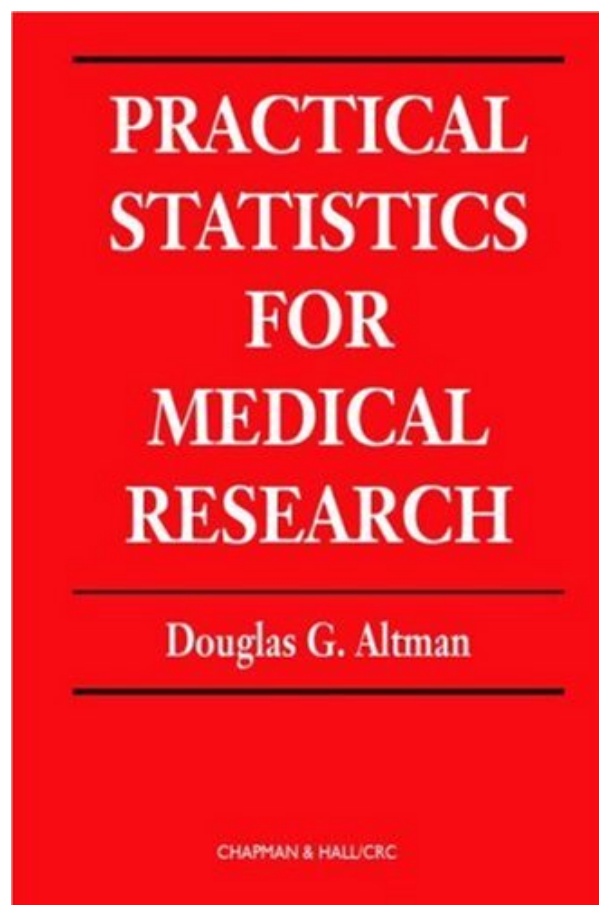


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Practical Statistics for Medical Research is a problem-based text for medical researchers, medical students, and others in the medical arena who need to use statistics but have no specialized mathematics background.

The author draws on twenty years of experience as a consulting medical statistician to provide clear explanations to key statistical concepts, with a firm emphasis on practical aspects of designing and analyzing medical research. The text gives special attention to the presentation and interpretation of results and the many real problems that arise in medical research.

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book I have seen is scientifically rigorous when discussing practical problems encountered in planning and analyzing biologic and clinical research. I recommend it enthusiastically to clinical investigators." - H.J. Motulsky, New England Journal of Medicine, 1991 "This book fulfills its original intention of being a solid reference book for the medical researcher. I enjoyed reading it, and can thoroughly recommend it." - P. Stell, International Journal of Epidemiology "This book is, of course, now almost 10 years old. In general its age does not show it is intended to appeal to and to interest medical researchers with little knowledge of statistics. A review by a statistician cannot assess how well this is achieved, but it is indicative of success that this is the ninth reprint." --Nigel Stallard, University of Reading, Book Reviews

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great intermediate text with special warnings about statistical methods in medical journal articles

By Michael R. Chernick

This is a very well written and popular text on biostatistics. Altman writes for non-statisticians but the book is best suited for those with at least one prior course in statistics and those who have had mathematics through high school algebra. Emphasis is placed on the important practical problems. Good statistical designs and analyses are emphasized. The pitfalls with many published medical articles are discussed in Chapter 16.

I used this book to teach a 20 lecture course to students (engineers, clinicians and computer scientists) at Pacesetter in 1998 and at Biosense Webster in 1999 (both medical device companies that employed me as senior biostatistician). It was a good refresher course for the CRAs and engineers and it helped to make it easier for me to work with them on their statistical problems.

I have also taught a similar course to undergraduate students in the Health Science Department at Cal State Long Beach. Altman's book is a little too advanced to use as a text for that course but I did use it as a reference and covered material in Chapter 16 at the end of the course. Clear discussion of the medical literature is very important to these students and Altman does a great job!

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful.

Very useful practical statistics, viewpoint of senior medical student

By Joshua I. Warrick

The book was an excellent overview of the basic medical statistics you commonly see in the literature. I read most of it before working on a literature review project, and it brought me from having a very poor understanding of basic statistics to being able to understand and perform many stat evaluations on my own (t-test, ANOVA, etc.). It's also very good for defining terms, which by itself cleared up a number of things for me.

20 of 20 people found the following review helpful.

The best book I've found on the topic!

By neurotome

This book was the text for the intro to Biostat class at Columbia University this year. It is lucid, well organized, doesn't bog down in details or equations, and gives a good introductory explanation of the basic statistical methods, their rationale for use, and their various assumptions and shortcomings.

I can't imagine trying to do stats without a copy of this book beside me - I'd be lost. If you're in need of a book to help you understand medical statistics as they are presented in the literature, you should use this book and eschew all others.

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