems. From this I have gone on and used more sophisticated tools for computation and have only rarely needed to seek out the advice of experts. The book is packed full of information and covers the broad range of problems most often encountered in biomedical science. It emphasizes an understanding of the choice an appropriate test for a given problem. Flow charts also help guide the user to the right test and the correct chapter. For this reason I have come back to it repeatedly over the years and it has become well worn. It is sparse on explanation of the statistical or mathematical proofs of methods so it is more of a cookbook than as a theoretical treatise.

This book was used in my grad level intro biostatistics course some months ago- for an intro course (or at least for my learning style) it just didn't work and I had to find alternate resources for almost everything I was studying. (Note that I heard the same or similar from a few of the other students in my class in informal conversation). I think they were trying to be innovative with how they arranged it - but, at least for me, the material didn't build logically and I kept jumping back and forth trying to figure out what was going on and build my knowledge/expertise in a logical way. Other people have pointed out the errata, which my teacher had to bring up every once in a while - for a beginner who wouldn't be able to identify them, it's not a good thing. On a plus, it's nice that it comes w/ some databases on CD you can play with. There are some good flowcharts on picking a test. And it does present good clinical context. I'll keep the book as an additional reference, but in my opinion it was not the right one to learn the basics on if you're starting at zero. From a student's perspective, wouldn't recommend it at all for a beginning class.-----A couple of years later - and a fair amount of biostats under my belt - I think I was right. It's one of my useful references now that I've learned biostats from other sources.

Pros:1. Excellent worked examples from real clinical studies.2. The explanations are very good overall.Cons:1. The software is basically useless for the text. Only a fraction of the examples are usable using the NCSS software provided, and even the datasets provided do not map to the examples in the text (at least, I couldn't get the same results, even when using Stata or R). Besides, there is no explanation on how to use NCSS and NCSS docs are pretty lame.2. If NCSS was so great, why were there so many outputs from other software packages?3. Don't ask questions in each of the chapters and not provide answers. I don't mean the problems at the end of the chapters, but the questions asked at various points within each chapter. Asking a question without giving an answer is not good for learning.Fix:1. Rewrite all the code using R. It's a free software package and all the statistics can be done using it.2. Make sure the datasets map to the what's in the book.

Otherwise, how do you know you're calculating it correctly?

I have very little background in biostats, and need to learn it for medical research and research design. This book is difficult to read, has far too much emphasis on mathematics and far too little emphasis on concept. After a whole quarter in Biostats using this book, I can tell you very little about how and when to employ certain basic statistics tests or interpret them with confidence. The answers in the back are often erroneous, as is some of the text (according to my professor). The only thing I can say that is good about this text is that the NCSS software that comes with it I think may be helpful at some point. I am back in the market for a better book!

I actually thought this book was pretty good. I haven't used the cd. The definitions are pretty clear. I use this in conjunction with Gordis' Epidemiology for quick review. I find Rothman and Greenland is not good for that. When I am thinking about research design and elements of statistical analysis this book is easy to turn to to just go over why one test may be better than another--I am a medical student with an MPH in epi who has worked on several research projects, and I think this book is pretty helpful as a simple aid in the transition from research assistant to co-investigator.

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