Getting SMART About Developing Individually-Tailored Adaptive Health Interventions

AHSR, George Mason University, October 3

Daniel Almirall & Susan A. Murphy
Course Outline

- 1:10-2:00: Adaptive Treatment Strategies
- 2:00-3:10: SMART Experimental Design
- 3:10-3:30: Break
- 3:30-4:10: Interesting Primary Analyses
- 4:10-4:50: Interesting Secondary Analyses

- **Q&A and Exercises @ end of each module**

- **Workshop is on my website at Univ Michigan**
- **Let’s choose (a) teams, and (b) timekeepers**
Adaptive Treatment Strategies

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AHSR, George Mason University, October 3

Susan A. Murphy & Daniel Almirall
Outline

• What are Adaptive Treatment Strategies?
• Why use Adaptive Treatment Strategies?
• Adaptive Treatment Strategy Design Goals
• What does an Adaptive Treatment Strategy include?
• Summary & Discussion
Adaptive Treatment Strategies

- Are individually tailored time-varying treatments composed of
  - a sequence of critical treatment decisions
  - tailoring variables
  - decision rules, one per critical decision; decision rules input tailoring variables and output an individualized treatment recommendation.

- Operationalize clinical practice.
Adaptive Aftercare for Alcohol Dependent Individuals

• **Critical treatment decisions**: which treatment to provide first?; which treatment to provide second?

• **Tailoring variable**: heavy drinking days
Decision Rules

**First** alcohol dependent individuals are provided Naltrexone along with Medical Management.

**Second if** an individual experiences 3 or more heavy drinking days prior to 8 weeks on Naltrexone then the individual’s Naltrexone treatment is augmented with Combine Behavioral Intervention.

**Or if** the individual successfully completes 8 weeks with fewer than 3 heavy drinking days then the individual is provided a prescription to Naltrexone along with Telephone Disease Management.
Adaptive Treatment Strategies

- From the individual/patient/client’s point of view: a sequence of (individualized) treatments
- From the clinical scientist’s point of view: a sequence of decision rules that recommend one or more treatments at each critical decision.
More examples of critical treatment decisions and tailoring variables

- **Critical treatment decisions**: how long to try the first treatment?; how should a treatment be delivered?; how intensive should a treatment be? When to stop/start treatment?

- **Tailoring variables**: severity of illness, presence of comorbid mental or physical conditions, family support, adherence to present treatment, side effects resulting from present treatment, symptoms while in treatment.
Another Example of an Adaptive Treatment Strategy

• Adaptive Drug Court Program for drug abusing offenders.

• Goal is to minimize recidivism and drug use.

• Marlowe et al. (2008)
Adaptive Drug Court Program

low risk → As-needed court hearings + standard counseling

high risk → Bi-weekly court hearings + standard counseling

As-needed court hearings + ICM → non-responsive

Bi-weekly court hearings + ICM → non-responsive

non-compliant → As-needed court hearings + ICM

non-compliant → Bi-weekly court hearings + ICM

Court-determined disposition
Other Examples of Adaptive Treatment Strategies

• Brooner et al. (2002, 2007) Treatment of Opioid Addiction

• McKay (2009) Treatment of Substance Use Disorders

• Marlowe et al. (2008) Drug Court

• Rush et al. (2003) Treatment of Depression
Why Adaptive Treatment Strategies?

– High heterogeneity in need for or response to any one treatment
  • What works for one person may not work for another
– Improvement often marred by relapse
– Lack of adherence or excessive burden is common
– Intervals during which more intense treatment is required alternate with intervals in which less treatment is sufficient
Why not combine all possible efficacious therapies and provide all of these to patient now and in the future?

• Treatment incurs side effects and substantial burden, particularly over longer time periods.
• Problems with adherence:
  • Variations of treatment or different delivery mechanisms may increase adherence
  • Excessive treatment may lead to non-adherence
• Treatment is costly (Would like to devote additional resources to patients with more severe problems)

More is not always better!
Treatment Design Goals

• Maximize the strength of the adaptive treatment strategy
  • by well chosen tailoring variables, well measured tailoring variables, & well conceived decision rules
Treatment Design Goals

• Maximize replicability in future experimental and real-world implementation conditions
  • by fidelity of implementation & by clearly defining the treatment strategy
Parts of the Adaptive Treatment Strategy

• Choice of the Tailoring Variable
• Measurement of the Tailoring Variable
• Decision Rules linking Tailoring Variables to Treatment Decisions
• Implementation of the Decision Rules
Choice of Tailoring Variable

• Significant differences in effect sizes in a comparison of fixed treatments as a function of characteristics.

• Tailoring variable: individual, family, contextual characteristics; individual, family outcomes to treatment
Adaptive Drug Court Program

- Offenders who return to drug use while receiving counseling need additional help to maintain a drug-free lifestyle.

- Tailoring variable is positive urine test

- Providing ICM to offenders who are able to stay drug-free is costly.
Technical Interlude!

$s =$ tailoring variable
$t =$ treatment type (0 or 1)
$Y =$ primary outcome (high is preferred)

$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 s + \beta_2 t + \beta_3 st + \text{error}$

$= \beta_0 + \beta_1 s + (\beta_2 + \beta_3 s)t + \text{error}$

If $(\beta_2 + \beta_3 s)$ is zero or negative for some $s$ and positive for others then $s$ is a tailoring variable.
S Interacts with Treatment but is NOT a Tailoring Variable

S is a Tailoring Variable
Measurement of Tailoring Variables

• Reliability -- high signal to noise ratio

• Validity -- unbiased
Derivation of Decision Rules

• Articulate a theoretical model for how treatment effect on key outcomes should differ across values of the moderator.

• Use scientific theory and prior clinical experience.

• Use prior experimental and observational studies.

• Discuss with research team and clinical staff, “What dosage would be best for people with this value on the tailoring variable?”
Derivation of Decision Rules

• Good decision rules are objective, are operationalized.

• Strive for comprehensive rules (this is hard!) – cover situations that can occur in practice, including when the tailoring variable is missing or unavailable.
Implementation

• Try to implement rules universally, applying decision rules consistently across subjects, time, site & staff members.

• Document values of tailoring variable!
• Exceptions to the rules should be made only after group discussions and with group agreement.

• If it is necessary to make an exception, document this so you can describe the implemented treatment.
Summary & Discussion

• Research is needed to build a theoretical literature that can provide guidance:
  • in identifying tailoring variables,
  • in the development of reliable and valid indices of the tailoring variables that can be used in the course of repeated clinical assessments.
Summary & Discussion

• Research is needed on how we might use existing experimental and observational studies to
  • Identify useful tailoring variables
  • Formulate best rules.

• Next up!: Experimental Study designs for use in finding good tailoring variables and rules.
Practice Exercise:

Write down 3-4 simple adaptive treatment strategies to address a chronic disorder in your field.
Sequential, Multiple Assignment, Randomized Trials

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Daniel Almirall & Susan A. Murphy
Outline

• What are Sequential Multiple Assignment Trials (SMARTs)?
• Why SMART experimental designs?
  – “new” clinical trial design
• Trial Design Principles and Analysis
• Examples of SMART Studies
• Summary & Discussion
Why SMART Trials?

What is a sequential multiple assignment randomized trial (SMART)?

These are multi-stage trials; each stage corresponds to a critical decision and a randomization takes place at each critical decision.

*Goal is to inform the construction of adaptive treatment strategies.*
Sequential Multiple Assignment Randomization

Initial Tx

Tx A

Early Responder

R

Tx B

Nonresponder

R

Intermediate Outcome

Early Responder

R

Nonresponder

R

Secondary Tx

Relapse Prevention

Low-level Monitoring

Switch to Tx C

Augment with Tx D

Tx C

Rx D
One Adaptive Treatment Strategy

Initial Txt  Intermediate Outcome  Secondary Txt

Tx A

Early Responder

Nonresponder

Tx B

Early Responder

Nonresponder

Relapse Prevention

Low-level Monitoring

Switch to Tx C

Augment with Tx D

Augment with
Alternate Approach to Constructing an Adaptive Treatment Strategy

• Why not use data from multiple trials to construct the adaptive treatment strategy?

• Choose the best initial treatment on the basis of a randomized trial of initial treatments and choose the best secondary treatment on the basis of a randomized trial of secondary treatments.
Delayed Therapeutic Effects

Why not use data from multiple trials to construct the adaptive treatment strategy?

Positive synergies: Treatment A may not appear best initially but may have enhanced long term effectiveness when followed by a particular maintenance treatment. Treatment A may lay the foundation for an enhanced effect of particular subsequent treatments.
Delayed Therapeutic Effects

Why not use data from multiple trials to construct the adaptive treatment strategy?

**Negative synergies:** Treatment A may produce a higher proportion of responders but also result in side effects that reduce the variety of subsequent treatments for those that do not respond. Or the burden imposed by treatment A may be sufficiently high so that nonresponders are less likely to adhere to subsequent treatments.
Prescriptive Effects

Why not use data from multiple trials to construct the adaptive treatment strategy?

Treatment A may not produce as high a proportion of responders as treatment B but treatment A may elicit symptoms that allow you to better match the subsequent treatment to the patient and thus achieve improved response to the sequence of treatments as compared to initial treatment B.
Sample Selection Effects

Why not use data from multiple trials to construct the adaptive treatment strategy?

Subjects who will enroll in, who remain in or who are adherent in the trial of the initial treatments may be quite different from the subjects in SMART.
Summary:

• When evaluating and comparing initial treatments, *in a sequence of treatments*, we need to take into account, e.g. control, the effects of the secondary treatments thus SMART.

• Standard one-stage randomized trials may yield information about different populations from SMART trials.
Sequential Multiple Assignment Randomization

**Initial Txt**
- Tx A
- Tx B

**Intermediate Outcome**
- Nonresponder
- Early Responder

**Secondary Txt**
- Relapse Prevention
- Low-level Monitoring
- Switch to Tx C
- Augment with Tx D

- Rx
  - Early Responder
  - Nonresponder
Examples of “SMART” designs:

• CATIE (2001)  Treatment of Psychosis in Schizophrenia

• Pelham (primary analysis) Treatment of ADHD

• Oslin (primary analysis) Treatment of Alcohol Dependence

• Jones (in field)  Treatment for Pregnant Women who are Drug Dependent

• Kasari (in field) Treatment of Children with Autism

• McKay (in field) Treatment of Alcohol and Cocaine Dependence
SMART Design Principles

• **KEEP IT SIMPLE**: At each stage (critical decision point), restrict class of treatments only by ethical, feasibility or strong scientific considerations. Use a low dimension summary (responder status) instead of all intermediate outcomes (adherence, etc.) to restrict class of next treatments.

• Collect intermediate outcomes that might be useful in ascertaining for whom each treatment works best; information that might enter into the adaptive treatment strategy.
SMART Design Principles

• Choose primary hypotheses that are both scientifically important and aids in developing the adaptive treatment strategy.
  • Power trial to address these hypotheses.

• Choose secondary hypotheses that further develop the adaptive treatment strategy and use the randomization to eliminate confounding.
  • Trial is not necessarily powered to address these hypotheses.
SMART Designing Principles: Primary Hypothesis

• EXAMPLE 1: (*sample size is highly constrained*): Hypothesize that controlling for the secondary treatments, the initial treatment A results in lower symptoms than the initial treatment B.

• EXAMPLE 2: (*sample size is less constrained*): Hypothesize that among non-responders a switch to treatment C results in lower symptoms than an augment with treatment D.
EXAMPLE 1

Initial Txt  Intermediate Outcome  Secondary Txt

Tx A  →  Early Responder  →  Relapse Prevention

Tx A  →  Nonresponder  →  Switch to Tx C

Tx B  →  Early Responder  →  Relapse Prevention

Tx B  →  Nonresponder  →  Switch to Tx C

Augment with Tx D
**EXAMPLE 2**

**Initial Txt** | **Intermediate Outcome** | **Secondary Txt**
---|---|---
Tx A | Early Responder | Relapse Prevention
Nonresponder | Low-level Monitoring | Switch to Tx C
Tx B | Early Responder | Relapse Prevention
Nonresponder | Low-level Monitoring | Switch to Tx C
Nonresponder | Augment with Tx D
Nonresponder | Augment with Tx D
SMART Designing Principles: Sample Size Formula

• EXAMPLE 1: (sample size is highly constrained): Hypothesize that given the secondary treatments provided, the initial treatment A results in lower symptoms than the initial treatment B. *Sample size formula is same as for a two group comparison.*

• EXAMPLE 2: (sample size is less constrained): Hypothesize that among non-responders a switch to treatment C results in lower symptoms than an augment with treatment D. *Sample size formula is same as a two group comparison of non-responders.*
## Sample Sizes

$N=$trial size

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Example 1</th>
<th>Example 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$\Delta \mu/\sigma = .3$</td>
<td>$N = 402$</td>
<td>$N = 402$/initial nonresponse rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\Delta \mu/\sigma = .5$</td>
<td>$N = 146$</td>
<td>$N = 146$/initial nonresponse rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\alpha = .05, \quad \text{power} = 1 - \beta = .85$</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>
An analysis that is less useful in the development of adaptive treatment strategies:

Decide whether treatment A is better than treatment B by comparing intermediate outcomes (proportion of early responders).
SMART Designing Principles

• Choose secondary hypotheses that further develop the adaptive treatment strategy and use the randomization to eliminate confounding.

• EXAMPLE: Hypothesize that non-adhering non-responders will exhibit lower symptoms if their treatment is augmented with D as compared to an switch to treatment C (e.g. augment D includes motivational interviewing).
EXAMPLE 2

Initial Txt | Intermediate Outcome | Secondary Txt
---|---|---
Tx A | Early Responder | Switch to Tx C
| | | Augment with Tx D
Tx B | Early Responder | Switch to Tx C
| | | Augment with Tx D
| Nonresponder | Relapse Prevention
| | Low-level Monitoring
| Nonresponder | Relapse Prevention
| | Low-level Monitoring
Outline

• What are Sequential Multiple Assignment Trials (SMARTs)?
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Pelham ADHD Study

A. Begin low-intensity behavior modification
   - Random assignment:

B. Begin low-dose medication
   - Random assignment:

8 weeks
Assess-
Adequate response?

Yes

A1. Continue, reassess monthly; randomize if deteriorate

A2. Add medication; bemod remains stable but medication dose may vary

A3. Increase intensity of bemod with adaptive modifications based on impairment

Random assignment:

No

B1. Continue, reassess monthly; randomize if deteriorate

B2. Increase dose of medication with monthly changes as needed

B3. Add behavioral treatment; medication dose remains stable but intensity of bemod may increase with adaptive modifications based on impairment

Random assignment:
Osline ExTENd

Early Trigger for Nonresponse

Random assignment:

TDM + Naltrexone

CBI

Nonresponse

Late Trigger for Nonresponse

Random assignment:

TDM + Naltrexone

CBI

Nonresponse

8 wks Response

Naltrexone
Discussion

• We have a sample size formula that specifies the sample size necessary to detect an adaptive treatment strategy that results in a mean outcome $\delta$ standard deviations better than the other strategies with 90% probability (A. Oetting, J. Levy & R. Weiss are collaborators).

• We also have sample size formula that specify the sample size for time-to-event studies.

• Aside: Non-adherence is an outcome (like side effects) that indicates need to tailor treatment.
Kasari Autism Study

A. JAE+ EMT

Random assignment:

12 weeks
Assess-Adequate response?

No
Random assignment:

B. JAE + AAC

12 weeks
Assess-Adequate response?

No

Yes

JAE+EMT

JAE+EMT+++

JAE+AAC

B1. JAE+AAC

B2. JAE +AAC ++
Jones’ Study for Drug-Addicted Pregnant Women

2 wks Response

Random assignment:

Nonresponse

Random assignment:

Random assignment:

Nonresponse

2 wks Response

Random assignment:

Random assignment:

Random assignment:
Practice Exercise:

Using the 3-4 adaptive treatment strategies you came up with in Module 1, can you think of a simple SMART design that would be useful to you?
Primary Aims Using Data Arising from a SMART

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Primary Aims Outline

• Review the *Adaptive Interventions for Children with ADHD Study* design
  – This is a SMART design

• Two typical primary research questions in a SMART
  – Q1: Main effect of first-line treatment?
  – Q2: Comparison of two embedded ATSs?

• Results from a worked example

• SAS code snippets for the worked example
Review the ADHD SMART Design

Medication

- Responders
  - Continue Medication
  - Increase Medication Dose
  - Add Behavioral Intervention
- Non-Responders
  - Add Behavioral Intervention

Behavioral Intervention

- Responders
  - Continue Behavioral Intervention
  - Increase Behavioral Intervention
  - Add Medication
- Non-Responders

O1 ———— A1 ———— O2 / R Status ———— A2 ———— Y
There are 2 “first Line” treatment decisions

- **Medication**
  - Responders: Continue Medication
  - Non-Responders: Increase Medication Dose
  - Responders: Add Behavioral Intervention
  - Non-Responders: Continue Behavioral Intervention

- **Behavioral Intervention**
  - Responders: Continue Behavioral Intervention
  - Non-Responders: Increase Behavioral Intervention
  - Responders: Add Medication

O1 → A1 → O2 / R Status → A2 → Y
Response/non-response at Week 8 is the primary tailoring variable

Responders
- Continue Medication
- Increase Medication Dose
- Add Behavioral Intervention
- Continue Behavioral Intervention
- Increase Behavioral Intervention
- Add Medication

Non-Responders
- Continue Medication
- Increase Medication Dose
- Add Behavioral Intervention
- Continue Behavioral Intervention
- Increase Behavioral Intervention
- Add Medication

Medication
Behavioral Intervention

R1 O1 A1 —— O2 / R Status ———— A2 —— Y
There are 6 future or “second-line” treatment decisions

- **Medication**
  - Responders
  - Non-Responders
- **Behavioral Intervention**
  - Responders
  - Non-Responders

- **Continue Medication**
- **Increase Medication Dose**
- **Add Behavioral Intervention**
- **Continue Behavioral Intervention**
- **Increase Behavioral Intervention**
- **Add Medication**
There are 4 embedded adaptive treatment strategies in this SMART; **Here is one**
There are 4 embedded adaptive treatment strategies in this SMART; **Here is another**

---

**Medication**

- Responders
  - Continue Medication
  - Increase Medication Dose
  - Add Behavioral Intervention
    - Continue Behavioral Intervention
    - Increase Behavioral Intervention
    - Add Medication

- Non-Responders

**Behavioral Intervention**

- Responders
  - Continue Behavioral Intervention

- Non-Responders

---

O1 ——— A1 ———— O2 / R Status ———— A2 ——— Y
Sequential randomizations ensure between treatment group balance

**Medication**
- Responders
- Non-Responders

**Behavioral Intervention**
- Responders
- Non-Responders

**R**
- Continue Medication
- Increase Medication Dose
- Add Behavioral Intervention
- Continue Behavioral Intervention
- Increase Behavioral Intervention
- Add Medication

\[ O1 \quad A1 \quad O2 / R \quad A2 \quad Y \]
A subset of the data arising from a SMART may look like this

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>ODD Dx</th>
<th>Baseline ADHD Score</th>
<th>Prior Med ?</th>
<th>First Line Txt</th>
<th>Resp/Non-resp</th>
<th>Second Line Txt</th>
<th>School Perfm</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.18</td>
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<td>-1 MED</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>.</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1 INTSFY</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.553</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1 BMOD</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-1 ADDO</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-0.013</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>

This is simulated data.
Typical Primary Aim 1: Main effect of first-line treatment?

- What is the best first-line treatment on average, controlling (by design) for future treatment?

- Among children with ADHD: Is it better on average, in terms of end of study mean school performance, to begin treatment with a behavioral intervention or with medication?
Primary Question 1 is simply a comparison of two groups!

Medication

Responders
Non-Responders

Behavioral Intervention

Responders
Non-Responders

Continue Medication
Increase Medication Dose
Add Behavioral Intervention

Continue Behavioral Intervention
Increase Behavioral Intervention
Add Medication

O1 — A1 ———— O2 / R Status ———— A2 ——— Y
Primary Question 1 is simply a comparison of two groups

Mean end of study outcome for all participants initially assigned to Medication

Mean end of study outcome for all participants initially assigned to Behavioral Intervention

O1 --- A1 ---- O2 / R Status ---- A2 --- Y
SAS code for a 2-group mean comparison in end of study outcome

* center covariates prior to regression;

data dat1;
  set libdat.fakedata;
  o11c = o11 - 0.2666667;
  o12c = o12 - -0.05561650;
  o13c = o13 - 0.2688887;
run;

* run regression to get between groups difference;
proc genmod data = dat1;
  model y = a1 o11c o12c o13c;
  estimate 'Mean Y under BMOD' intercept 1 a1 1;
  estimate 'Mean Y under MED' intercept 1 a1 -1;
  estimate 'Between groups difference' a1 2;
run;

This analysis is with simulated data.
The SAS code corresponds to a simple regression model

```sas
proc genmod data = dat1;
  model y = a1 o11c o12c o13c;
  estimate 'Mean Y under BMOD' intercept 1 a1 1;
  estimate 'Mean Y under MED' intercept 1 a1 -1;
  estimate 'Between groups difference' a1 2;
run;
```

The Regression Logic:

\[
Y = b_0 + b_1 A_1 + b_2 O_{11c} + b_3 O_{12c} + b_4 O_{13c} + e
\]

Mean Y under BMOD \[= E(Y | A_1=1) = b_0 + b_1 \times 1\]

Mean Y under MED \[= E(Y | A_1=-1) = b_0 + b_1 \times (-1)\]

Between groups diff \[= E(Y | A_1=1) - E(Y | A_1=1) = b_0 + b_1 - (b_0 - b_1) = 2 \times b_1\]
### Primary Question 1 Results

#### Contrast Estimate Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Label</th>
<th>Estimate</th>
<th>Lower</th>
<th>Upper</th>
<th>P-value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mean Y under BMOD</td>
<td>3.3443</td>
<td>3.1431</td>
<td>3.5436</td>
<td>&lt;.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean Y under MED</td>
<td>3.2653</td>
<td>3.0469</td>
<td>3.4838</td>
<td>&lt;.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Between groups diff</td>
<td>0.0780</td>
<td>-0.2229</td>
<td>0.3789</td>
<td>0.6115</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In this simulated data set/experiment, there is no average effect of first-line treatment on school performance. Mean diff = 0.07 (p=0.6).

This analysis is with simulated data.
Or, here is the SAS code and results for the standard 2-sample t-test

```
data dat2; set dat1;
   if a1= 1 then a1tmp="BMOD";
   if a1=-1 then a1tmp="MED";
run;
proc ttest data=dat2;
   class a1tmp; var y;
run;
```

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>a1tmp</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Std Err</th>
<th>P-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BMOD</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>3.2927</td>
<td>0.1090</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MED</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>3.3088</td>
<td>0.1053</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diff (BMOD-MED)</td>
<td>-0.0161</td>
<td>0.1534</td>
<td>0.91</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This analysis is with simulated data.
Side Analysis: Impact of first-line treatment on early non/response rate

Response Rate for all participants initially assigned to Medication

Response Rate for all participants initially assigned to Behavioral Intervention

O1 ——— A1 ———— O2 / R Status ———— A2 ——— Y
Side analysis: SAS code and results for “myopic effect” of first-line treatment

```sas
proc freq data=dat1;
    table a1*r / chisq nocol nopercent;
run;
```

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Row Pct</th>
<th>R = 0</th>
<th>R = 1</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A1 = -1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MED</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A1 = 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMOD</td>
<td>67.07</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In terms of early non/response rate, initial MED is better than Initial BMOD by 17% (p-value = 0.03).

This analysis is with simulated data.
Typical Primary Question 2: Best of two adaptive interventions?

• In terms of average school performance, which is the best of the following two ATS:

**First treat with medication, then**

• If respond, then continue treating with medication
• If non-response, then add behavioral intervention

versus

**First treat with behavioral intervention, then**

• If response, then continue behavioral intervention
• If non-response, then add medication
Comparison of mean outcome had population followed the red ATS versus...

Medication

Responders

Non-Responders

Continue Medication

Increase Medication Dose

Add Behavioral Intervention

Continue Behavioral Intervention

Increase Behavioral Intervention

Add Medication

O1 ——— A1 ———— O2 / R Status ———— A2 ——— Y
...versus the mean outcome had all population followed the blue ATS
But we cannot compare mean outcomes for participants in red versus those in blue.
There is imbalance in the non/responding participants following the red ATS...

...because, by design,

• Responders to MED had a $0.5 = 1/2$ chance of having had followed the red ATS, whereas

• Non-responders to MED only had a $0.5 \times 0.5 = 0.25 = 1/4$ chance of having had followed the red ATS
To estimate mean school performance had all participants followed the red ATS:

- Assign $W = weight = 2$ to responders to MED
- Assign $W = weight = 4$ to non-responders to MED
- Take $W$-weighted mean of sample who followed red ATS
SAS code to estimate mean outcome had all participants followed red ATS

* create indicator and assign weights;

data dat3; set dat2;
    Z1=-1;
    if A1*R=-1 then Z1=1; if (1-A1)*(1-R)*A2=-2 then Z1=1;
    W=4*R + 2*(1-R);
run;
* run W-weighted regression $Y = b_0 + b_1 z_1 + e$;
* $b_0 + b_1$ will represent the mean outcome under red ATS;
proc genmod data = dat3;
    class id;
    model y = z1;
    scwgt w;
    repeated subject = id / type = ind;
    estimate 'Mean Y under red ATS' intercept 1 z1 1;
run;

This analysis is with simulated data.
Results: Estimate of mean outcome had population followed red ATS

Analysis Of GEE Parameter Estimates

Parameter Estimate   SError   P-value
Intercept   3.2913   0.0791   <.0001
Z1         -0.0481   0.0791   0.5435

Contrast Estimate Results

95% Conf Limits
Estimate Lower   Upper   SError
Mean Y under the red ATS   3.2432   3.0262 3.4602  0.1107

This analysis is with simulated data.
Similarly calculate the mean outcome had all participants followed the blue ATS.
SAS code to estimate mean outcome had all participants followed blue ATS

* create indicator and assign weights;

```
data dat4; set dat2;
    Z2=-1;
    if A1*R= 1 then Z2=1; if (1+A1)*(1-R)*A2=-2 then Z2=1;
    W=4*R + 2*(1-R);
run;
```
* run W-weighted regression Y = b0 + b1*z2 + e;
* b0 + b1 will represent the mean outcome under blue ATS;

```
proc genmod data = dat4;
    class id;
    model y = z2;
    scwgt w;
    repeated subject = id / type = ind;
    estimate 'Mean Y under blue ATS' intercept 1 z2  1;
run;
```

This analysis is with simulated data.
Results: Estimate of mean outcome had population followed red ATS

Analysis Of GEE Parameter Estimates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter Estimate</th>
<th>SError</th>
<th>P-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intercept</td>
<td>3.3485</td>
<td>&lt;.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Z2</td>
<td>0.1206</td>
<td>0.1643</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Contrast Estimate Results

95% Conf Limits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Estimate</th>
<th>Lower</th>
<th>Upper</th>
<th>SError</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mean Y under blue ATS</td>
<td>3.4691</td>
<td>3.2020</td>
<td>3.7363</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This analysis is with simulated data.
What about a regression that allows us to compare the red and the blue ATS?

**Medication**
- **Responders** → Continue Medication
- **Non-Responders** → Increase Medication Dose

**Behavioral Intervention**
- **Responders** → Continue Behavioral Intervention
- **Non-Responders** → Add Behavioral Intervention
  - Continue Behavioral Intervention
  - Add Medication

O1 ——— A1 ———— O2 / R Status ———— A2 ——— Y
SAS code for a weighted regression to analyze Primary Question 2

```sas
data dat5; set dat2;
    Z1=-1; Z2=-1; W=4*R + 2*(1-R);
    if A1*R=-1 then Z1=1; if (1-A1)*(1-R)*A2=-2 then Z1=1;
    if A1*R= 1 then Z2=1; if (1+A1)*(1-R)*A2=-2 then Z2=1;
run;
data dat6; set dat5; if Z1=1 or Z2=1 run;
proc genmod data = dat6;
    class id;
    model y = z1;
    scwgt w;
    repeated subject = id / type = ind;
    estimate 'Mean Y under red ATS' intercept 1 z1 1;
    estimate 'Mean Y under blue ATS' intercept 1 z1 -1;
    estimate '     Diff: red - blue' z1 2;
run;
```

A key step: This regression should be done only with the participants following the red and blue ATSs.

This analysis is with simulated data.
### Primary Question 2 Results

**Analysis Of GEE Parameter Estimates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Estimate</th>
<th>SError</th>
<th>P-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intercept</td>
<td>3.3562</td>
<td>0.0878</td>
<td>&lt;.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Z2</td>
<td>-0.1129</td>
<td>0.0878</td>
<td>0.1983</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Contrast Estimate Results**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Estimate</th>
<th>Lower</th>
<th>Upper</th>
<th>SError</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mean Y under red ATS</td>
<td>3.2432</td>
<td>3.0262</td>
<td>3.4602</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean Y under blue ATS</td>
<td>3.4691</td>
<td>3.2020</td>
<td>3.7363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diff: red - blue</td>
<td>-0.2259</td>
<td>-0.5701</td>
<td>0.1183</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This analysis is with simulated data.
Let’s take a quick break!
What about a regression that allows comparison of mean under all four ATSs?
What about a regression that allows comparison of mean under all four ATSs?
SAS code for the regression to compare means under all four ATSs

data dat7; set dat2;
  * define weights and create responders replicates
  * (with equal "probability of getting A2");
  if R=1 then do;
    ob = 1; A2 = -1; weight = 2; output;
    ob = 2; A2 = 1; weight = 2; output;
  end;
  else if R=0 then do;
    ob = 1; weight = 4; output;
  end;
run;

This analysis is with simulated data.
Working intuition about replication step: undo weighting for certain comparisons

- **Responders**
  - Behavioral Intervention
  - Non-Responders

- **Non-Responders**
  - Continue Behavioral Intervention
  - Add Medication

- **Responders**
  - Continue Behavioral Intervention
  - Increase Behavioral Intervention

- **versus**
SAS code for a weighted regression to estimate mean under all four ATSS

```sas
proc genmod data = dat7;
  class id;
  model y = a1 a2 a1*a2;
  scwgt weight;
  repeated subject = id / type = ind;
  estimate 'Mean Y under red    ATS' int 1 a1 -1 a2 -1 a1*a2  1;
  estimate 'Mean Y under blue   ATS' int 1 a1  1 a2 -1 a1*a2 -1;
  estimate 'Mean Y under green  ATS' int 1 a1 -1 a2  1 a1*a2 -1;
  estimate 'Mean Y under orange ATS' int 1 a1  1 a2  1 a1*a2  1;
  estimate '    Diff:    red - blue' int 0 a1 -2 a2  0 a1*a2  0;
  estimate '    Diff: orange - blue' int 0 a1  0 a2  2 a1*a2  2;
  estimate '    Diff:  green - blue' int 0 a1 -2 a2  2 a1*a2  0;
* etc...;
run;
```

This analysis is with simulated data.
Results: weighted regression method to estimate mean outcome under all 4 ATs

Contrast Estimate Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Estimate</th>
<th>Lower</th>
<th>Upper</th>
<th>P-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mean Y under red</td>
<td>ATS 3.2432</td>
<td>3.0262</td>
<td>3.4602</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean Y under blue</td>
<td>ATS 3.4691</td>
<td>3.2020</td>
<td>3.7363</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean Y under green</td>
<td>ATS 3.3871</td>
<td>3.0830</td>
<td>3.6912</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean Y under orange</td>
<td>ATS 3.1205</td>
<td>2.8264</td>
<td>3.4146</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<p>| | | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diff: red - blue</td>
<td>0.0204</td>
<td>-0.2737</td>
<td>0.3144</td>
<td>0.8920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diff: orange - blue</td>
<td>-0.3487</td>
<td>-0.7271</td>
<td>0.0298</td>
<td>0.0710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diff: green - blue</td>
<td>-0.0820</td>
<td>-0.4868</td>
<td>0.3227</td>
<td>0.6912</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This analysis is with simulated data.
SAS code for a wtd. regression to estimate mean under all four ATSSs \textbf{with more power}

```
proc genmod data = dat7;
  class id;
  model y = a1 a2 a1*a2 o11 o12 o13;
  scwgt weight;
  repeated subject = id / type = ind;
  estimate 'Mean Y under red ATS' int 1 a1 -1 a2 -1 a1*a2 1;
  estimate 'Mean Y under blue ATS' int 1 a1 1 a2 -1 a1*a2 -1;
  estimate 'Mean Y under green ATS' int 1 a1 -1 a2 1 a1*a2 -1;
  estimate 'Mean Y under orange ATS' int 1 a1 1 a2 1 a1*a2 1;
  estimate 'Diff: red - blue'       a1 -2 a2 0 a1*a2 0;
  estimate 'Diff: orange - blue' int 0 a1 0 a2 2 a1*a2 2;
  estimate 'Diff: green - blue' int 0 a1 -2 a2 2 a1*a2 0;
* etc...;
run;
```

This analysis is with simulated data.

\textbf{Improve efficiency}: Adjusting for baseline covariates that are associated with outcome leads to more efficient estimates (lower standard error = more power = smaller p-value).
Results: **more powerful** wtd. Regression to estimate mean outcome under all 4 ATSs

**Improved efficiency:** Adjusting for baseline covariates resulted in smaller standard error. Point estimates remained the same, as expected.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Estimate</th>
<th>Lower</th>
<th>Upper</th>
<th>P-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mean Y under red ATS</td>
<td>3.2025</td>
<td>2.9493</td>
<td>3.4557</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean Y under blue ATS</td>
<td>3.5229</td>
<td>3.2851</td>
<td>3.7607</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean Y under green ATS</td>
<td>3.3392</td>
<td>3.0040</td>
<td>3.6744</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean Y under orange ATS</td>
<td>3.1692</td>
<td>2.9020</td>
<td>3.4365</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diff: red - blue</td>
<td>-0.0752</td>
<td>-0.3960</td>
<td>0.2455</td>
<td>0.6458</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diff: orange - blue</td>
<td>-0.3537</td>
<td>-0.6915</td>
<td>-0.0158</td>
<td>0.0402</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diff: green - blue</td>
<td>-0.1837</td>
<td>-0.6056</td>
<td>0.2381</td>
<td>0.3933</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This analysis is with simulated data.
Summary of Primary Aims
Data Analysis

• The blue ATS led to the largest estimated mean school performance (mean = 3.5229):

  - Behavioral Intervention
  - Responders
  - Non-Responders

• Despite MED initially having stronger early response rate (17% over BMOD initially), the best ATS begins with BMOD!

  - Continue Behavioral Intervention
  - Add Medication

This analysis is with simulated data.
Secondary Aims Using Data Arising from a SMART

Getting SMART About Developing Individually-Tailored Adaptive Health Interventions

AHSR, George Mason University, October 3

Daniel Almirall & Susan A. Murphy
Secondary Analyses Outline

- Auxiliary data typically in a SMART used for secondary aims?
- Typical secondary research questions (aims) in a SMART
- SAS code snippets
- Results from worked examples
  - All analyses are with simulated data!
Other Measures Collected in a SMART

O1 = Demog., Pre-txt Medication Hx, Pre-txt ADHD scores, Pre-txt school performance, ODD Dx, ...

O2 = Month of non-response, adherence to first-stage txt, ...

R

Medication

Responders

Non-Responders

Behavioral Intervention

Responders

Non-Responders

R

Continue Medication

Increase Medication Dose

Add Behavioral Intervention

Continue Behavioral Intervention

Increase Behavioral Intervention

Add Medication
Typical Secondary Aim 1: Best second-line tactic?

- Among children who do not respond to (either) first-line treatment, is it better to increase initial treatment or to add a different treatment to the initial treatment?
Typical Secondary Aim 1: Best second-line tactic?

- **Responders**
  - Continue Medication
  - Increase Medication Dose
  - Add Behavioral Intervention
  - Continue Behavioral Intervention
  - Increase Behavioral Intervention
  - Add Medication

- **Non-Responders**
  - R

**O1** — A1 ———— O2 / R Status ———— A2 ——— Y
SAS code and results for Secondary Aim 1: Second-line tactic

* use only non-responders;
data dat4;
   set dat1; if R=0;
run;
* simple comparison to compare mean Y on add vs intensify (A2);
proc genmod data = dat4;
   model y = a2 o11c o12c o13c;
   estimate 'Mean Y w/INTENSIFY tactic' intercept 1 a2 1;
   estimate 'Mean Y w/ADD TXT tactic' intercept 1 a2 -1;
   estimate 'Between groups difference' a2 2;
run;

Contrast Estimate Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Label</th>
<th>Estimate</th>
<th>Lower</th>
<th>Upper</th>
<th>P-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mean Y w/INTENSIFY tactic</td>
<td>3.2143</td>
<td>2.9026</td>
<td>3.5260</td>
<td>&lt;.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean Y w/ADD TXT tactic</td>
<td>3.4255</td>
<td>3.1308</td>
<td>3.7202</td>
<td>&lt;.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Between groups difference</td>
<td>-0.2112</td>
<td>-0.6402</td>
<td>0.2177</td>
<td>0.3345</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This analysis is with simulated data.
Typical Secondary Aim 2:
Best second-line treatment?

a. Among children who do not respond to first-line medication, is it better to increase dosage or to add behavioral modification?

b. Among children who do not respond to first-line behavioral modification, is it better to increase intensity of behavioral treatment or to add medication?
Typical Secondary Aim 2: Best second-line treatment?

- **Responders**
  - Continue Medication
  - Increase Medication Dose
  - Add Behavioral Intervention
- **Non-Responders**
  - Add Behavioral Intervention
  - Increase Behavioral Intervention
  - Add Medication

O1 → A1 → O2 / R Status → A2 → Y
SAS code and results for Secondary Aim 2a: Second-line txt after MED

* use only medication non-responders;
data dat2;
  set dat1; if R=0 and A1=-1;
run;
* simple comparison to compare mean Y on add vs intensify (A2);
proc genmod data = dat2;
  model y = a2 ;
  estimate 'Mean Y w/INTENSIFY MED' intercept 1 a2 1;
  estimate 'Mean Y w/ADD BMOD' intercept 1 a2 -1;
  estimate 'Between groups difference' a2 2;
run;

Contrast Estimate Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Label</th>
<th>Estimate</th>
<th>Lower</th>
<th>Upper</th>
<th>P-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mean Y w/INTENSIFY MED</td>
<td>3.5714</td>
<td>3.0862</td>
<td>4.0567</td>
<td>&lt;.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean Y w/ADD BMOD</td>
<td>3.2500</td>
<td>2.8440</td>
<td>3.6560</td>
<td>&lt;.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Between groups difference</td>
<td>0.3214</td>
<td>-0.3113</td>
<td>0.9541</td>
<td>0.3194</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This analysis is with simulated data.
SAS code and results for Secondary Aim 2b: Second-line txt after BMOD

* use only BMOD non-responders;
data dat3;
  set dat1; if R=0 and A1=1;
run;
* simple comparison to compare mean Y on add vs intensify (A2);
proc genmod data = dat3;
  model y = a2 o11c o12c o13c;
  estimate 'Mean Y w/INTENSIFY BMOD' intercept 1 a2 1;
  estimate 'Mean Y w/ADD MED' intercept 1 a2 -1;
  estimate 'Between groups difference' a2 2;
run;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Label</th>
<th>Estimate</th>
<th>Lower</th>
<th>Upper</th>
<th>P-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mean Y w/INTENSIFY BMOD</td>
<td>3.0357</td>
<td>2.6436</td>
<td>3.4278</td>
<td>&lt;.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean Y w/ADD MED</td>
<td>3.5556</td>
<td>3.1563</td>
<td>3.9548</td>
<td>&lt;.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Between groups difference</td>
<td>-0.5198</td>
<td>-1.0795</td>
<td>0.0398</td>
<td>0.0687</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This analysis is with simulated data.
Typical Secondary Aim 3: Second-line treatment tailoring?

a. Does adherence to first-line MED strongly moderate the impact of increasing MED dosage versus adding BMOD?

b. Does adherence to first-line BMOD strongly moderate the impact of intensifying BMOD versus adding MED?
Typical Secondary Aim 3: Second-line treatment tailoring?

Responder Medication

Non-Responders

Non-Responders

Increase Medication Dose

Add Behavioral Intervention

Increase Behavioral Intervention

Add Medication

Adherence to initial MED

Adherence to initial BMOD

O1 ——— A1 ——— O2 / R Status ——— A2 ——— Y
SAS code and results for Secondary Aim 3: Second-line treatment tailoring

* use only non-responders;
data dat5; set dat1; if R=0; run;

* comparison of add vs intensify given first line txt and adherence;
proc genmod data = dat5;
    model y = o11c o12c o13c a1 a1*o11c o21c o22 a2 a2*a1 a2*o22;
    * effect of add vs intensify given first-line = MED x ADH status;
    estimate 'INT vs ADD for NR MED ADH' a2 2 a2*a1 -2 a2*o22 2 ;
    estimate 'INT vs ADD for NR MED Non-ADH' a2 2 a2*a1 -2 a2*o22 0 ;
    * effect of add vs intensify given first-line = BMOD x ADH status;
    estimate 'INT vs ADD for NR BMOD ADH' a2 2 a2*a1 2 a2*o22 2 ;
    estimate 'INT vs ADD for NR BMOD Non-ADH' a2 2 a2*a1 2 a2*o22 0 ;
run;

Contrast Estimate Results

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Lower</th>
<th>Upper</th>
<th>P-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INT vs ADD for NR MED ADH</td>
<td>1.0473</td>
<td>0.5682</td>
<td>1.5263</td>
<td>&lt;.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INT vs ADD for NR MED Non-ADH</td>
<td>-1.5658</td>
<td>-2.1587</td>
<td>-0.9728</td>
<td>&lt;.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INT vs ADD for NR BMOD ADH</td>
<td>1.2651</td>
<td>0.7529</td>
<td>1.7773</td>
<td>&lt;.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INT vs ADD for NR BMOD Non-ADH</td>
<td>-1.3479</td>
<td>-1.7493</td>
<td>-0.9465</td>
<td>&lt;.0001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This analysis is with simulated data.
Side analysis: SAS code and results for impact of first-line treatment on ADH

```sas
proc freq data=dat1;
  table a1*o22 / chisq nocol nopercent;
run;
```

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>ADH = 0</th>
<th>ADH = 1</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Row Pct</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A1 = -1</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MED</td>
<td>41.18</td>
<td>58.82</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A1 = 1</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMOD</td>
<td>63.41</td>
<td>36.59</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In terms of adherence, initial MED is better than initial BMOD by 22% (p-value < 0.01).

This analysis is with simulated data.
Let’s take a quick break!
Typical Secondary Aim 4: A more deeply individualized ATS via Q-learning

Q-Learning is an extension of regression to sequential treatments.

• Q-Learning results in a proposal for an adaptive treatment strategy with greater individualization.
• A subsequent trial would evaluate the proposed adaptive treatment strategy versus usual care.
Steps in Q-Learning Regression

*Work backwards (reverse-engineering!)*

1. Do a **regression** to learn about more deeply individualizing second-line treatment
   - Assign each non-responder the value $\hat{Y}_i$, an estimate of the outcome under the second-line treatment that yields best outcome. Responders get observed $Y_i$.
2. Using $\hat{Y}_i$ do a **regression** to learn about more deeply individualizing first-line treatment

**Step 1: Note, We already did this for Aim 3!**
Q-Learning Step 1: Learn optimal second-line treatment for non-responders

Among non-adherers to either first-line treatment, better to augment.

INT – ADD ≈ -1.4

This analysis is with simulated data.
Q-Learning Step 1: Learn optimal second-line treatment for non-responders

Among adherers to either first-line treatment, better to intensify first-line txt.

This analysis is with simulated data.
Q-Learning Step 2: Learn optimal first-treatment for all given optimal future txt

Among kids using MED in prior year, it is better to start with MED.

This analysis is with simulated data.
Q-Learning Step 2: Learn optimal first-treatment for all given optimal future txt

Among kids not using MED in prior year, it is better to start with BMOD

This analysis is with simulated data.
What did we learn with Q-learning?

Adaptive Treatment Strategy Proposal

- If the child used MED in prior year, then begin with MED; otherwise, begin with BMOD.

- If the child is non-responsive and non-adherent to either first-line treatment, then AUGMENT with the other treatment option.

- If the child is non-responsive but adherent to either first-line treatment, then it is better to INTENSIFY first-line treatment.

- If the child is responsive to first-line treatment, then CONTINUE first-line treatment.

This Q-learning analysis was done with simulated/altered data.
What did we learn with Q-learning?

Adaptive Treatment Strategy Proposal

• The mean Y, school performance, under the more deeply individualized ATS obtained via Q-learning is estimated to be 3.99.

• This is larger than the value of the ATS which started with BMOD and augmented with MED for non-responders (mean = 3.47)
  • (BMOD, MED) was the ATS with the largest mean among the 4 embedded ATSSs.

This Q-learning analysis was done with simulated/altered data.
Thank you.

- Software for Q-learning is now available in R and it is coming out soon for SAS! Visit: methodology.psu.edu/ra/adap-treat-strat/qlearning

- These slides will be posted at www-personal.umich.edu/~dalmiral/