A Conceptual Approach to Survival Analysis

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Disclaimer

- **This presentation reflects the views of the author and should not be construed to represent FDA's views or policies.**

Objectives

- **"Conceptual Approach"**
- **Recognize some vocabulary used in survival analysis and a few commonly used statistical methods for time to event data in medical research**
- **Interpret Kaplan Meier graph**
- **Interpret a covariate from a Cox model**
- **Understand a few of the assumptions for basic types of survival models**

Preventing Mother-Infant HIV Transmission (D.O. Dixon, NIAID)

- **Zidovudine able to slow progression of HIV in adults with advanced disease**
- **AIDS Clinical Trials Group Protocol 076 designed to assess both safety and efficacy of Zidovudine in preventing transmission of HIV from infected (not advanced) women to their babies**
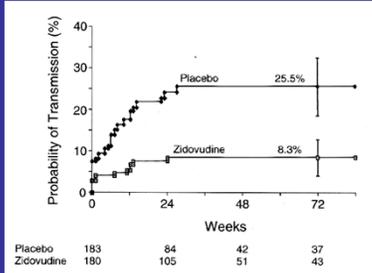
Preventing Mother-Infant HIV Transmission

- **Powered (80%) to detect a 33% reduction of transmission rate (through 78 weeks of baby's life) relative to projected rate of 30%**
- **Target N was 748; began April 1991**
- **Projected accrual to take at least 5 years and 15% dropouts**

Preventing Mother-Infant HIV Transmission

- **DSMB met twice a year to monitor safety**
- **Efficacy reviews planned after each 1/3 of projected infant infections**
- **1st efficacy review took place in February 1994, based on mothers enrolled up to December 1993 and their babies**

At First Interim Analysis
(1/3 of projected infant infections)

P = 0.00006

DOD/BRB/NIAID

(Note: Survival Analysis)

- **What is that graph in the last slide?**
  - Kaplan Meier curves
- **What are they telling me?**

Define the Outcome Variable

- **What is the *event*?**
  - What is the y-axis?
  - Mother-Infant HIV transmission; testing positive
- **Where is the *time origin*?**
  - Infant birth?
- **What is the *time scale*?**
  - Weeks
- **How is *time at which the event 'occurs'* defined?**

Kaplan Meier (KM)

- One way to estimate survival
  - Or in this case, transmission of HIV
- Nice, simple, can compute by hand
- Can add stratification factors
- No sensible interpretation for competing risks
- Cannot evaluate covariates like Cox model
- Kaplan Meier is a workhorse

At First Interim Analysis

P = 0.00006
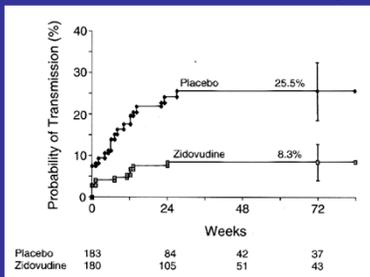
Preventing Mother-Infant HIV Transmission

- DSMB recommended stopping (after careful review of data quality and completeness, toxicity, transmission rates)
- Trial leaders and NIH agreed
- Zidovudine provided to those in control group
- United States Public Health Service (USPHS) national guidelines modified

SURVIVAL OR TIME-TO-EVENT ANALYSIS

Why Survival (Time to Event) Analysis

- New cancer treatment
  - Want to know if it extends a person's life 5 months longer than current treatments
- Survival is about events and when they happen
  - Death, infection, MI, hospitalization
  - Recurrence of cancer after treatment
  - Marriage, soccer goal
  - Light bulb fails, computer crashes
  - Balloon filling with air bursts

14

Why Survival Analysis? Hypertension

- Treat it
  - Lower/Normal blood pressure (BP)
  - Want to extend healthy life, prevent heart attacks…events in time
- Follow people, see how many die and have events like MI and when
- What if Intervention lowers blood pressure but after 20+ years people die two years before a similar person not on medicine?
  - Goal accomplished?
  - COX 2 inhibitors

15

People with lower X live longer!

- **Many times from an observational study**
- **Instigate a change in blood pressure, weight, something**
  - Do you get a similar change in outcome?
  - Perhaps

16

People live too long to follow!

- **We can only hope (and that they live well and feel great, are productive, and all that)**

- **Many surrogates**
- **Even more surrogates for events (in particular death)**
- **Sometimes follow people a long time**

17

What is Survival

- **Survival analysis deals with making inference about EVENT RATES**
- **Rate at t = Rate among those at risk at t**
- **Look at Median survival (50%) not Mean survival**
  - Mean: need everyone to have an event

18

Outline

> How to Measure Time and Events
> Survival and Hazard Functions
- Truncation and Censoring
- Competing Risks
- Models and Hypothesis Testing
- Example
- Conclusions

19

What is a Model?

- Basic

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \ldots + \beta_p X_p$$

  - Y = outcome or response variable
  - β = coefficient
  - X = covariate, variable
- Survival

$$\lambda(t) = \lambda_0(t) \exp\{\beta_1 X_1 + \ldots + \beta_p X_p\}$$

  - $\lambda_0(t)$ = baseline hazard
  - $\beta_1, \ldots, \beta_p$ = regression coefficients
  - $X_1, \ldots, X_p$ = prognostic factors

20

Vocabulary

- Survival vs. time-to-event
- Outcome variable = event time
- Examples of events:
  - HIV positive test, AIDS defining event, Mother-Infant HIV transmission
  - Systolic blood pressure or Cholesterol below a cut
- BMJ 17 October 2009 article on follow-up of MIST trial: incidence of pregnancy
  - Time in years to first live birth after index miscarriage

21

7

Time Notation

- t: for time axis
  - t = 0 is the time origin
- T: random outcome variable
  - time at which event occurs

22

Vocabulary

- t = time
  - Baseline = 0 months
  - 6, 12, 18, 24 months, etc.
- S(t) = Survival at time t
- P[T ≥ t] = Probability Time of event is greater than time t

23

Define the Outcome Variable

- What is the *event*? (Death?)
- Where is the *time origin*? (Diagnosis?)
- What is the *time scale*? (Weeks? Years?)

- Then what?
  - Need to know the time the event occurs
  - May or may not use covariates
- Could do a *logistic regression* model
  - Yes/No outcome
  - Not focus of lecture
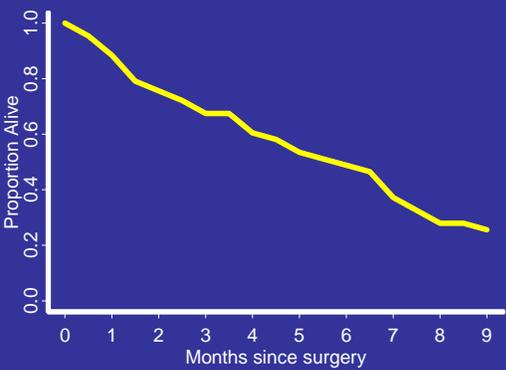
24

Choice of Time Scale

Scale	Origin	Comment
Study time	Dx or Rx	Clinical Trials
Study time	First Exposure	(Occupational) Epidemiology
Age	Birth (subject)	Epidemiology

25

Treatment for a Cancer

- **Event = death**
- **Time origin = date of surgery**
- **Time scale = time (months)**
- **T = time from surgical treatment to death**
- **Graph = P[T ≥ t] vs t**

26

27

Example Numbers

- $S(9) = P[\ T \geq 9\ ] = 0.25$
- 25% is the probability the time from surgical treatment to death is greater than 9 months
- "9 month post-resection survival is 25%"
- $0 \leq S(t) \leq 1$

28

Survival Function

- $S(t) = P[\ T \geq t\ ] = 1 - P[\ T < t\ ]$
- Plot: Y axis = % alive, X axis = time
- Proportion of population still without the event *by time t*

Survival Function in English

- Event = death, scale = months since Rx
- "S(t) = 0.3 at t = 60"
- "The 5 year survival *probability* is 30%"
- "70% of patients die within the first 5 years"

- Everyone dies → $S(\infty) = 0$

Hazard Function

- Incidence rate, instantaneous risk, force of mortality
- $\lambda(t)$ or $h(t)$
- Event rate *at t* among those at risk for an event
- Key function
- Estimated in a straightforward way
  - Censored
  - Truncated

Hazard Function in Words

- Event = death, scale = months since Rx

- "$\lambda(t)$ = 1% at t = 12 months"

- "At 1 year, patients are dying at a rate of 1% per month"

- "At 1 year the chance of dying in the following month is 1%"

Hazard Function: Instantaneous

- 120,000 die in 1 year
- 10,000 die in 1 month
- 2,500 die in a week
- 357 die in a day
- Instantaneous: move one increment in time

Herpes Example

- **Recurrence of Herpes Lesions After Treatment for a Primary Episode**
- **Event = recurrence**
  - **needs well defined criteria**
- **Time origin = end of primary episode**
- **Time scale = months from end of primary episode**
- **T = time from end of primary episode to first recurrence**

34

Toxin Effect on Lung Cancer Risk

- **Occupational exposure at nickel refinery**
- **Event = death from lung cancer**
- **Origin = first exposure**
  - **Employment at refinery**
- **Scale = years since first exposure**
- **T = time: first employed to death from LC**

35

Population Mortality

- **Event = death**
- **Time origin = date of birth**
- **Time scale = age (years)**
- **T = age at death**

36

Volume of Air a Balloon Can Tolerate

- Event = balloon bursts
- t = ml of air infused
- Origin = 0 ml of air in the balloon
- T = ml of air in balloon when it bursts

37

Unique Features of Survival Analysis

- Event involved
- Progression on a dimension (usually time) until the event happens
- Length of progression may vary among subjects
- Event might not happen for some subjects

38

Sample Size Considerations

- Event may not ever happen for some subjects
  - Sample sizes based on number of events
  - Work backwards to figure out # of subjects
- Covariates must be considered (age, total exposure, etc)

39

Outline

- ✓ How to Measure Time and Events
- ✓ Survival and Hazard Functions
- ➢ Truncation and Censoring
- • Competing Risks
- • Models and Hypothesis Testing
- • Example
- • Conclusions

40

Truncation and Censoring

- • Truncation is about *entering* the study
  - – Right: Only sample those with Event of interest (cancer registry) (underestimate)
  - – Left: short survival may be overlooked (>65 years of age) (overestimate)
- • Censoring is about *leaving* the study
  - – Right: Incomplete follow-up (common)
  - – Left: Observed time > survival time (know the subject exists)
- • Independence is key

41

Left Truncation

- • Mention more in epi vs medical studies
  - – Medical: zero-out at time of diagnosis or treatment
- • Key Assumption
  - – Those who enter the study at time t are a random sample of those in the population still at risk at t
  - – Allows one to estimate the hazard function $\lambda(t)$ in a valid way
- • Who is the audience and will they generalize

42

14

Censoring

- **Incomplete observations**
- **Right**
  - Incomplete follow-up
  - Common and Easy to deal with
- **Left**
  - Event has occurred before T_0, but exact time is unknown
  - Not easy to deal with

43

Left Censoring

- **Age smoking starts**
  - Data from interviews of 12 year olds
  - 12 year old reports regular smoking
  - Does not remember when he started smoking regularly
- **Study of incidence of CMV infection in children**
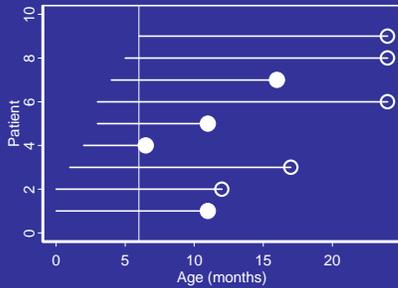 - Two subjects already infected at enrollment

44

One Form of Right Censoring: Withdrawals

- **Must be unrelated to the subsequent risk of event for 'independent censoring' to hold**
- **Accidental death is usually ok**
- **Moves out of area (moribund unlikely to move)**

45

Right Censoring

46

Types of Censoring

- **Type I censoring**
  - **T* same for all subjects**
  - **Everyone followed for 1 year**
- **Type II censoring**
  - **Stop observation when a set number of events have occurred**
  - **Replace all light bulbs when 4 have failed**
- **Random censorship**
  - **Our focus, more general than Type I**

47

Notation

- **T = event time**
- **T* = observation time**
  - **T if event occurs**
  - **Follow-up time otherwise**
- **∂ = failure indicator**
  - **1 if T* = T**
  - **0 if T* < T**
  - **"censor" or "censor indicator"**

48

Key Assumption: Independent Censoring

- Those still at risk at time t in the study are a random sample of the population at risk at time t, for all t

- This assumption means that the hazard function ($\lambda(t)$) can be estimated in a fair/unbiased/valid way

49

Independent Censoring: If you have Covariates

- Censoring must be independent *within* group
  - Censoring must be 'independent' given X
  - Censoring can depend on X
- Among those with the same values of X, censored subjects must be at similar risk of subsequent events as subjects with continued follow-up
- Censoring can be different across groups

50

Censoring Examples

- At five year follow-up patients have not died
- Follow school group from age 5 until 25
  - Ask students when they start smoking
  - Answering "never" is an example of right censoring
- Early in trial older subjects are not enrolled
  - Amount of time could be on study?
  - Condition on age: ok
  - Do not condition on age: the estimates will be biased because censoring is not independent

51

Take Away: Study Types

- **Clinical studies**
  - Time origin = enrollment, treatment begins
  - Time axis = time on study
  - Right censoring common
- **Epidemiological studies**
  - Time axis = age
  - Right censoring common
  - Left truncation common

52

Bottom Line

- **Standard methods to deal with right censoring and left truncation**
- **Key assumption is that those at risk at t are a random sample from the population of interest at risk at t**

53

Survival Analysis

- **Models mostly for the hazard function**
- **Accommodates incomplete observation of T**
- **Censoring**
  - Observation of T is 'right censored' if we observed only that T > last follow-up time for a subject

54

Typical Intervention Trial

- **Accrual into the study over 2 years**
- **Data analysis at year 3**
- **Reasons for exiting a study**
  - **Died**
  - **Alive at study end**
  - **Withdrawal for non-study related reasons (LTFU)**
  - **Other reasons, including dying from other causes (which leads us to…)**

55

Outline

- ✓ **How to Measure Time and Events**
- ✓ **Survival and Hazard Functions**
- ✓ **Truncation and Censoring**
- ➤ **Competing Risks**
- **Models and Hypothesis Testing**
- **Example**
- **Conclusions**

56

Competing Risks

- **Multiple causes of death/failure**
- **Special considerations of competing risk events described in the literature**
- **Example:**
  - **event = cancer diagnosis/recurrence**
  - **death from myocardial infarction (MI) = competing risk**
- **No basis for believing the independence assumption**

57

Competing Risks

- Interpretation of $\lambda(t)$ = "risk of cancer at t when the risk of death from MI does not exist" isn't practically meaningful
- Rather, interpret $\lambda(t)$ = "risk of cancer among those at risk of cancer at t"
  - This will exclude MI deaths (if you are dead from an MI you are not at risk of cancer) and that is ok

58

Polar Bear Plunge Club Death Rates (fiction)

- Annual death rates
  - 3% taking dip 1Jan in Lake Michigan
  - 2% Males all other causes
  - 1% Female all other causes
- Over a decade
  - 25% of women died from taking a dip in Lake Michigan 1 Jan
  - 24% of men died from taking a dip in Lake Michigan 1 Jan

59

Polar Bear Club Death Rates (fiction)

- Why does it harm women?
- Over a decade
  - 33.5% of women died from all other causes
  - 40% of men died from all other causes
- There are more women to harm
- People die of something
  - Which means they cannot die from something else

60

20

Bottom Line

- We make inference about $\lambda^{obs}(t)$ = event rate among subjects under observation at t
- We can interpret it as $\lambda(t)$ = event rate among subjects with $T \geq t$, if censoring is independent

61

Outline

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62

Kaplan Meier

- One way to estimate survival
  – Or other events (transmission of HIV)
- Nice, simple, can compute by hand
- Can add stratification factors
- No sensible interpretation for competing risks
- Cannot evaluate covariates like Cox model
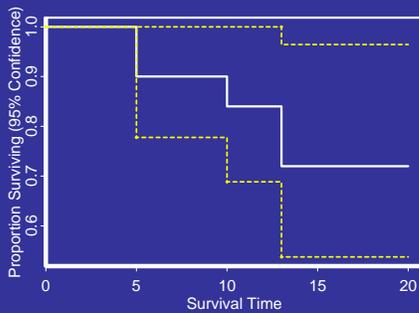- Kaplan Meier is a workhorse

63

Kaplan Meier

- Multiply together a series of conditional probabilities

Time t_i	# at risk	# events	$\hat{S}$
0	20	0	1.00
5	20	2	[1-(2/20)]*1.00=0.90
6	18	0	[1-(0/18)]*0.90=0.90
10	15	1	[1-(1/15)]*0.90=0.84
13	14	2	(1-(2/14)]*0.84=0.72

64

Kaplan Meier Curve

65

Kaplan Meier Estimator

- One estimate of S(t)
  - Use the same idea when looking at 1- S(t)
- Need independent censoring
  - If high risk subjects enter the study late then early on the K-M curve will come down faster than it should
- Censored observations provide information about risk of death while on study
- What are those little hash marks on the curves? Mark times people were censored

66

Kaplan Meier

- Just the outcome is in many models
- One or more stratification variables may be added
  - Intervention
  - Gender
  - Age categories
- Quick and Dirty

67

How to Test? At a Given Time

- $H_0: S_1(t) = S_2(t)$
- Form test statistic

$$Z = \frac{\hat{S}_1(t) - \hat{S}_2(t)}{\sqrt{\sigma^2_{\hat{S}_1(t)} + \sigma^2_{\hat{S}_2(t)}}}$$

- "Arbitrary time" – choosing t *post hoc*
- Not using all of the data

68

Simple Inference

- For single event data inference about rates → inference for S(t)
  - No time dependent covariates, no recurrent events, no competing risk events
- Logrank statistics compare event rates and allow the same generality as right censoring, left truncation

69

23

Log Rank

- H_0: $S_1(.) = S_2(.)$
- Test overall survival
- 2 independent samples from the same population
- Observed # events vs. Expected #
- Software; statistician should check
- Some variations and some assumptions

70

Log Rank

- Confounding
- Are prognostic factors balanced between treatment groups?
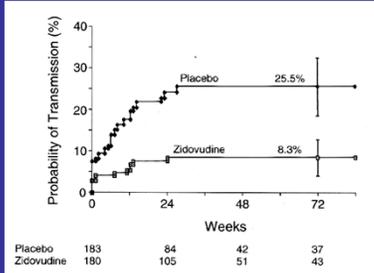- Can see a difference using logrank, but just bias

71

Stratified Log Rank

- Compare survival within each stratum
- Essentially perform test within each stratum
- Can prognostic factor be categorized?
- Enough people per stratum?
- Loss of power
- Significance test, no estimates of difference

72

At First Interim Analysis (1/3 of projected infant infections)

P = 0.00006

DOD/BRB/NIAID   73

Cox Models

Proportional Hazards: Cox

- **Cox Proportional Hazards model**
  $$\lambda(t) = \lambda_0(t) \exp\{ \beta_1 X_1 + \ldots + \beta_p X_p\}$$
- $\lambda_0(t)$ = baseline hazard
- $\beta_1, \ldots, \beta_p$ = regression coefficients
- $X_1, \ldots, X_p$ = prognostic factors
- $\beta = 0 \rightarrow$ hazard ratio = 1
  - Two groups have the same survival experience
- e^{β} = relative rate (relative risk) (RR)

75

Cox Proportional Hazards Model

- **Add covariates to the model**
- **No need to stratify**
- **Change in a prognostic factor → proportional change in the hazard (on the log scale)**
- **Statistical software**
- **Can test the effect of the prognostic factor as in linear regression - H_0: $\beta=0$**

76

Cox Model for Event Rates

- **Provides a framework for making inference about covariate effects**
- **Semi-parametric**
  - $\lambda_0(t)$ completely unspecified
- **Multiplicative - $e^{\beta x}$**
  - Effect of covariate is to multiply the rate by a factor

77

Cox cont.

- **Requires either that**
  - RR is constant over time (proportional hazards), or
  - That we model RR over time
- **Allows time-dependent covariates and stratification factors**

78

Age Example

- **Early in trial older subjects are not enrolled**
- **If age is not in the Kaplan Meier then the KM estimate is biased because censoring is not independent**
- **Put age in the Cox model – conditioned on age; ok**

79

Age Example (cont.)

- **If I follow everyone for 1 year, am I ok?**
- **Not necessarily**
  - **The study is not proportional by age to the population risk set**
  - **Could try to over sample older people later in the study to make the final study more correctly proportional**
    - **Easier to condition on age?**

80

Testing Proportional Hazards

- $\lambda(t) = \lambda_0(t) \exp\{ \beta_1 \text{ age} + \beta_2 \text{ drug}\}$
- $\exp\{ \beta_1 \text{age} + \beta_2 \text{drug} + \beta_3 \text{age*ln(t)} + \beta_4 \text{ drug *ln(t)}\}$
- **Look at p-values associated with β_3 and β_4 (Wald tests)**
- **Do a partial likelihood ratio test comparing the two models**
- **Look at Schoenfeld residual plots**

81

Testing Proportional Hazards

Variable	Coef	SE	P-value	95%CI
Drug	0.58	0.25	0.020	(0.09, 1.1)
Age	0.18	0.03	<0.001	(0.12, 0.25)
Drug	0.57	0.25	0.023	(0.08, 1.1)
Age	0.19	0.03	<0.001	(0.12, 0.26)
Drug*ln(t)	0.002	0.16	0.988	(-0.32, 0.31)
Age*ln(t)	0.007	0.02	0.716	(-0.03, 0.05)

Partial likelihood ratio test, 2 degrees of freedom
(for adding two interaction terms): p-value=0.94   82

Testing Proportional Hazards

Variable	Coef	SE	P-value
Drug	4.24	0.61	<0.001
Age	0.17	0.03	<0.001
Drug	8.98	1.88	<0.001
Age	0.19	0.03	<0.001
Drug*ln(t)	2.71	0.84	0.001
Age*ln(t)	0.01	0.02	0.60

Partial likelihood ratio test, 2 degrees of freedom
(for adding two interaction terms): p-value=0.003   83

Time-Dependent Survival Curves

- **Failure to account for change in exposure/treatment over time**
  - **Usually assume there is no change**
  - **Think about HAART example**
- **Stanford Heart Transplant Study (1971)**
  - **End-stage heart disease**
  - **Not responding**
  - **Seeking transplant**

84

28

Take Home

- Choose the right method and test
- Kaplan Meier – simple
  - Logrank tests – useful, potentially misleading
- Cox Proportional Hazards – workhorse
  - Not everything is proportional – check
  - Consider more general Cox models
- Time matters
- Changes in protocol matter

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86

Example

- Series of prospective cohort and randomized clinical studies evaluating survival of patients with liver cirrhosis
  - Compare a 'new' treatment, D-penicillamine with placebo
  - Conflicting reports
- One study appears to report a two year survival probability of 0.88, calculated with Kaplan Meier

Lancet 1981, Gut 1985, NEJM 1985, Cochrane review 2009   87

Trial Information

- **Data collected at randomization**
  - Lots of information (stage)
  - Presence/absence of ascites
  - Prothrombin time in seconds -10
- **Cox model you might see**
- $\lambda(t) = \lambda_0(t) \exp\{ -0.135\ X_{TRT} + 1.737\ X_A + 0.346\ X_P \}$

88

What is this model?

- $\lambda(t) = \lambda_0(t) \exp\{ -0.135\ X_{TRT} + 1.737\ X_A + 0.346\ X_P \}$
- X_{TRT}: 1 = D-penicillamine, 0 = placebo
- X_A: 1 = ascites, 0 = no ascites
- X_P: Prothrombin time – 10
  - Continuous, in seconds
- $\lambda_0(t)$ is the event rate at time t in the placebo arm for subjects without ascites with a prothrombin time of 10 seconds

89

$\lambda(t) = \lambda_0(t) \exp\{ -0.135\ X_{TRT} + 1.737\ X_A + 0.346\ X_P \}$

- **Relative rate of death two years post randomization for a subject on this trial who received the new treatment, had ascites at randomization and a prothrombin time of 10 seconds compared to a similar subject who received placebo?**
- **RR = exp { -0.135 } = 0.87**

90

Worked Out

$$\lambda(t) = \lambda_0(t) \exp\{-0.135\ X_{TRT} + 1.737\ X_A + 0.346\ X_P\}$$

$$\frac{\lambda_{person1}(t)}{\lambda_{person2}(t)} = \frac{\lambda_0(t)\exp\{-0.135*1+1.737*1+0.346*0\}}{\lambda_0(t)\exp\{-0.135*0+1.737*1+0.346*0\}} =$$

$$\frac{e^{-0.135}*e^{1.737}*e^0}{e^0*e^{1.737}*e^0} =$$

$\exp\{-0.135\} = 0.87$ is the relative rate of death for subjects who received treatment compared to those who received placebo

91

RR at Three Years?

- **Relative rate does not vary with time according to the proportional hazards model.**
- **At the years the previously described RR is also exp { -0.135 }**
- **Can work out RR for lots of other subject comparisons**

92

But…

- **Physicians were initially reluctant to enter patients with ascites on the trial because of potential toxicity concerns**
- **After about a year and a half recruitment became more representative of the clinic population**

93

31

Effects on the Validity of the Kaplan Meier (KM) Estimator

- Censoring is not independent
- At large t, the risk sets will not include patients with ascites because they were not recruited early enough and therefore are censored early.
- The hazard function will be biased too small for larger t and so $\hat{S}$ will be larger than the population survival function at large t.

In Short, What If

- From first participant entered until the end of study: 4 years
- Enroll for 3 years
  - Can be on study at least 1 year and up to 4 years
- Followed enrollment to end of study
- Do not start fully enrolling ascites until year 1.5

Ascites Participants

- On study at least 1 yr and up to 2.5 yr
- Do not have full population/risk set information at time t > 2.5 years
- At time points t > 2.5 the study does not include a representative population
  - Ascites → worse prognosis
  - KM estimate at t > 2.5 too high
  - Hazard is too small at larger t

Cox Model: Doomed Regression Coefficient Estimates?

- No bias because conditional on covariates (including X_A)
- Censoring must be independent GIVEN X
- Censoring is independent and that is all that is required for consistency of the partial likelihood estimator (i.e. the coefficients)

97

Outline

✓ How to Measure Time and Events
✓ Survival and Hazard Functions
✓ Truncation and Censoring
✓ Competing Risks
✓ Models and Hypothesis Testing
✓ Example
➢ Conclusions

98

Survival Analysis

- Survival analysis deals with making inference about EVENT RATES
- Rate at t = Rate among those at risk at t
- Look at Median survival (50%) not Mean survival
  – Mean: need everyone to have an event
- Cox Regression is the most robust method
- Kaplan Meier curves do not have sensible interpretations for competing risks

99

Survival Analysis Can Handle

- **Right censoring**
- **Left truncation**
- **Recurrent events**
- **Competing risks, etc.**

- **Available representative risk sets at t allow us to estimate/model event rates**

Kaplan Meier

- **One way to estimate survival**
- **Nice, simple, can compute by hand**
- **Can add stratification factors**
- **Cannot evaluate covariates like Cox model**
- **No sensible interpretation for competing risks**

101

Inference: Log Rank

- **Logrank statistics compare event rates and allow the same generality as right censoring, left truncation**
- **For single event data inference about rates → inference for S(t)**
  - **No time dependent covariates, no recurrent events, no competing risk events**

102

Cox Model for Event Rates

- **Provides a framework for making inference about covariate effects**
- **Semi-parametric**
  - $\lambda_0(t)$ **completely unspecified**
- **Multiplicative - $e^{\beta x}$**
  - **Effect of covariate is to multiply the rate by a factor**

103

Cox cont.

- **Requires either that**
  - **RR is constant over time (proportional hazards), or**
  - **That we model RR over time**
- **Allows time-dependent covariates and stratification factors**

104

Truncation and Censoring

- **Independence is key**
- **Truncation is about *entering* the study**
  - **Right: Event has occurred (e.g. cancer registry)**
  - **Left: Have the event and fall out of view before they can enter to be counted**
- **Censoring is about *leaving* the study**
  - **Right: Incomplete follow-up (common)**
  - **Left: Observed time > survival time**

105

Analysis Follows Design

Questions → Hypotheses → Experimental Design → Samples → Data → Analyses →Conclusions

- **Take all of your design information to a statistician early and often**
  - **Guidance**
  - **Assumptions**

106

Questions?

- **Thanks!**
- **Please fill out the course evaluations**
- **Post specific examples**
- **Send questions to the appropriate board for each lecture**

107