

*SISCR Module 7*

Part I:

Introduction

Basic Concepts for Binary Classification Tools  
and Continuous Biomarkers

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## Module Overview

- Part I: Introductory concepts
  - Part II: Evaluating Risk Models
  - Part III: Evaluating the Incremental Value of New Biomarkers
  - Part IV: Some Guidance on Developing Risk Models
- 
- also: R tutorial/demo

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## Part 1 Overview

- Some examples
- To start: 1 marker  $X$  is binary (a “test”)
- We then move on: 1 marker  $X$  is continuous
- Multiple markers  $X, Y, \dots$ , and risk model  $P(\text{bad outcome} \mid X, Y, \dots)$

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## What is a Marker?

- DEF: a quantitative or qualitative measure that is potentially useful to classify individuals for current or future status
  - current  $\rightarrow$  diagnostic marker
  - future  $\rightarrow$  prognostic marker
- Includes biomarkers measured in biological specimens
- Includes imaging tests, sensory tests, clinical signs and symptoms, risk factors

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## What is the purpose of a classifier or risk prediction tool?

- To inform subjects about risk
- To help make medical decisions
  - Most often: identify individuals with high risk – the assumption is that these individuals have the greatest possibility to benefit from an intervention
  - Sometimes: identify individuals with low risk not likely to benefit from an intervention
- To enrich a clinical trial with “high risk” patients

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## Terminology and Notation

- “case” or “event” is an individual with the (bad) outcome
- “control” or “nonevent” is an individual without the outcome

case	control
D=1	D=0
D	$\bar{D}$
D	N

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## Terminology and Notation

- X, Y = potential predictors of D (demographic factors, clinical characteristics, biomarker measurements)
- Often: X is “standard” predictors and Y is a new biomarker under consideration
- $\text{risk}(X) = r(X) = P(D=1 | X)$ 
  - $\text{risk}(X,Y) = r(X,Y) = P(D=1 | X, Y)$
- prevalence =  $P(D=1) = \rho$  (“rho”)

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## What is risk(X)?

- $\text{risk}(x) \equiv P(D=1 | X=x)$  is the frequency of events among the group with  $X = x$
- “Personal risk” is not completely personal!
  - Will return to this at the end of Section 1

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### Example: Coronary Artery Surgery Study (CASS)

- 1465 men undergoing coronary arteriography for suspected coronary heart disease
- Arteriography is the “gold standard” measure of coronary heart disease
  - Evaluates the number and severity of blockages in arteries that supply blood to the heart
- Simple cohort study
- Possible predictor: Exercise stress test (EST)
- Possible predictor: chest pain history (CPH)

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### Example: EDRN Breast Cancer Biomarkers

- Women with positive mammograms undergo biopsy, the majority turn out to be benign lesions
- Provides motivation to develop serum biomarker to reduce unnecessary biopsies

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### Example: Pancreatic Cancer Biomarkers

- 141 patients with either pancreatitis (n=51) or pancreatic cancer (n=90)
- Serum samples
- Two candidate markers:
  - A cancer antigen CA-125
  - A carbohydrate antigen CA19-9
- Which marker is better at identifying cancer?
- Is either marker good enough to be useful?

Wieand, Gail, James, and James *Biometrika* 1989

### Example: Cardiovascular Disease

- Framingham study
- D = CVD event
- Y = high density lipoprotein
- X = demographics, smoking, diabetes, blood pressure, total cholesterol
- $n = 3264$ ,  $n_D = 183$

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## Simulated Data

- Artificial data are useful for exploring/illustrating methodology
- Here I introduce simple but useful models that I will use to illustrate some methods
  - Simulated data on DABS website
  - Simulated data from R packages DecisionCurve and BioPET
  - Normal and MultiNormal biomarker model

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## Example: Simulated data on DABS website

- $n = 10,000$ ,  $n_D = 1017$
- $Y =$  continuous, 1-dimensional
- $X =$  continuous, 1-dimensional
- <http://labs.fhcrc.org/pepe/dabs/> or search “Pepe DABS”

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## Example: Simulated data in R packages

- $n = 500$ ,  $n_D = 60$
- $X =$  sex, smoking status, Marker1
- $Y =$  Marker2
- These data will not appear in lecture notes, but will appear in software demo

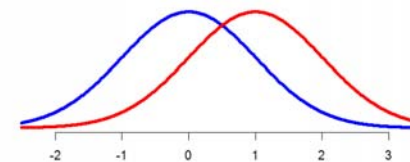
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## Normal Model with 1 Marker

- Biomarker  $X$  Normally distributed in **controls** and in **cases**

$X \sim N(0,1)$  in **controls**

$X \sim N(\mu,1)$  in **cases**



Distribution of  $X$  when  $\mu=1$

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## Multivariate Normal Model with 2 Markers (Bivariate Normal)

- Biomarkers ( $X_1, X_2$ ) are bivariate Normally distributed in controls and in cases

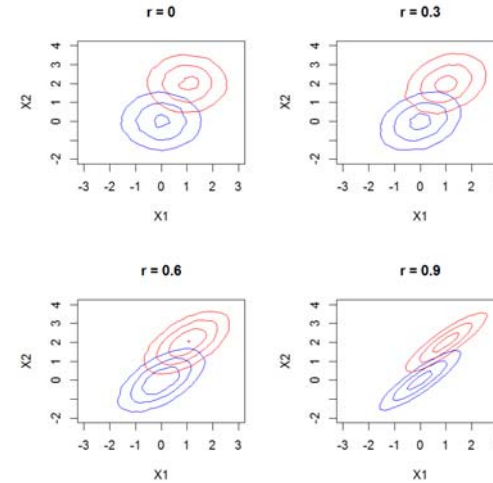
$$\vec{X} \sim MVN(\vec{0}, \Sigma) \text{ in controls}$$

$$\vec{X} \sim MVN(\vec{\mu}, \Sigma) \text{ in cases}$$

$$\Sigma = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & r \\ r & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

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In these examples  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  each have mean 0 in controls and mean 1 in cases. We can picture marker data in 2-dimensional space.



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- Biomarkers ( $X_1, X_2$ ) are bivariate Normally distributed in controls and in cases

$$\vec{X} \sim MVN(\vec{0}, \Sigma) \text{ in controls}$$

$$\vec{X} \sim MVN(\vec{\mu}, \Sigma) \text{ in cases}$$

- This data model is useful in research because the logistic regression model holds for each marker **and** for both markers together.

logit  $P(D=1|X_1)$  is linear in  $X_1$

logit  $P(D=1|X_1, X_2)$  is linear in  $X_1$  and  $X_2$

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## Generalization: Multivariate Normal Model

- Biomarkers ( $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_k$ ) are multivariate Normally distributed in controls and in cases

$$\vec{X} \sim MVN(\vec{0}, \Sigma) \text{ in controls}$$

$$\vec{X} \sim MVN(\vec{\mu}, \Sigma) \text{ in cases}$$

- The linear logistic model holds for every subset of markers

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**QUANTIFYING CLASSIFICATION  
ACCURACY (BINARY MARKER OR “TEST”)**

**Terminology**

- D = outcome (disease, event)
- Y = marker (test result)

	D=0	D=1
Y=0	true negative	false negative
Y=1	false positive	true positive

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**Terminology**

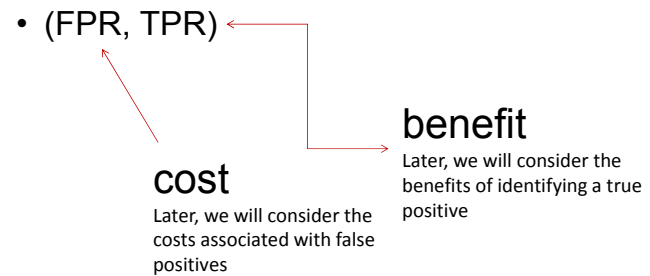
TPR = true positive rate =  $P[Y=1|D=1]$  = sensitivity

FPR = false positive rate =  $P[Y=1|D=0]$  = 1-specificity

FNR = false negative rate =  $P[Y=0|D=1]$  = 1-TPR

TNR = true negative rate =  $P[Y=0|D=0]$  = 1-FPR

Ideal test: FPR=0 and TPR=1



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## Coronary Artery Surgery Study (CASS)

Coronary Artery Disease

		D=0	D=1
Exercise Test	Y=0	327	208
	Y=1	115	815
		442	1023

FPR=115/442=26%

TPR=815/1023=80%

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## What about Odds Ratios?

- Odds ratios are very popular:
  - Because logistic regression is popular
  - Odds Ratio estimable from case-control study
  - OR≈relative risk for rare outcome
- $OR = \frac{TPR(1-FPR)}{FPR(1-TPR)}$
- Good classification (high TPR and low FPR) → large odds ratio
- However, large odds ratio does NOT imply good classification!

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Good classification → large odds ratio

E.g., TPR=0.8, FPR=0.10

$$OR = \frac{0.8 \times 0.9}{0.1 \times 0.2} = 36$$

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## Coronary Artery Surgery Study (CASS)

Coronary Artery Disease

		D=0	D=1
Exercise Test	Y=0	327	208
	Y=1	115	815
		442	1023

FPR=115/442=26%

TPR=815/1023=80%

OR ≈ 11.1

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large odds ratio does NOT imply good classification!

Pepe et al. American Journal of Epidemiology 2004; 159:882-890.

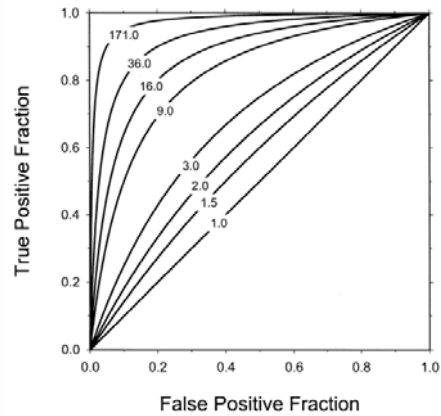


FIGURE 1. Correspondence between the true-positive fraction (TPF) and the false-positive fraction (FPF) of a binary marker and the odds ratio. Values of (TPF, FPF) that yield the same odds ratio are connected.

- Need to report *both* FPR and TPR
- Collapsing into one number (e.g., OR) is not sufficient
  - important information is lost

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## Misclassification Rate

$$\begin{aligned} \text{MR} &= \text{error rate} = P(Y \neq D) \\ &= P(Y=0, D=1) + P(Y=1, D=0) \\ &= \rho(1-\text{TPR}) + (1-\rho)\text{FPR} \end{aligned}$$

- $\rho$  is the prevalence  $P(D=1)$
- only appropriate if the cost of false positives equals the cost of false negatives
- seldom useful or appropriate

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## Misclassification Rate

- There are **two kinds of wrong decisions** and the MR equates these. In order to be clinically relevant we must consider the **cost of each kind of error**
  - ... later today

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- FPR, TPR condition on true status (D)
- they address the question: “to what extent does the biomarker reflect true status?”

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## Predictive Values

PPV and NPV are functions of TPR and FPR and the prevalence  $\rho$

$$PPV = \frac{\rho TPR}{\rho TPR + (1 - \rho)FPR}$$

$$NPV = \frac{(1 - \rho)(1 - FPR)}{(1 - \rho)(1 - FPR) + \rho(1 - TPR)}$$

- TPR, FPR are **properties of a test**, but PPV, NPV are **properties of a test in a population**
- For low prevalence conditions, PPV tends to be low, even with very sensitive tests

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## Predictive Values

Positive predictive value  $PPV=P(D=1|Y=1)$

Negative predictive value  $NPV=P(D=0|Y=0)$

- condition on biomarker results (Y)
- address the question: “Given my biomarker value is Y, what is the chance that I have the disease?” This is the question of interest for patients and clinicians in interpreting the result of a biomarker test

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## False Discovery Rate

False Discovery Rate  $FDR=P(D=0|Y=1)$   
 $=1 - PPV$

“False Discovery Rate” and “False Positive Rate” sound similar, but they are not the same!

- FPR: among all those who are not diseased, how many were called positive
- FDR: among all those you called positive, how many were not actually diseased. **We will not use or further discuss FDR further today.**

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## Motivation

- Most biomarkers are continuous

## Convention

- Assume larger Y more indicative of disease  
– otherwise replace Y with -Y
- Formally:  $P(D=1 | Y)$  increasing in Y

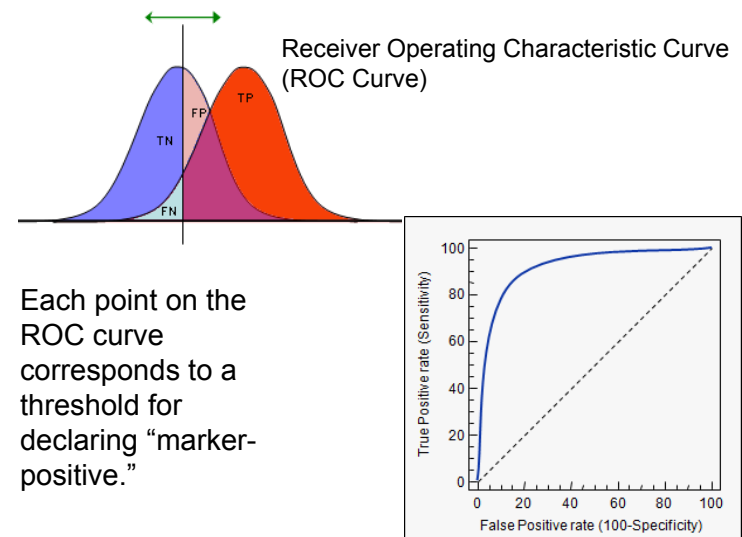
### CONTINUOUS MARKERS: ROC CURVES

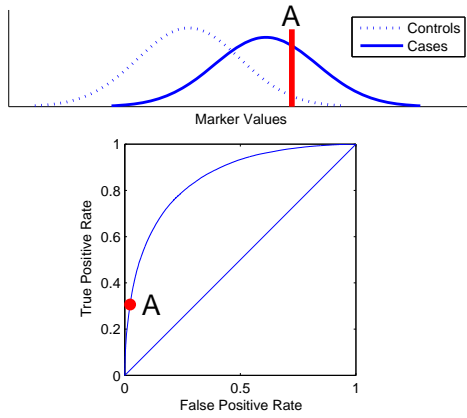
## Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) Curve

- generalizes (FPR, TPR) to continuous markers
- considers rules based on thresholds " $Y \geq c$ "  
– makes sense if  $P(D=1|Y)$  increasing in Y
- $TPR(c) = P(Y \geq c | D=1)$
- $FPR(c) = P(Y \geq c | D=0)$
- $ROC(\cdot) = \{FPR(c), TPR(c) ; c \text{ in } (-\infty, \infty)\}$

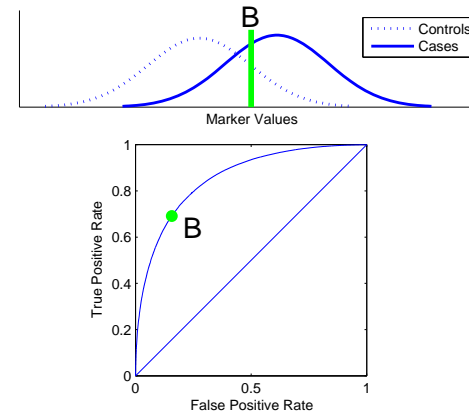
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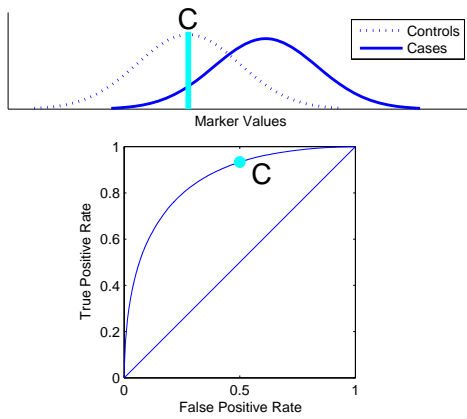




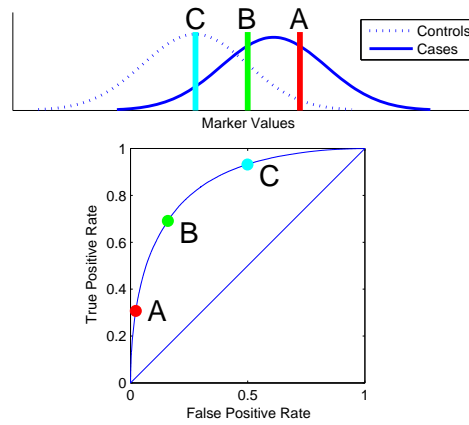
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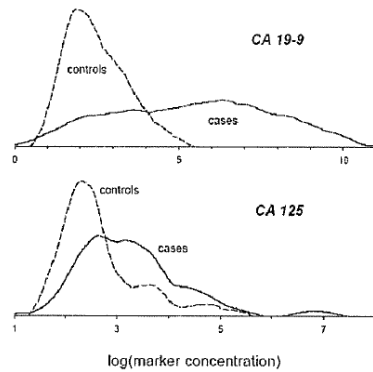


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Pancreatic cancer biomarkers (Wieand et al 1989)



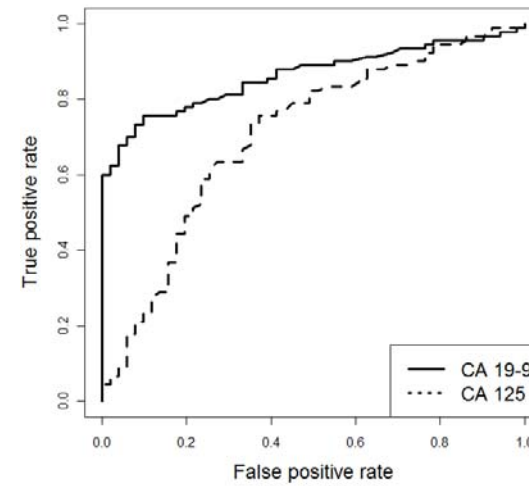
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## Properties of ROC curves

- non-decreasing from (0,0) to (1,1) as threshold decreases from  $c=\infty$  to  $c=-\infty$
- *ideal* marker has control distribution completely disjoint from case distribution; ROC through (0,1)
- *useless* marker has ROC equal to 45 degree line
- doesn't depend on scale of Y: invariant to monotone increasing transformations of Y
- puts different markers on a common relevant scale
- shows entire range of possible performance

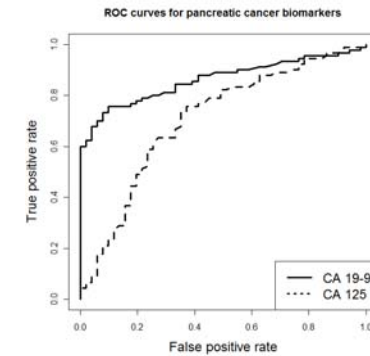
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ROC curves for pancreatic cancer biomarkers



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CA-19-9 appears to be the more accurate diagnostic biomarker for pancreatic cancer



- for most fixed FPR, CA-19-9 has the better corresponding TPR
- for most fixed TPR, CA-19-9 has the better corresponding FPR

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## Comparing ROC Curves: AUC

- **AUC** is Area under ROC curve
- $AUC = \int_0^1 ROC(t) dt = \text{average}(TPR)$ 
  - average is uniform over (0,1)
- commonly used summary of an ROC curve
  - also called the c-index or c-statistic
- ideal test:  $AUC=1.0$
- useless test:  $AUC=0.5$
- A single number summary of a curve is necessarily a crude summary

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## AUC: another interpretation

- $P(Y_D > Y_N)$  for a randomly selected case D and a randomly selected control N
  - Provides an interpretation for AUC beyond “area under ROC curve”
- The AUC is a summary of an ROC curve that is commonly used to compare ROC curves – it is interpretable, but the interpretation shows that AUC is not clinically meaningful

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## Risk model

- risk prediction model – gives a risk for a marker value or a combination of markers
- Predicted risks are in the interval [0,1] and interpreted as probabilities
- E.g. STS risk score for dialysis following cardiac surgery is formed via:
  - $STS \text{ risk score} = f(\alpha + \beta_1 \text{ Age} + \beta_2 \text{ Surgery Type} + \beta_3 \text{ Diabetes} + \beta_4 \text{ MI Recent} + \beta_5 \text{ Race} + \beta_6 \text{ Chronic Lung Disease} + \beta_7 \text{ Reoperation} + \beta_8 \text{ NYHA Class} + \beta_9 \text{ Cardiogenic Shock} + \beta_{10} \text{ Last Serum Creatinine})$

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## RISK PREDICTION

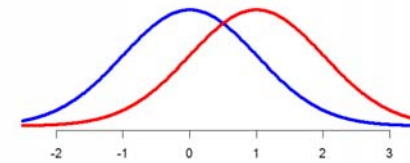
## What is “personal risk”?

- Recall:  $\text{risk}(x) \equiv P(D=1 | X=x)$  is the frequency of events among the group with marker values  $x$
- “Personal risk” is not completely personal!
  - (next example)

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## What is “personal risk”?

- Suppose the prevalence of  $D$  in “Population A” is 1%
  - Without any additional information, the only valid risk prediction instrument is to assign everyone in the population  $\text{risk}=1\%$
- Suppose we have a marker  $X$  that tends to be higher in the cases than controls

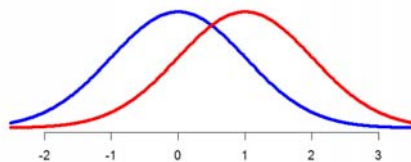


Distribution of marker  $X$  in controls (blue) and cases (red)

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## What is “personal risk”?

- Suppose an individual in Population A has  $X$  measured as 1.
- We can calculate his  $\text{risk}(X=1) \approx 1.6\%$ 
  - We can calculate the risk using Bayes’ rule

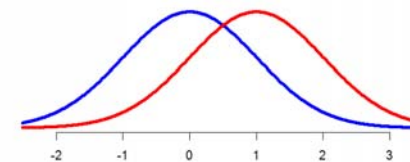


Distribution of marker  $X$  in controls (blue) and cases (red)

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## What is “personal risk”?

- Suppose the marker acts exactly the same in Population B. The only difference between Populations A and B is that B has prevalence=10%.
- An individual in Population B has  $X=1$ . For that individual, his risk is  $\approx 15.5\%$



Distribution of marker  $X$  in controls (blue) and cases (red)

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## What is “personal risk”?

- “Personal risk” is a term that is prone to be misconstrued
- Risk is personal when calculated based on personal characteristics
- However, personal risk is not completely divorced from population characteristics. For example, the previous example shows that the population (specifically, the population prevalence) affects “personal” risk.

## Summary

- Some example datasets
- FPR, TPR
- PPV, NPV
  - function of FPR, TPR and disease prevalence
- ROC curves
- AUC
  - geometric interpretation as area under curve
  - probability interpretation
- risk model:  $\text{risk}(X)=P(D=1|X)$