

Choice of Analytical Strategy

Basis	Choice of analytical strategy		
	Case-control	Cohort	Cross-sectional
Rare condition	Bias	Not practical	Not appropriate
To determine a precise risk	Only estimate possible	Best	Gives relative prevalence, not incidence
To determine whether exposure preceded disease	Not appropriate	Best	Not appropriate
For administrative purposes	Not appropriate	Not appropriate	Best
If attrition is a serious problem	Attrition is usually minimal	Not appropriate	Attrition may have occurred before the study
If selective survival is a problem	Not appropriate	Best	Not appropriate
If all factors are not known	Not appropriate	Best	Less appropriate
Time and money	Least expensive	Most expensive	In between