Survival Analysis

Analysis of time to event data



- Survival time: Time from randomization to event
- Censored: Incomplete observation of survival time
 - Loss to followup, competing event, end of study

Informative up to time censored

Kaplan Meier Survival Estimate

- S(t) = Prob of surviving longer than time t
- Events at 8, 14; Censored at 12,20
- ▶ Interval specific survival probabilities $= \frac{\# \text{ surviving}}{\# \text{ at risk}}$

$$\frac{[0,8)}{\frac{4}{4}} \quad \frac{[8,12)}{\frac{3}{4}} \quad \frac{[12,14)}{\frac{3}{3}} \quad \frac{[14,20)}{\frac{1}{2}}$$

 Kaplan Meier Estimate: S(t) calculated using the product of conditional probabilities

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$$S(8) = \frac{4}{4} * \frac{3}{4} = 0.75$$

• $S(14) = \frac{4}{4} * \frac{3}{4} * \frac{3}{3} * \frac{1}{2} = 0.375$

Cumulative Incidence Plot

• Cumulative Incidence = 1 - S(t)



 Vertical axis represents the probability of incidence in hypothetical cohort, not the observed incidence

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Risk Estimates: Hazard Ratio

- T: Time that event occurs (random variable)
- Hazard rate: Prob of having an event in next interval (t + Δt) given that you are event-free up to time t
 - $\lambda(t) = \Pr(t \le T \le t + \Delta t | T > t) \div \Delta t$

• Hazard Ratio =
$$\frac{\lambda_{\text{treat}}(t)}{\lambda_{\text{control}}(t)}$$

- Multiplicative Effect: "Subjects on aspirin are 0.95 (95% CI: [0.79,1,31]) times as likely to have VTE as subjects on control"
- Cox (proportional hazards) model
 - $\lambda(t; x) = \lambda_0 \exp(\beta * x); x = 0, 1$
 - Proportional Hazards assumption: Hazard Ratio is constant at all times t

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Hazard Ratio approximates Relative Risk

Risk Estimates: Multiplicative

Relative Risk

- ► $\mathsf{RR} = \frac{\Pr(\text{Disease in Exposed/Treated})}{\Pr(\text{Disease in Non-Exposed/Control})} = \frac{\Pr(D^+|E^+)}{\Pr(D^+|E^-)}$
- Most interesting risk measure
- Odds Ratio
 - ▶ $OR = \frac{Odds(Disease in Exposed/Treated)}{Odds(Disease in Non-Exposed/Control)} = \frac{Odds(D^+|E^+)}{Odds(D^+|E^-)}$

• Odds
$$(D^+|E^+) = \frac{\Pr(D^+|E^+)}{1-\Pr(D^+|E^+)}$$

- Approximates RR for rare diseases
- Hazard Ratio

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$$HR = \frac{\lambda_{treat}(t)}{\lambda_{control}(t)}$$

- Approximates RR when $\Delta t \rightarrow 0$
- Interpretation: Exposure multiplies risk

Risk Estimates: Additive

- Rate difference = $rate_{treat}(t) rate_{control}(t)$
 - Additive Effect: "VTE events per 1000 person years are 0.06 lower in subjects taking aspirin compared to subjects on control"
 - Much less common than multiplicative model for survival data

Interpretation: Exposure adds to risk