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| Examination Project  Survival Analysis  15338673  Paul-Willem Janse van Rensburg |

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# Part A

A medical collaborator is interested in how time to re-infection depends on the type of initial infection.

## Question 1

Consider the three types of initial infections and compute a survival curve of the time to re-infection. Plot them on the same graph. What does the graph suggest?

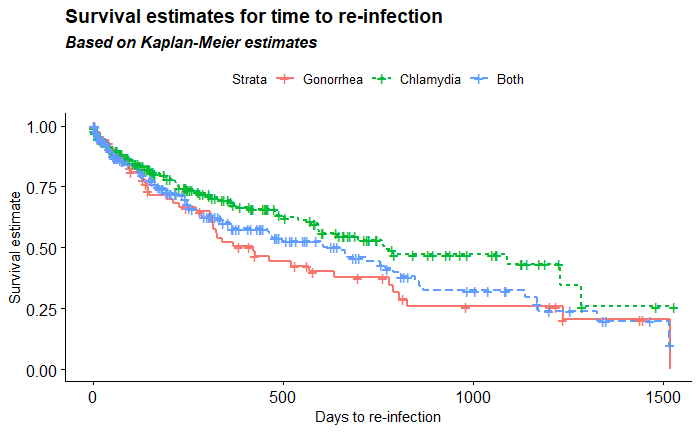


Figure - Kaplan-Meier Estimates

From Figure 1 we can see that Chlamydia has an overall higher survival rate in terms of re-infection than does Gonorrhea. A person who has been infected with both appears to lie in between the two singular infections.

## Question 2

Obtain an appropriate estimator and confidence interval for the 3 quartiles of the survival curves for the three types of initial infections. Interpret the results.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | time | n.risk | n.event | n.censor | surv | std.err | upper | lower | strata |
| 4 | 5 | 73 | 1 | 0 | 0.986301 | 0.013793 | 1 | 0.959994 | 1 |
| 5 | 9 | 72 | 1 | 0 | 0.972603 | 0.019644 | 1 | 0.935868 | 1 |
| … | … | … | … | … | … | … | … | … | … |
| 24 | 126 | 51 | 1 | 0 | 0.779978 | 0.06458 | 0.885223 | 0.687245 | 1 |
| 26 | 136 | 49 | 1 | 0 | 0.76406 | 0.067792 | 0.872633 | 0.668995 | 1 |
| 28 | 143 | 47 | 1 | 0 | 0.747803 | 0.071121 | 0.859658 | 0.650502 | 1 |
| 29 | 144 | 46 | 1 | 0 | 0.731547 | 0.07444 | 0.846458 | 0.632235 | 1 |
| 31 | 146 | 44 | 1 | 0 | 0.71492 | 0.077909 | 0.832864 | 0.613679 | 1 |
| … | … | … | … | … | … | … | … | … | … |
| 44 | 338 | 30 | 1 | 0 | 0.522395 | 0.123089 | 0.664925 | 0.410417 | 1 |
| 45 | 367 | 29 | 1 | 0 | 0.504381 | 0.127994 | 0.648198 | 0.392474 | 1 |
| 48 | 420 | 26 | 1 | 0 | 0.484982 | 0.133869 | 0.630486 | 0.373058 | 1 |
| 49 | 426 | 25 | 1 | 1 | 0.465583 | 0.139956 | 0.61253 | 0.353889 | 1 |
| 50 | 464 | 23 | 1 | 0 | 0.44534 | 0.146846 | 0.593865 | 0.333961 | 1 |
| … | … | … | … | … | … | … | … | … | … |
| 61 | 805 | 11 | 1 | 0 | 0.289529 | 0.232895 | 0.457018 | 0.183422 | 1 |
| 63 | 827 | 9 | 1 | 0 | 0.257359 | 0.261015 | 0.429256 | 0.154299 | 1 |
| 67 | 1238 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 0.205888 | 0.343699 | 0.403819 | 0.104972 | 1 |
| 70 | 1519 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | Inf | NA | NA | 1 |

We highlight the largest smaller than 0.75, 0.5 and 0.25 for Gonorrhea. It is estimated as below:

## Question 3

Conduct a single test for differences between the three survival curves. Justify your choice of the test. Also, give the complete notation for the test.

## Question 4

Conduct a trend test for differences between the survival curves, using an ordering which seems natural.

## Question 5

Estimate the relative risks of re-infection for all the different risk groups (use as baseline, “gonorrhea alone” infection)

1. Assume first that these relative risks are constant over time. Find an estimator and confidence interval for these risks under this assumption
2. Determine if there is evidence that these risks are indeed constant over time. Verify this with an appropriate hypothesis test procedure, as well as the appropriate graphical checks.
3. If the risks are not constant over time, propose a different model that fits the data better and estimate only the relative risks under this new model.

# Part B

The investigator has a feeling that the use of condoms may play a role in the re-infection time.

## Question 1

Confounding for the variable “condom use”, repeat the analyses in part A, questions (1), (3) and (5a), by adjusting for and/or stratifying upon this factor “condom use”. Compare results briefly with those results in Part A.

## Question 2

Perform a statistical test, which determines what effect condom-use has on the survival curves for the three STD types (i.e. does condom-use have the same effect on all the three types of STD’s or are there different effects for the different users of condoms?)

# Part C

Use a parametric model to estimate the mean time to re-infection for the three types of initial infection (use therefore the “condom use variable” in this parametric model).

## Question 1

Find the best single parametric model, with full justifications (include all relevant model fit statistics).

## Question 2

Give a full interpretations of the estimated parameters (i.e. in terms of risk or acceleration).

## Question 3

Summarise the means in one table for the different categories of condom-use within the STD-types.

## Question 4

Perform all relevant graphical checks to verify that all assumptions have been met (including influential observation- and outlier detection). Make relevant suggestions after investigating these plots.

# Part D

Summarise your findings in about half a page, without mentioning any statistics (consider all the questions you have answered), such that the medical collaborator can understand what you have analysed. Focus on the differences between part A (pure non-parametric model vs proportional hazard assumption) and part B (condom-use included with full parametric model vs proportional hazards). Explain also the effect of condom use from your point of view.