Global Sensitivity Analysis for Studies with Intermittent Missing Data and Death

Global Sensitivity Analysis of Randomized Trials with Missing Data Workshop

January 12, 2015

OBJECTIVES

- To review issues and common analysis methods for death-truncated data
- To learn about a composite endpoint based approach for intermittent missingness and death data analysis
- To introduce a web application that implements the proposed method

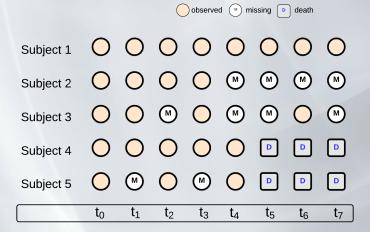
{ REVIEW }

- Introduction
- Conditional model
- Joint model
- Principal stratification
- Composite endpoint

General setting

- Consider a randomized clinical study
- Goal: to evaluate the efficacy of a treatment
- Outcomes scheduled to be measured at pre-specified time points after randomization
- Subjects at (high) risk of death
- Issue: clinical evaluations unobserved due to
 - lost to follow up
 - withdraw of consent
 - out-of-window visit
 - death

Scenarios of unobserved outcomes



Data truncated by death

- Fundamental distinction exists between missing data and data truncated by death
- Missing data: exist but not collected
- Data truncated by death: does not exist and undefined
- Missing data imputation methods generally not applicable for data truncated by death

Common analysis methods

Four major groups:

- Evaluate treatment effects conditional on survival
- Joint modeling survival and functional outcomes
- Evaluate causal treatment effects for principal stratum
- Composite endpoint combining survival and functional outcomes

B. F. Kurland, L. L. Johnson, B. L. Egleston, and P. H. Diehr. Longitudinal data with follow-up truncated by death: match the analysis method to research aims. *Statistical Science*, 24(2):211–222, 2009

Notation

- T = 0, 1: treatment assignment
- Y₀: baseline measure at t₀
- Y_1, \ldots, Y_K : post-randomization outcomes at t_1, \ldots, t_K
- L: survival time
- $\Delta_k = I(L > t_k)$: survival status at t_k
- $Z = g(Y_0, ..., Y_K)$: primary functional endpoint
 - e.g. $Z = Y_K, Z = Y_K Y_0$
 - only defined when $\Delta_K = 1$
- X: baseline covariates
- \overline{Y}_k : (Y_0, \ldots, Y_k)

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Conditional model

Unconditional model not appropriate

 $E(Y_k) = E(Y_k | \Delta_k = 1) P(\Delta_k = 1) + E(Y_k | \Delta_k = 0) P(\Delta_k = 0)$

Evaluate treatment effects at a specific time t_k

- fully conditioning on survival time $L = t_k$
- or partly conditioning on being alive at t_k (i.e. $\Delta_k = 1$)
- Issue: selection bias introduced in treatment effect estimation since survival is a post-randomization covariate

M. Shardell and R. R. Miller. Weighted estimating equations for longitudinal studies with death and non-monotone missing time-dependent covariates and outcomes. *Statistics in Medicine*, 27:1008–1025, 2008

B. F. Kurland and P. J. Heagerty. Directly parameterized regression conditioning on being alive: analysis of longitudinal data truncated by deaths. *Biostatistics*, 6(2):241–258, 2005

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Joint model

Comprised of two linked sub-models

- survival process
- longitudinal outcome process
- Introduce a set of common latent random effects shared by the two sub-models
- Issue: allows trajectories of longitudinal outcome after death, not scientifically meaningful

A. A. Tsiatis and M. Davidian. Joint modeling of longitudinal and time-to-event data: An overview. Statistica Sinica, 14, 2004

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Potential outcome

For subject i

- Y_i(0): what would have been observed if the subject had been treated with T = 0
- $Y_i(1)$: what would have been observed if the subject had been treated with T = 1
- $(Y_i(0), Y_i(1))$: potential outcome
- $Y_i(1) Y_i(0)$: causal effect of treatment versus control

Donald B Rubin. Estimating causal effects of treatments in randomized and nonrandomized studies. Journal of Educational Psychology, 66(5):688, 1974

Data truncated by death

• $\Delta_k(t)$: potentical survival status at t_k if treated with T = t(t = 0, 1)

• With randomization,

 $Y_k(0), Y_k(1), \Delta_k(0), \Delta_k(1) \perp T$

Recall: conditional methods estimates

 $E(Y_k | \Delta_k = 1, T = 1) - E(Y_k | \Delta_k = 1, T = 0)$ = $E(Y_k(1) | \Delta_k(1) = 1) - E(Y_k(0) | \Delta_k(0) = 1)$

- Groups {Δ_k(1) = 1} and {Δ_k(0) = 1} not the same if treatment has impact on survival
- Selection bias introduced

Principal stratification

 Focused on the cohort of subjects who would have survived under either treatment arm, i.e. the principle stratification with respect to survival

 $\{\Delta_k(1) = \Delta_k(0) = 1\}$

- Assess survivor average causal effect (SACE) defined as $SACE_k = E(Y_k(1) - Y_k(0)|\Delta_k(1) = \Delta_k(0) = 1)$
- Useful for understanding the mechanistic effect of treatment on clinical outcomes
- Issue: whether a subject belongs to the "survivor" stratum unknown

C. E. Frangakis and D. B. Rubin. Principal stratification in causal inference. *Biometrics*, 58(1):21–29, 2002

- Introduction
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Composite endpoint

- Primary endpoint: defined as a composite or a mix of both the survival *L* and the functional outcome *Z*
- Simple and useful if the composite endpoint
 - is of clinical interest
 - can be ordered in a meaningful way
- Issue: effects of treatment on survival and on the functional outcome cannot be separated

P. Diehr, D. L. Patrick, S. Hedrick, M. Rothman, D. Grembowski, T. E. Raghunathan, and S. Beresford. Including deaths when measuring health status over time. *Medical Care*, 33:AS164 – AS172, 1995

{ PROPOSAL }

- Goal
- Ranking
- Treatment effect
- Benchmark assumptions
- Sensitivity analysis
- Bivariate case (example)
- Imputation
- Case study
- Summary

To propose a composite endpoint approach that handles boh deaths and intermittent missing data among subjects alive at the assessment times.

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Ranking

- Assume no missing data at this time
- Assume that higher values of Z denote better outcomes
- Consider two subjects *i* and *j* with composite endpoints $(L_i, \Delta_K Z_i)$ and $(L_j, \Delta_K Z_j)$, respectively

Ranking

Δ_{K,i} = Δ_{K,j} = 1
Z_i > Z_j: subject *i* ranked better than subject *j*Z_i < Z_j: subject *j* ranked better than subject *i*Z_i = Z_j: subjects *i* and *j* ranked the same
Δ_{K,i} = Δ_{K,j} = 0
L_i > L_j: subject *i* ranked better than subject *j*L_i < L_i: subject *j* ranked better than subject *i*

- L_i = L_j: subjects *i* and *j* ranked the same
 Δ_{K,i} = 1, Δ_{K,j} = 0
 - subject i ranked better than subject j
- $\Delta_{K,i} = 0, \Delta_{K,j} = 1$
 - subject *j* ranked better than subject *i*

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Treatment effect

$\theta = P(R^{(1)} > R^{(0)}) - P(R^{(1)} < R^{(0)})$

- R: rank of a subject (among all the study participants)
 - $R^{(0)}$: rank for a random subject on T = 0
 - $R^{(1)}$: rank for a random subject on T = 1

θ:

- treatment effect quantification
- target of inference
- $\theta = 0$ if no treatment effect

• Hypothesis:

$$H_0: \theta = 0$$
 vs. $H_A: \theta \neq 0$

Estimation of θ

• In the absence of missing data, estimate θ by

$\widehat{\theta} = \frac{1}{n_0 n_1} \sum_{i: T_i = 0} \sum_{j: T_j = 1} \{ \mathsf{I}(R_i < R_j) - \mathsf{I}(R_i > R_j) \}$

where $n_0 = \sum_i (1 - T_i)$ and $n_1 = \sum_i T_i$

Variance of $\widehat{\theta}$

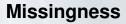
$$\begin{aligned} &\operatorname{Var}(\widehat{\theta}) \\ &= \left(\frac{1}{n_0 n_1}\right)^2 \left(\sum_{i=1}^{n_0} \sum_{j=1}^{n_1} \{\operatorname{I}(R_i < R_j) + \operatorname{I}(R_j < R_i)\} \\ &+ \frac{n_0 - 1}{n_0} \sum_{i=1}^{n_0} \sum_{i'=1, i \neq i'}^{n_0} \sum_{j=1}^{n_1} \{\operatorname{I}(R_i < R_j, R_{i'} < R_j) + \operatorname{I}(R_i > R_j, R_{i'} > R_j) \\ &- \operatorname{I}(R_i < R_j, R_{i'} > R_j) - \operatorname{I}(R_i > R_j, R_{i'} < R_j)\} \\ &+ \frac{n_1 - 1}{n_1} \sum_{i=1}^{n_0} \sum_{j=1}^{n_1} \sum_{j'=1, j \neq j'}^{n_1} \{\operatorname{I}(R_i < R_j, R_i < R_{j'}) + \operatorname{I}(R_i > R_j, R_i > R_{j'}) \} \\ &+ \frac{(n_0 - 1)(n_1 - 1)}{n_0 n_1} \sum_{i=1}^{n_0} \sum_{j=1}^{n_1} \sum_{i=1, i \neq i'}^{n_0} \sum_{i=1, i \neq i'}^{n_1} \{\operatorname{I}(R_i < R_j) - \operatorname{I}(R_i < R_j) - \operatorname{I}(R_j < R_i)\}^2 \right) - \widehat{\theta}^2. \end{aligned}$$

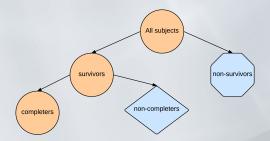
Proposal::Treatment effect

Quantiles

- Quantiles (e.g. median) of the composite endpoint, $(L, \Delta_K Z)$, may further quantify the treatment effect
- Clinically easier to be interpreted
- Necessary supplement to the primary rank analysis

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• For subjects alive at the end of the study ($\Delta_K = 1$)

- τ_k : missingness indicator of Y_k (1: observed, 0: missing)
- $S = (\tau_1, \ldots, \tau_K)$: missing pattern
- $Y_{obs} = \{Y_k : \tau_k = 1, k \ge 1\}$: observed functional outcome
- $Y_{mis} = \{Y_k : \tau_k = 0, k \ge 1\}$: missing functional outcome
- To determine ranks
 - sufficient to impute Y_{mis} for subjects with $\Delta_{K} = 1$

Benchmark assumptions

$$\begin{aligned} f(Y_{mis}|\Delta_{\mathcal{K}} = 1, Y_{obs}, Y_0, X, T, S = s) \\ &= f(Y_{mis}|\Delta_{\mathcal{K}} = 1, Y_{obs}, Y_0, X, T, S = \mathbf{1}) \qquad \forall s \neq \mathbf{1} \end{aligned}$$

- 1: a K-dimensional vector of 1's
- S = 1: "completers"
- Complete case missing value (CCMV) restrictions applied to the missing data patterns for patients alive at t_{κ}

Proposal::Benchmark assumptions

Roderick JA Little. Pattern-mixture models for multivariate incomplete data. *Journal of the American Statistical* Association, 88(421):125–134, 1993

Modeling strategy

Sequential factorization

$$f(\overline{Y}_{\mathcal{K}}|\Delta_{\mathcal{K}}=1, Y_0, X, T, S=\mathbf{1})$$
$$=\prod_{k=1}^{\mathcal{K}} f(Y_k|\Delta_{\mathcal{K}}=1, \overline{Y}_{k-1}, X, T, S=\mathbf{1})$$

Specify

$$Y_k|\overline{Y}_{k-1}, Y_0, X, T = t, S = 1$$

$$= \mu_{k,t}(\overline{Y}_{k-1}, X; \alpha_{k,t}) + \epsilon_{k,t}$$

• $\mu_{k,t}$: mean function, e.g.

 $\mu_{k,t}(\overline{Y}_{k-1}, X; \alpha_{k,t}) = \alpha_{k,t,0} + \alpha_{k,t,1}\overline{Y}_{k-1} + \alpha_{k,t,2}Y_0 + \alpha_{k,t,3}X$ • $\epsilon_{k,t}$: residuals

Estimation

α_{k,t}: estimated using least square estimator

$$\widehat{\alpha}_{k,t} = \operatorname{argmin} \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{n} I(T_i = t) \Delta_{K,i} \left(\prod_{k=1}^{K} \tau_{k,i} \right) \epsilon_{k,t,i}^2 \right\}$$

• $\epsilon_{k,t} \sim F_{k,t}$

- $F_{k,t} = N(0, \sigma_{k,t}^2)$ under normality assumption
- $F_{k,t}$ estimated by kernel density estimator, e.g.

$$\widehat{f}_{k,t}(\mathbf{x}) \propto \sum_{i=1}^{n} I(T_i = t) \Delta_{\mathcal{K},i} \left(\prod_{k=1}^{\mathcal{K}} \tau_{k,i}\right) \phi\left(\frac{\mathbf{x} - \epsilon_{k,t,i}}{h}\right)$$

where *h* is the bandwidth

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Sensitivity analysis

- Benchmark assumptions (CCMV) untestable
- Sensitivity analysis essential to evaluate the robustness of inferences to deviations from benchmark assumptions

Panel on Handling Missing Data in Clinical Trials; National Research Council. The Prevention and Treatment of Missing Data in Clinical Trials. The National Academies Press, 2010

Exponential tilting

Exponential tilting model

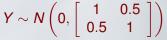
$f'(y) \propto e^{\beta y} f(y)$

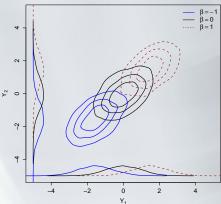
- Constructs a neighborhood of distributions f'(y)
 - centered around benchmark distribution f(y)
 - indexed by (sensitivity) parameter β

Example: Exponential tilting

Close form can be derived for multivariate normal,

- $Y \sim N(\mu, \Sigma)$ • $Y' \sim N(\mu + \Sigma\beta, \Sigma)$
- Example:





Dimension of sensitivity parameters

Recall: benchmark assumptions

 $f(Y_{mis}|\Delta_{K} = 1, Y_{obs}, Y_{0}, X, T = t, S = s) = f(Y_{mis}|\Delta_{K} = 1, Y_{obs}, Y_{0}, X, T = t, S = 1)$

Sensitivity parameters typically introduced as follows:

 $\begin{aligned} &f(Y_{mis}|\Delta_{\mathcal{K}}=1, Y_{obs}, Y_0, X, T=t, S=s) \\ &\propto \exp\{\beta_{t,s}Y_{mis}\}f(Y_{mis}|\Delta_{\mathcal{K}}=1, Y_{obs}, Y_0, X, T=t, S=1) \end{aligned}$

Sensitivity parameters β_{t,s}

- depends on treatment and missing pattern
- dimension too high
- difficult to set sensitivity analysis scenarios
- difficult to interpret and summarize results

Sensitivity analysis assumption

 $f(Y_{mis}|\Delta_{K} = 1, Y_{obs}, Y_{0}, X, T = t, S = s)$ $\propto \exp\{\beta_{t}Z\}f(Y_{mis}|\Delta_{K} = 1, Y_{obs}, Y_{0}, X, T = t, S = \mathbf{1})$

- Z: primary endpoint, clinical interest
- β_t: treatment specific, dimension 2 regardless of K
- $\beta_t = 0$: benchmark assumptions
- $|\beta_t|$: distance (in the units of Z) from benchmark assumptions

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Benchmark assumptions



Assumptions:

$$f(Y_2, Y_1 | \Delta_2 = 1, Y_0, X, T, S = (0, 0))$$

= $f(Y_2, Y_1 | \Delta_2 = 1, Y_0, X, T, S = 1)$
 $f(Y_1 | \Delta_2 = 1, Y_2, Y_0, X, T, S = (0, 1))$
= $f(Y_1 | \Delta_2 = 1, Y_2, Y_0, X, T, S = 1)$
 $f(Y_2 | \Delta_2 = 1, Y_1, Y_0, X, T, S = (1, 0))$
= $f(Y_2 | \Delta_2 = 1, Y_1, Y_0, X, T, S = 1)$

Modeling

$$f(Y_1, Y_2 | \Delta_2 = 1, Y_0, X, T = t, S = 1)$$

= $\underbrace{f(Y_1 | \Delta_2 = 1, Y_0, X, T = t, S = 1)}_{\text{model 1}}$
× $\underbrace{f(Y_2 | \Delta_2 = 1, Y_1, Y_0, X, T = t, S = 1)}_{\text{model 2}}$

Proposal::Bivariate case (example)

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Sensitivity analysis assumptions

- Let $Z = Y_1 + Y_2$
- Assumptions

 $\begin{aligned} f(Y_2, Y_1 | \Delta_2 &= 1, Y_0, X, T = t, S = (0, 0)) \\ &\propto \exp\{\beta_t(Y_1 + Y_2)\}f(Y_2, Y_1 | \Delta_2 = 1, Y_0, X, T, S = 1) \\ f(Y_1 | \Delta_2 &= 1, Y_2, Y_0, X, T, S = (0, 1)) \\ &\propto \exp\{\beta_t Y_1\}f(Y_1 | \Delta_2 = 1, Y_2, Y_0, X, T, S = 1) \\ f(Y_2 | \Delta_2 &= 1, Y_1, Y_0, X, T, S = (1, 0)) \\ &\propto \exp\{\beta_t Y_2\}f(Y_2 | \Delta_2 = 1, Y_1, Y_0, X, T, S = 1) \end{aligned}$

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Numerical sampling

• Goal: to draw samples of Y_{mis} for each individual with $\Delta_K = 1$ and $S \neq 1$ from

 $\begin{aligned} f(Y_{mis}|\Delta_{\mathcal{K}} = 1, Y_{obs}, Y_0, X, T, S = s) \\ \propto \exp(\beta_T Z) f(Y_{mis}|\Delta_{\mathcal{K}} = 1, Y_{obs}, Y_0, X, T, S = \mathbf{1}) \end{aligned}$

Close form only available when

- $\mu_{k,t}$: linear
- $\epsilon_{k,t}$: normally distributed
- $Z = g(Y_0, ..., Y_K)$: linear
- Numerical sampling necessary in general
- Propose to apply a random-walk Metroplis-Hastings algorithm

Sampling steps

- 1. Set j = 0. Choose arbitrary initial values for Y_{mis} , denoted by $Y_{mis}^{(0)}$. Let $Z^{(0)}$ be the primary functional endpoint with data $(Y_{obs}, Y_{mis}^{(0)})$.
- 2. Set j = j + 1
- 3. Generate Y'_{mis} from a (multivariate) Gaussian distribution with mean $Y^{(j-1)}_{mis}$ and variance Σ .

Sampling steps

4. Calculate the acceptance ratio as

$$a = \frac{\exp\{\beta_T Z'\} f(Y'_{mis} | \Delta_K = 1, Y_{obs}, Y_0, X, T, S = 1)}{\exp\{\beta_T Z^{(j-1)}\} f(Y^{(j-1)}_{mis} | \Delta_K = 1, Y_{obs}, Y_0, X, T, S = 1)}$$

=
$$\frac{\exp\{\beta_T Z'\} f(Y'_{mis}, Y_{obs} | \Delta_K = 1, Y_0, X, T, S = 1)}{\exp\{\beta_T Z^{(j-1)}\} f(Y^{(j-1)}_{mis}, Y_{obs} | \Delta_K = 1, Y_0, X, T, S = 1)}$$

where Z' and $Z^{(j-1)}$ are the primary functional endpoints with data (Y_{obs}, Y'_{mis}) and (Y_{obs}, Y'_{mis}) , respectively.

Sampling steps

- 5. Accept $Y_{mis}^{(j)} = Y'_{mis}$ with probability min(1, *a*) and $Y_{mis}^{(j)} = Y_{mis}^{(j-1)}$ with probability $1 \min(1, a)$
- 6. Repeat Steps 2-5 until the Markov chain converges
- 7. Draw random samples from the set $\{Y_{mis}^{(j_0)}, Y_{mis}^{(j_0+1)}, ...\}$ as the imputed missing values, where j_0 corresponds to the number of burn-in

Multiple imputation

- Draw *M* copies Y_{mis} for each individual with $\Delta_{K} = 1$ and $S \neq 1$
- Create M complete datasets
- For each complete dataset *m*, estimate θ by $\hat{\theta}_m$
- Overall estimator of θ

$$\widetilde{\theta} = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^{M} \widehat{\theta}_m$$

 Confidence intervals constructed by non-parametric bootstrap

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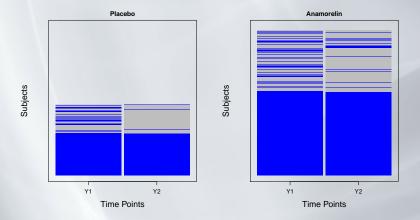
HT-ANAM 302 study

- Randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled Phase III study
- Intent-to-treat population: advanced non-small cell lung cancer subjects
- To evaluate the efficacy of drug anamorelin
- Functional outcome lean body mass (LBM) scheduled to be measured at baseline (Y₀), 6 weeks (Y₁) and 12 weeks (Y₂)
- Primary functional endpoint: $Z = \frac{(Y_2+Y_1)}{2} Y_0$

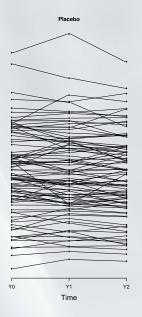
Death and missingness

	Placebo	
	<i>n</i> = 157	<i>n</i> = 322
Died Prior to Wk 12	24 (15.3%)	54 (16.8%)
Survivors with complete data	93 (59.2%)	185 (57.5%)
Survivors missing only Wk 6	3 (1.9%)	17 (5.3%)
Survivors missing only Wk 12	17 (10.8%)	31 (9.6%)
Survivors missing both Wks 6, 12	20 (12.7%)	35 (10.9%)

Missing pattern

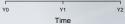


Completers LBM

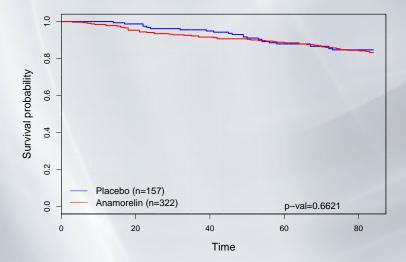




Anamorelin



Survival



Baseline covariates

Covariates	Levels
ECOG	0:{0,1}, 1:{2}
AGE	0:≤ <mark>65</mark> , 1:> 65
GENDER	0:M, 1:F
BMI	0:≤ 18.5, 1:> 18.5
WEIGHT LOSS ¹	0:≤ 10%, 1:> 10%
Y0	Continuous

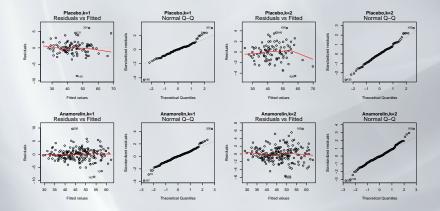
¹in prior 6 months

Modeling

Specify $\mu_{k,t}(\overline{Y}_{k-1}, X; \alpha_{k,t})$ as follows:

$$\begin{split} \mu_{1,t,i} &= \alpha_{1,t,1} + \alpha_{1,t,2} \, Y_{0,i} + \alpha_{1,t,3} ECOG_i + \alpha_{1,t,4} AGE_i \\ &+ \alpha_{1,t,5} G_i + \alpha_{1,t,6} BMI_i + \alpha_{1,t,7} \, WL_i \\ \mu_{2,t,i} &= \alpha_{2,t,1} + \alpha_{2,t,2} \, Y_{0,i} + \alpha_{2,t,3} ECOG_i + \alpha_{2,t,4} AGE_i \\ &+ \alpha_{2,t,5} G_i + \alpha_{2,t,6} BMI_i + \alpha_{2,t,7} \, WL_i \\ &+ \alpha_{2,t,8} \, Y_{1,i} \end{split}$$

Model fitting diagnosis



Analysis under benchmark assumptions

- 10 imputed datasets generated
- 200 bootstrap samples

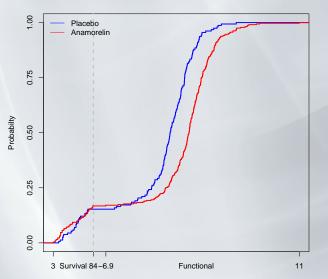
Table: Hypothesis testing

	<i>θ</i> (95% CI)	p-value
HT-ANAM 302 Study	0.30(0.19,0.40)	< 0.0001

Table: Median

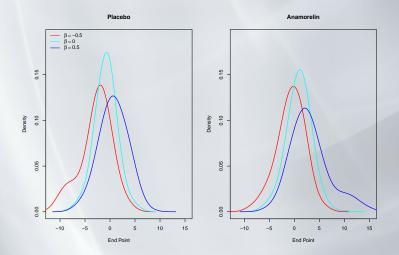
		<mark>∕ p</mark> ₅₀ (95% CI)
HT-ANAM 302 Study	Anamorelin	0.67(0.45, 0.89)
	Placebo	-0.92(-1.43,-0.28)

Cumulative plot



Composite Endpoint

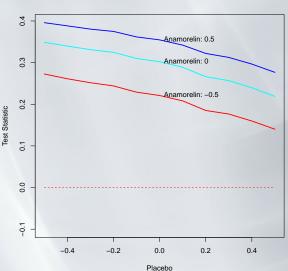
Choice of sensitivity parameters



Change in *E*(*Z*) about 1.5 lb at β_T = 0.5 and β_T = -0.5
Set β_T = {-0.5, -0.4, ..., 0, ..., 0.5}

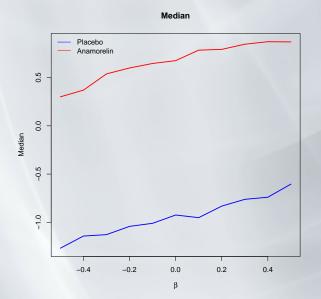
Proposal::Case study

Sensitivity analysis: Rank

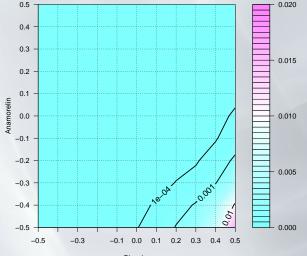


Rank

Sensitivity analysis: Median



Sensitivity analysis: Contour of p-values



Placebo

Conclusion

There is a significant difference between the Placebo and the Anamorelin arms in their composite endpoints of survival and average LBM change. The difference favors the Anamorelin arm.

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- Propose a composite endpoint approach for evaluating treatment effects in randomized clinical trials with death and missingness
- Apply complete case missing-variable restrictions (CCMV) for handling missing data in survivors
- Apply exponential tilting model for sensitivity analysis
- Introduce a parsimonious way of introducing sensitivity parameters

{ SOFTWARE }

Web application

Currently available at

http://sow.familyds.com/shiny/composite/

- Major components
 - upload study data
 - graphical presentation of the data
 - specify endpoints and imputation model
 - specify ranking rule
 - generate imputed dataset
 - bootstrap analysis

RECAPITULATION

- Issues and common analysis methods for death-truncated data
- Proposal: a composite endpoint based approach for intermittent missingness and death data analysis
- Web-application

THE END