Summary

The researchers in this paper are using retrospective data from the NHS to simulate what might have happened in the WHI randomized trial, but without the use of randomization. Using this retrospective data allows them to generalize to the real world better, compared with previous RCT studies, and estimate how nonadherence impacts outcomes.

Reaction:

I thought it was interesting using a retrospective cohort to mimic a clinical trial. This allowed them to do a few neat things such as performing stepwise adjustments to determine the effect of redefining the different groups and reflect the real world better than a RCT can. I was surprised how much small changes in the trial design can heavily influence the results, which is probably my key takeaway from this paper.

Questions:

Would the researchers in the WHI trial be able to adjust for adherence like they did in this paper? I don’t see why not

Is there a biological reason hormone therapy affects CHD risk?