

Odds, odds ratios and related quantities

Numerical example, based on VitC study

Note: Reported values are rounded but prior calculations are not

Placebo group: 335 with cold, 411 total

$$p_1 = 335 / 411 = 0.815$$

$$\text{Odds of a cold in placebo group} = 0.815 / (1 - 0.815) = 335 / 76 = o_1 = 4.41$$

$$\text{Odds of not cold in placebo group} = (1 - 0.815) / 0.815 = 76 / 335 = 1 / o_1 = 0.227$$

Vit C group: 302 with cold, 407 total

$$p_2 = 302 / 407 = 0.742$$

$$\text{Odds of a cold in Vit C group} = 0.742 / (1 - 0.742) = 302 / 105 = o_2 = 2.88$$

$$\text{Odds of not cold in Vit C group} = (1 - 0.742) / 0.742 = 105 / 302 = 1 / o_2 = 0.348$$

Odds ratio and log odds ratio:

$$\text{Odds ratio (as odds of cold in placebo / odds in Vit C): } o_1 / o_2 = 4.41 / 2.88 = 1.53$$

$$\text{log odds ratio} = \log 1.53 = 0.427$$

$$\text{Odds ratio (as odds of cold in Vit C / odds in placebo): } o_2 / o_1 = 2.88 / 4.41 = 0.652$$

$$\text{log odds ratio} = \log 0.652 = -0.427$$

$$\text{Odds ratio (as odds of not cold in placebo / odds in Vit C):}$$

$$(1 / o_1) / (1 / o_2) = 0.227 / 0.348 = 0.652$$

$$\text{log odds ratio} = \log 0.652 = -0.427$$

$$\text{Odds ratio (as odds of not cold in Vit C / odds in placebo):}$$

$$(1 / o_2) / (1 / o_1) = 0.348 / 0.227 = 1.53$$

$$\text{log odds ratio} = \log 1.53 = 0.427$$

Checking the interpretation:

compare what your statement says to what the two probabilities say, e.g.

The odds of a cold in the Vit C group is 0.652 times that odds in the placebo group

OR: Vit C reduces the odds of a cold by 35% compared to the placebo group

Both say that the odds of a cold is lower in the Vit C group

Which means the probability of a cold must be lower in the Vit C Group

Check: $P[\text{cold} \mid \text{Vit C}] = 0.742$, $P[\text{cold} \mid \text{Placebo}] = 0.815$.

Yes, so statement about odds is “the right way around”

Inference on odds ratios: (expanded copy of last bit of week 6 notes)

log odds ratios are approximately normally distributed

Approximate se calculated from the 4 observed counts, O_{ij} :

$$\begin{aligned} se &\approx \sqrt{\frac{1}{O_{11}} + \frac{1}{O_{12}} + \frac{1}{O_{21}} + \frac{1}{O_{22}}} \\ &= \sqrt{0.02898} \\ &= 0.170 \end{aligned}$$

Approximate 95% ci for log odds ratio:

$$\log \text{ OR} \pm (z_{0.975})(se)$$

$$z_{0.975} = 1.96$$

For log odds of cold in Placebo / cold in Vit C:

$$\log 1.53 \pm (1.96)(0.17) = 0.427 \pm 0.334 = (0.093, 0.761)$$

For odds of cold in Placebo / cold in Vit C:

$$(\exp(0.093), \exp(0.761)) = (1.10, 2.14)$$

For log odds of cold in Vit C / cold in Placebo:

$$\log 0.652 \pm (1.96)(0.17) = -0.427 \pm 0.334 = (-0.761, -0.093,)$$

For odds of cold in Placebo / cold in Vit C:

$$(\exp(-0.761), \exp(-0.093)) = (0.47, 0.91)$$

Notice that $1/2.14 = 0.47$ and $1/1.10 = 0.91$