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Immortal Time Bias in Pharmacoepidemiology

Recent observational studies suggest that various drugs are remarkably effective at reducing morbidity and mortality. These cohort studies are all subject to immortal time bias resulting from an incorrect approach to design or analysis. In this talk, we describe various cohort study designs that can lead to immortal time bias, quantify its magnitude under different survival distributions and illustrate it using data from a cohort of patients diagnosed with lung cancer.

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