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18 August 2022

Memorandum

To: Trialists

Fr: Curtis Meinert

Re: Intention to treat analysis

The other day I got a note from Susan Ellenberg asking if I knew when the term “intention to treat analysis” entered our vocabulary.

I do not, but my guess is the early 60s.

The question put me searching, starting with my dictionary; no entry.

Truth being I never liked the term because of the speculative meaning of "intention".

My preferred term is "analysis by treatment assignment".

I am attaching a paper by John Lachin (2000) titled *Statistical Considerations in the Intent-to-Treat Principle* [[click here](#)] and one by Schwartz and Lellouch (1967) titled *Explanatory and Pragmatic Attitudes in Therapeutical Trials* [[click here](#)] relevant to the question.