


Epidemiology Kept Simple




Chapter 4 Screening for Disease

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Identifying Cases


- “Case” ≡ someone who truly has the condition we are looking for
- “Diagnostic test” ≡ any method used to detect a cases (not just medical tests)



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Reproducibility & Validity

- Reproducibility and validity are *different* aspects of accuracy
- **Reproducibility** ≡ agreement upon repetition, i.e., consistency
- **Validity** ≡ ability to discriminate accurately



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§4.2 Reproducibility

- Two independent raters classify each patient as either positive or negative
- Cross-tabulate results

		Rater B		Total
		+	-	
Rater A	+	a	b	p ₁
	-	c	d	q ₁
Total		p ₂	q ₂	N

We quantify reproducibility with this **kappa (κ)** statistic

$$\kappa = \frac{2(ad - bc)}{p_1q_2 + p_2q_1}$$

[Link to Formula sheet](#)

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Kappa Interpretation

κ quantifies agreement *above chance*

- κ = 1 → perfect agreement
- 0.7 < κ < 1 → excellent agreement
- 0.3 < κ < 0.7 → fair agreement
- κ < 0.3 → poor agreement
- κ ≈ 0 → random agreement
- κ = -1 → perfect disagreement

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Example: Kappa

To what extent are these results reproducible?

		Rater B		Total
		D+	D-	
Rater A	D+	20	4	24
	D-	5	71	76
Total		25	75	100

$$\kappa = \frac{2(ad - bc)}{p_1q_2 + p_2q_1} = \frac{2[(20)(71) - (4)(5)]}{[(24)(75) + (25)(76)]} = 0.76$$

∴ Excellent agreement

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§4.3 Validity

- Compare test results to **gold standard**
- Each patient is classified as either true positive (TP), true negative (TN), false positive (FP), or false negative (FN)
- Crosstab results

Test	D+	D-	Total
T+	TP	FP	TP+FP
T-	FN	TN	FN+TN
Total	TP+FN	FP+TN	N

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Sensitivity

Test	D+	D-	Total
T+	TP	FP	TP+FP
T-	FN	TN	FN+TN
Total	TP+FN	FP+TN	N

Sensitivity (SEN) ≡ proportion of cases that test positive

$$SEN = \frac{TP}{\text{those w/disease}} = \frac{TP}{TP + FN}$$

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Specificity

Test	D+	D-	Total
T+	TP	FP	TP+FP
T-	FN	TN	FN+TN
Total	TP+FN	FP+TN	N

Specificity (SPEC) ≡ proportion of noncases that test negative

$$SPEC = \frac{TN}{\text{those w/out disease}} = \frac{TN}{TN + FP}$$

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Predictive Value Positive

Test	D+	D-	Total
T+	TP	FP	TP+FP
T-	FN	TN	FN+TN
Total	TP+FN	FP+TN	N

Predictive value positive (PVP) ≡ proportion of positive tests that are actually cases

$$PVP = \frac{TP}{\text{those who test positive}} = \frac{TP}{TP + FP}$$

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Predictive Value Negative

Test	D+	D-	Total
T+	TP	FP	TP+FP
T-	FN	TN	FN+TN
Total	TP+FN	FP+TN	N

Predictive value negative (PVN) ≡ proportion of negative tests that are actually non-cases

$$PVN = \frac{TN}{\text{those who test negative}} = \frac{TN}{TN + FN}$$

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Prevalence


Test	D+	D-	Total
T+	TP	FP	TP+FP
T-	FN	TN	FN+TN
Total	TP+FN	FP+TN	N

- **[True] prevalence** = (TP + FN) / N
- **Apparent prevalence** = (TP + FP) / N

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Conditional Probabilities

- $\Pr(A|B) \equiv$ "the probability of A given B", e.g., $\Pr(T+|D+) \equiv$ "probability test positive given disease positive"
- $SEN = \Pr(T+|D+)$
- $SPEC \equiv \Pr(T-|D-)$
- $PVP = \Pr(D+|T+)$
- $PVN = \Pr(D-|T-)$



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Example: Low Prevalence Population

Conditions: $N = 1,000,000$; Prevalence = .001

	D+	D-	Total
T+			
T-			
Total	1000		1,000,000

Prevalence = (those with disease) / N
Therefore:
(Those with disease) = Prevalence \times N
= .001 \times 1,000,000 = 1000

Example: Low Prevalence Population

Number of non-cases, i.e., $TN + FP$

	D+	D-	Total
T+			
T-			
Total	1000	999,000	1,000,000

$1,000,000 - 1,000 = 999,000$

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Example: Low Prevalence Population

Assume test SENSitivity = .99, i.e.,
Test will pick up 99% of those with disease

	D+	D-	Total
T+	990		
T-			
Total	1000		

$TP = SEN \times (TP + FN)$
= 0.99×1000
= 990

Example: Low Prevalence Population

It follows that:

	D+	D-	Total
T+	990		
T-	10		
Total	1000		

$FN = 1000 - 990 = 10$

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Example: Low Prevalence Population

Suppose test SPECificity = .99
i.e., it will correctly identify 99% of the noncases

	D+	D-	Total
T+			
T-		989,010	
Total		999,000	

$TN = SPEC \times (TN + FP)$
= $0.99 \times 999,000$
= 989,010

Example: Low Prevalence Population

It follows that:

	D+	D-	Total
T+		9,990	
T-		989,010	
Total		999,000	

$FPs = 999,000 - 989,010 = 9,900$

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Example: Low Prevalence Population

It follows that the Predictive Value Positive is :

	D+	D-	Total
T+	990	9,990	10,980
T-	10	989,010	989,020
Total	1000	999,000	1,000,000

$PVP = TP / (TP + FP) = 990 / 10,980 = 0.090$
Strikingly low PVP!

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Example: Low Prevalence Population

It follows that the Predictive Value Negative is:

	D+	D-	Total
T+	990	9,990	10,980
T-	10	989,010	989,020
Total	1000	999,000	1,000,000

$PVN = TN / (TN + FP) = 989,010 / 999,000 = 0.99$

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PVP and Prevalence

- PVP a function of
 - PREvalence
 - SENSitivity
 - Specifity
- Figure shows relation between PVP, PREV, & SPEC (test SEN = constant .99)

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Screening Strategy

- First stage \Rightarrow high SENS (few cases missed)
- Second stage \Rightarrow high SPEC (sort out false positives from true positives)

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Cutoff Point Concept

- Sensitivity and specificity are influenced by they cutoff point used to determine positive results
- Example: Immunofluorescence HIV optical density ratio
- At what point do we say optical density is sufficiently high to say the test is positive?

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