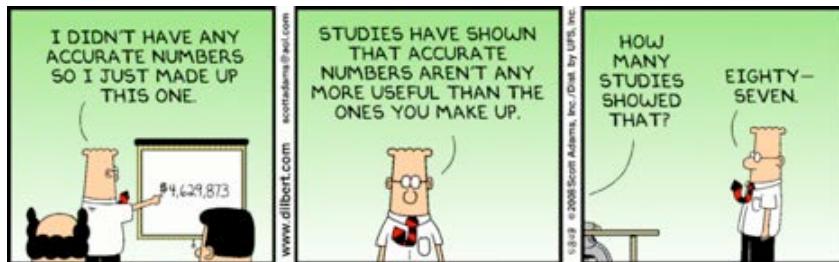


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"A statistical analysis, properly conducted, is a delicate dissection of uncertainties, a surgery of suppositions." ~M.J. Moroney



You have reached the end of your study, and have an unacceptable proportion of patients with missing data used to evaluate the primary objective of the study. There are now problems in your analysis. Conclusions drawn from the data may be less precise and likely biased. Even if not biased, you may not have enough evaluable patients to meet your statistical objectives and your project goals.

How did this happen, and what could have been done to minimize missing information?

Unfortunately, many studies fall into what we refer to as the "Dilbert" category, where inexperience and a poorly designed study are the norm, and not the exception.

It is very important to have an experienced clinical statistician on board during your study planning and design. Your statistician can help you with the decisions on primary endpoints and on the appropriate adjustments to sample size. The statistician's insight into how data get (could this be "are" instead of "get") analyzed and the impact of missing data on planned analyses, allows you to consider the factors involved and how to avoid the pitfalls and financial burden of enrolling more patients to compensate for issues.

Decisions on how missing data are to be handled MUST be discussed in the statistical analysis plans for your study. It cannot be ignored! Your statistician can plan the appropriate analyses for the most plausible missing data process that may occur.

The statistician is a vital part of your team when considering all aspects of study design and not just a resource to calculate sample size. The statisticians at BSI have the experience and expertise to assist you in designing a successful study, with minimal deficiencies in your data collection.

Minimize the Dilbert Principal in your next study. Give us a call today.

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