

Outline for Evaluating Hypotheses and Specific Aims

What is the hypothesis?

- 1) Is the hypothesis stated in the form of a testable proposition?

What are the variables?

- 1) Which is the outcome variable (dependent variable, disease)?
- 2) Which is the study variable (independent variable, exposure)?
- 3) Are they measurable?
- 4) How are they related?

What are the specific aims?

- 1) Do the specific aims delineate what needs to be done to test the hypothesis?
- 2) Are they logically related to the hypothesis?
- 3) Are they specific enough?

Data set: 1400 women who underwent elective hysterectomy for non-malignant reasons; followed for complications and quality of life measures over the next two years

Research question: Do women on hormone replacement therapy (HRT) gain more weight?