

First email exchange confirming my understanding of the survival analysis data tables:

From: Ed Pigott [mailto:pathware@erols.com]
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2008 3:01 PM
To: Wisniewski, Stephen
Subject: Question Re: STAR*D Survival Analysis

Dr. Wisniewski:

I have a question regarding STAR*D's survival analysis in figure 3 on page 1913 (see the attached article).

From table 5 (page 1912), it's clear that STAR*D's relapse rates were calculated based on the "*proportion of subjects relapsing of those who made at least one postbaseline call to the interactive voice response system.*" So from table 5 it's clear that of the 1,085 subjects who entered follow-up following a step 1 remission, 841 made at least one postbaseline call into the assessment system and of these 33.5% relapsed.

Based on this understanding, I've been trying to determine what the "N" refers to in the table that's above figure 3's graph. Row 1 column 1, states: "N=1,085" and therefore appears to indicate the number of step 1 patients who entered follow-up in remission and is the same as in table 5.

What do row 1 N's of: 628, 431, 290, and 84 refer to? Since they are positioned over the 3, 6, 9, and 12 month axis in the graph, I assume that they refer to the number of remitted step 1 patients who made at least one postbaseline call into the assessment system during that time period and scored as not having a relapse in either this assessment or any previous assessment.

Is my understanding correct? If it is not correct, what do 1 N's of: 628, 431, 290, and 84 refer to?

Your assistance is greatly appreciated,

Ed Pigott, Ph.D.

From: Wisniewski, Stephen [mailto:wisniew@edc.pitt.edu]
Sent: Monday, June 30, 2008 7:19 AM
To: Ed Pigott
Subject: RE: Question Re: STAR*D Survival Analysis

Two things can happen during the course of follow-up that can impact on the size of the sample being analyzed. One is the event, in this case, relapse, occurring. The other is drop out. So the N's over time represent that size of the population that is remaining in the sample (that is, has not dropped out or relapsed at an earlier time).

Steve