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Faculty of Sciences

Master of Statistics

Master's Thesis

Evaluation of Surrogate Endpoints in Human Microbiome

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Contents

1	Background & Introduction	2
1.1	The Human Microbiome	2
1.2	Surrogate Endpoints & its Evaluation	2
1.3	Objectives	3
1.4	Dataset Description & Source	3
2	Methods	3
2.1	Joint Modelling Approach	3
2.2	Causal Inference Approach	3
3	Data Analysis	3
3.1	Exploratory Analysis	3
3.2	Estimation of Treatment Effects	3
3.3	Joint Modelling Results	3
3.4	Causal Inference Results	3
4	Discussion & Conclusion	3

1 Background & Introduction

The sensitivity of some so called true endpoints(credible indicator of therapeutic response to an applied treatment) as well as time taken for evaluation of treatment effect on these endpoints makes the search for surrogates an important endeavour in modern medicine^{Burzykowski2005}. While the idea of surrogate endpoints (as they are popularly referred to) is appealing, they are not easy to come by and their evaluation is as well not a trivial task. However, the

1.1 The Human Microbiome

The human microbiome is made up of trillions of symbiotic bacteria cells in humans². Although their functions is not yet fully understood, they are associated with nutrition, metabolism, immune function and human physiology¹.

1.2 Surrogate Endpoints & its Evaluation

Surrogate endpoints, as the name implies is a substitute for

1.3 Objectives

1.4 Dataset Description & Source

2 Methods

2.1 Joint Modelling Approach

2.2 Causal Inference Approach

3 Data Analysis

3.1 Exploratory Analysis

3.2 Estimation of Treatment Effects

3.3 Joint Modelling Results

3.4 Causal Inference Results

4 Discussion & Conclusion

References

- [1] M. J. Bull and N. T. Plummer. “Part 1: The Human Gut Microbiome in Health and Disease”. In: *Integrative Medicine: A Clinician’s Journal* 13.6 (2014), pp. 17–22.
- [2] L. K. Ursell et al. “Defining the Human Microbiome”. In: *Nutrition Reviews* 70.Suppl 1 (2012), S38–S44. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.1111/j.1753-4887.2012.00493.x>.

Appendix