**Beta carotene data, description and graph**

(From Rosner, 2006.) A clinical trial was planned comparing the incidence of cancer in a group taking beta-carotene in capsule form compared with a group taking beta-carotene placebo capsules. One issue in planning such a study is which preparation to use for the beta-carotene capsules. Four preparations were considered:

(1) Solatene (30mg capsules)

(2) Roche (60mg capsules)

(3) BASF (30mg capsules)

(4) BASF (60mg capsules).

To test efficacy of the four agents in raising plasma-carotene levels, a small bioavailability study was conducted. After two consecutive-day fasting blood samples, 23 volunteers were randomized to one of the four preparations mentioned above, taking 1 pill every other day for 12 weeks. The primary endpoint was level of plasma carotene attained after moderately prolonged steady ingestion (y). For this purpose, blood samples were drawn at 0, 6, 8, 10 and 12 weeks.

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