

GUSTO Articles
Prepare for class discussion December 4

Read the four articles on the GUSTO trials.

- W. Hively (1996). The Mathematics of Making Up Your Mind. *Discover*, May: 91-97.
- GUSTO Investigators (1993). An International Randomized Trial Comparing Four Thrombolytic Strategies for Acute Myocardial Infarction. *The New England Journal of Medicine*, 329(10).
- J. Brophy and L. Joseph (1995). Placing Trials in Context Using Bayesian Analysis. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 273(11): 871-875.
- J. Brophy and L. Joseph (2000). A Bayesian Meta-Analysis of Randomized Mega-Trials for the Choice of Thrombolytic Agents in Acute Myocardial Infarction. In D. Stangl and D. Berry *Meta-Analysis in Medicine and Health Policy*.

Be prepared to discuss the statistical models and analyses proposed in Brophy and Joseph (2000). In addition, choose and be prepared to argue from one of the following two positions:

- A government policy maker deciding whether Medicare will pay for t-PA (the more expensive treatment)
- A defense attorney in a malpractice case for a doctor who prescribed SK (the less expensive treatment) and the patient died

Even though this class is teaching Bayesian methods, that doesn't mean that the Bayesian approach is "right." It is important that you present clear, critical statistical arguments to help support each decision.