
Mean Values after Treatment or Mean Difference?

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In a systematic review and meta-analysis Published in the *Urology*⁽¹⁾ entitled “Low-Intensity Extracorporeal Shock Wave Therapy for Erectile Dysfunction: a Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis” by Libo and Guizhong in 2017, the authors in methods section state that “weighted mean difference (MD) was used for continuous variables in their meta-analysis”. While, the authors used the endpoint scores as the mean difference in each group regardless of the baseline scores and one study⁽²⁾ that baseline used as mean difference. Based on statistical literature in meta-analysis, the “mean difference” is change average from baseline to endpoint. So, to calculate the mean difference, we should use endpoint minus baseline mean score⁽³⁾. In our understanding, it seems that the result of Libo’s meta-analysis⁽¹⁾ should revise for the mean difference as mentioned above.

REFERENCES

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