BMI 881 HW2 Jiacheng Miao

1

Denote S_n as the sensitivity, S_p as the specificity, p as the prevalence rate, n as the sample size; The precision can be calculated as

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Precision} &= \frac{TP}{TP + FP} \\ &= \frac{np \times S_n}{np \times S_n + n(1-p) \times (1-S_p)} \\ &= \frac{p \times S_n}{p \times S_n + (1-p) \times (1-S_p)} \end{aligned}$$

Plug in $p = 9/100000, S_n = S_p = 0.8$, we have Precision = 0.036%

2

With the equation we derived for question 1, solve for the equation that plugs in Precision = $0.5, p = 9/100000, S_n = S_p$, we have $S_n = 99.991\%$

3

In the table 2 of Wang et al., there are 1829 cases and 7665 controls. Their reported $S_n = 83.1\%$, $S_p = 82.3\%$ and Precision = 0.571. Given the NMSC prevalence is 2.3 to 9.2 per 100,000 population. As shown in the calculation for question 1, the precision should be very low. Thus, there might be some problems with their conclusion.