

ADNI Biostatistics Conference Call
26 February 2008

Present on call: Danielle Harvey, Hao Zhang, John Kornak, David Shera

Danielle reported on the latest version of the template for summarizing annual change. David requested that the sample sizes available for the mean and standard deviation calculations for each assessment within diagnostic group be included in Table 3. John mentioned that he thought the wording in Table 5 was a bit misleading (particularly for the standard deviation estimate for the difference scores). He thought it might be better to add a row that is "between-person difference standard deviation" which would include 4.44 for the difference score and NA for the random effects model. It might help the notation if we lay-out the difference scores in terms of the random effects model as is done in the "Estimating Twelve-Month Change" document.

Danielle also reported on the numeric data available through LONI. There is some longitudinal data available (particularly for the hippocampal volumes and BSI), and more has been submitted to ADCS but is not yet uploaded into the database (DeCarli's stroke and white matter hyperintensity volumes, and Reiman's SPM based measures). We are expecting more longitudinal data to appear in the coming weeks. All labs have been given a deadline of mid-March to submit their data to ADCS.

David asked about the April meeting...what the schedule was and who was invited. Danielle had a general sense, but will follow-up with Mike and send out an email to the Biostat Core.

David also asked about the details of the matching used for assigning subjects to arm. Danielle thought it was based on diagnosis and age (<76 vs >76), but she wasn't positive. Both Danielle and David will look into the details.

David also asked about analyses that he could be doing to help out. Danielle encouraged him to look at the data, particularly analyses that would be of interest to him. Hao has his code almost complete for generating the reports for each of the labs, so he will be doing all of those analyses.

We also mentioned ADNI II and the need to think about what to propose in the renewal. John really liked Laurel's idea that had been circulated in an email about incorporating or at least linking to a clinical trial. David said he would ask around and see what he can find out about interest at his company. We should also be thinking about areas of new methodology development.

John reported that the last voxel-based discussion occurred at the San Diego meeting in November. All of the voxel-based groups seemed to be more interested in doing their own thing and dealing with putting results on common templates after the analyses are done, rather than trying to come up with a uniform template for all labs to use.

Danielle also reported that she and Laurel are working on plans for an in-person training session to take place in Davis over the summer. David said he might be interested in attending that meeting.

Next call: March 11