



Center for Clinical Trials

*Department of Biostatistics
Department of Epidemiology
Department of International Health*

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Wednesday, 17 August 2005

Memorandum

To: Center for Clinical Trials Students, Staff, and Faculty

Fr: Curtis Meinert

Re: Tables 101: On the remake of the ADAPT table

The trouble with the table for homework assignment # 1 (attached) is that there are too many pigs under one blanket and a missing pig.

The table is multidimensional providing results by clinic, by time, and by visit state. Columns correspond to clinics, rows to visit times, and rows under visit times to state of visit. Factors of interest are fractions of visits completed over time, fraction of visits completed, and fractions of visits "Incomplete", "Missed", and "Overdue".

The missing pig is a "Total column". Totals in tables providing treatment comparisons are usually not indicated because totals are not expected to be the same across treatments if the treatments produce different effects. But clinics should be like peas in a pod when it comes to performance and, hence, totals are indicated for tables summarizing clinic performance.

What is the performance of the "average" clinic in ADAPT in visit completion rates? As produced, you have to divine that by "eye balling" across clinics.

But the table, as constructed, has too many columns already. There is no room for more. One could, of course, "turn" the table but that would be vulgar, so the best option is to reorient the table, as below, with clinics on the y-axis and times on the x-axis. The reorientation allows for the addition of **Total lines** to provide summaries across clinics.

Note that the remake is a simplified version of the original table. The remake does not provide counts and percentages for incomplete, missed, or overdue visits. If one wants those details they are best summarized in another table in keeping with "one pig per blanket". In any case, the main issue in regard to followup is whether a visit was done, not in categorization as why it was not done.

Note also that the percentages in the remade table are devoid of decimal fractions. Dropping the fractions allows for a "cleaner" look and the added precision provided by decimal fractions is not missed.

Note also that the space separating the two columns for a visit is less than the space separating columns for visits. The difference in spacing is intended to aid the eye in keeping track of the pairing as it reads across the table.

Note also the header construction and compare with the original.

Number of visits expected and % completed, by visit and clinic (as of 1 May 05)

	Enrollment		1 Mo FU		6 Mo FU		12 Mo FU		18 Mo FU	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Bal	437	100	437	98	428	96	386	91	354	92
Bos	424	100	424	98	414	93	396	91	383	91
Roc	296	100	296	99	290	99	280	96	274	96
Sea	445	100	445	99	413	95	315	93	229	87
Sun	527	100	527	98	524	93	510	88	478	85
Tam	399	100	399	94	392	75	390	74	312	67
Total	2,528	100	2,528	98	2,461	91	2,277	88	2,030	86

	24 Mo FU		30 Mo FU		36 Mo FU		42 Mo FU	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Bal	284	84	212	90	102	90	37	100
Bos	352	90	289	89	178	88	51	90
Roc	260	90	215	89	152	91	68	94
Sea	145	88	28	100	-	-	-	-
Sun	413	80	304	84	181	77	114	80
Tam	202	60	100	52	-	-	-	-
Total	1,656	83	1,148	85	613	91	270	88

(Fri 9:20am) 15 Jul 05

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