



Statistical Consulting - Data Analysis - Medical Research Support

BGStats Consulting – Client Questionnaire

Dear client, please answer the following questions with the aim to define your problem and to identify the statistical issues involved:

A) Defining the problem

1) Background of the project

Projects are often based on previous studies in which case there may be an established or accepted method of analysis. Please give us - if there are available - some information about previous studies including relevant references.

2) Status of the project

- What is the status of the project?
- Is the study in the pre-experiment or planning stage?
- Have the data already been collected?
- What data collecting instruments were used (database, software, etc.)
- How reliable are the data?
- Are you aware of any outliers in the data?
- If the study was an designed experiment, was the experiment performed in accordance with the usual principles of statistical experimentation: control, randomization, and replication?
- Is there enough evidence (sample size and structure in the data) to support the objectives of the study?

3) Aims of the project

- What are the aims and hypotheses associated with the study?
- Are your objectives commensurate with the results that can be obtained from a statistical analysis?

4) Your expectations from BGStats Consulting

Please define exactly the role of BGStats in the project, e.g. in which phases of your project you expect our support:

- Study Planning – Sample Size Calculation
- Data Analysis – Statistical Modeling
- Medical Writing Support – Help in preparing project reports, methods sections of your scientific publications, providing presentation quality graphics etc.



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B) Detail the problem to identify the statistical issues involved

1) Study Design – Sample Size Calculation

Please describe the study design of your project:

- Experimental study - observational study
- Cross sectional – longitudinal study
- Cohort study – case control study

Sample Size Calculation – Power Analysis

- How the sample size has been calculated (statistical approach, parameters)?
- Source of the parameters for the calculation (e.g. previous studies, internal or external pilot study, experts' knowledge)

2) Outcome Variables

Please define exactly the outcome (response) variables investigated in your project.

- Describe the data type of the outcome:
 - Continuous variable (e.g. blood pressure, age, weight, height etc.)
 - Ordinal variable (e.g. quality of life score, response to treatment, etc.)?
 - Categorical variable (e.g. treatment groups, quality indices etc.) or
 - Binary variable (e.g. healthy – sick, stroke - no stroke, alive- dead)
- Is the outcome univariate or multivariate?
- In case of a multivariate outcome:
 - Are there repeated measurements on the same subject (e.g. blood pressure at 4, 6 and 12 months since the beginning of the study)?
 - Are there different measurements? (e.g. blood pressure, LDL-level, C-reactive protein at 6 month)
 - Do you have any hypotheses about associations among the multivariate outcomes (correlation structure, etc.)?
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3) Independent variables - Covariates

- Describe which selection criteria have been used to assess the set of independent variables (covariates) investigated in your project?
- Describe the data type of each covariate: Continuous, ordinal, categorical, binary (see outcome variables)?
- Are there any hypotheses about the association of the covariates with the outcome (other studies, preliminary analyses, pilot studies, etc.)?

4) Suggestions about appropriate statistical analysis approaches

Please let us know if you have any previous information (e.g. from similar studies, etc.) about what statistical approaches could be appropriate to resolve your problem.

C) Please answer the following questions (for our clients' statistics)

- How did you find BGStats (Internet Search, tip of colleagues, etc.)?
- What search engine did you use (Google, Yahoo, etc.)?
- What keywords did you use for the web search?
- What do you think about our website (content, design, information etc.)?

Many thanks for your collaboration! If you have any further questions please don't hesitate to contact us!

BGStats Consulting
Statistical Consulting – Data Analysis – Medical Research Support
Office Austria - Hochstrasse 7, 8071 Wagersbach - Graz, Austria
Phone +44 20 7193-7448, skype: search for "bgstats"
eMail: office@bgstats.com
www.bgstats.com
