


Lecture 2a: Practice Problems: John McGready



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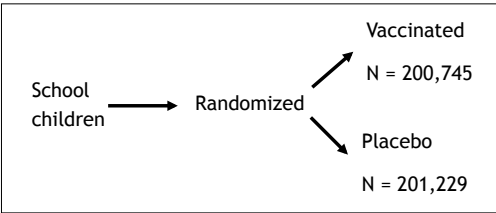
Practice Problems

1. Can you explain confounding to a classmate or other acquaintance? Can you think of an example to help with your explanation?

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Practice Problems

2. Consider a large, randomized study such as the Salk polio vaccine trial



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graph LR; A[School children] --> B[Randomized]; B --> C[Vaccinated  
N = 200,745]; B --> D[Placebo  
N = 201,229]
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Practice Problems

2. How does randomization help to ensure that the outcome /treatment group relationship observed is not confounded by any factors known or unknown? More specifically, what part of the necessary conditions for confounding does randomization eliminate?

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Practice Problems

3. Suppose a study were performed to assess the relationship between a diet choice (vegan, lacto-ovo vegetarian, neither) and cholesterol level. Subjects were not randomized to a dietary group. Before interpreting the relationship, can you name some potential factors for which it would be advisable to control?

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