

Withdrawal

withdrawal *n* - 1. The act of **withdrawing**. 2. The removal of a person or **observation unit** from a **lifetable analysis** for a designated **event** at the cessation of **followup** for that person or **observation unit** or at the occurrence of the **event** of interest; removal due to cessation of followup may occur as a consequence of when the person or unit was **enrolled** (eg, calculation of a three-year event **rate** of necessity is based on **data** provided by those who were enrolled at least three years prior to the date of the analysis) or because the person or unit dropped out. [trials] 3. **dropout** (not a recommended synonym) 4. One who has been removed from **treatment** (not recommended usage); **treatment withdrawal**. 5. One who is not receiving or taking the **assigned treatment** (not recommended usage). rt: **cancel** *Usage note*: Usage should be limited to those implied in defns 1 and 2. The term should not be used as a synonym for **dropout** or **loss to follow** for reasons discussed in usage notes for those terms. The term, when used in the context of treatment, has different meanings and should be avoided or accompanied with detail indicating nature of use. Use in the sense of defn 5 is as an indicator of action taken by study personnel to forego or halt use of the assigned treatment, usually because of lack of benefit or bad effects (eg, as used in the Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials (CONSORT)¹¹). Use in the sense of defn 4 is broader and is as an indicator of those persons no longer taking or receiving the assigned treatment, whether due to choice or direction of study personnel. In either use, it is important to recognize that withdrawal from treatment, for whatever the reason, does not remove the effect of treatment. One can be **withdrawn** from treatment but not from its effects.

withdrawal, right of *n* - [study subjects] Right to **withdraw** from **study** at any time after **enrollment** without constraint or prejudice. rt: **refusal**, right of, **study subject right**

withdrawn *adj* - To be removed from. *Usage note*: See **withdrawal**.