Apresentação Artigo: **Staplin et. al (2016)** - Use of Causal Diagrams to Inform the Design and Interpretation of Observational Studies: an Example from the Study of Heart and Renal Protection (SHARP)

João Morais Epidemiologia - Conceitos e Métodos III Escola Nacional de Saúde Pública Sergio Arouca Março de 2025

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- Contextualização
- Exemplo hipotético
- Diagramas causais: uma revisão
- Exemplo 1: Viés de colisão no estudo SHARP
- Exemplo 2: Viés de seleção
- Conclusões



Vieses em estudos epidemiológicos



- Vieses em estudos epidemiológicos
- Viés de confundimento



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- Viés de confundimento
- Algumas formas de controle:
  - Ajuste (modelagem)
  - Estratificação

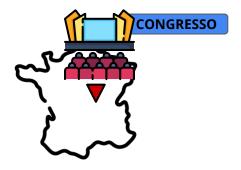


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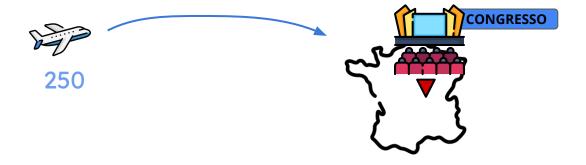


- Vieses em estudos epidemiológicos
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- Algumas formas de controle:
  - Ajuste (modelagem)
  - Estratificação
- Ajustar por mais variáveis nem sempre é benéfico
- Uso de diagramas causais para identificação do conjunto adequado das variáveis de ajuste

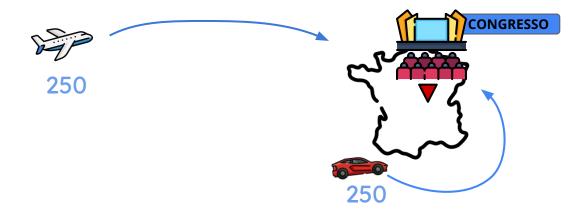




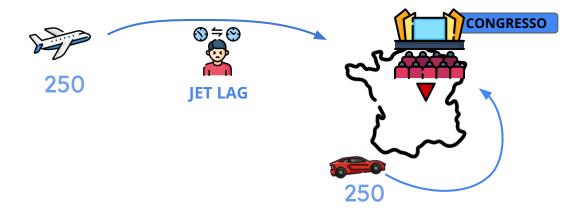




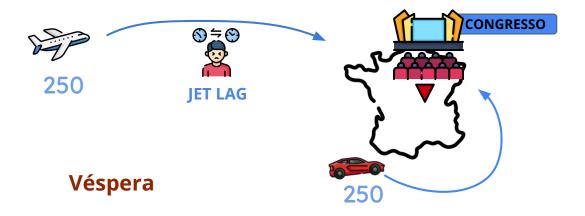








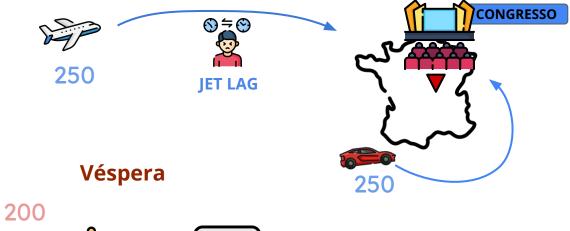






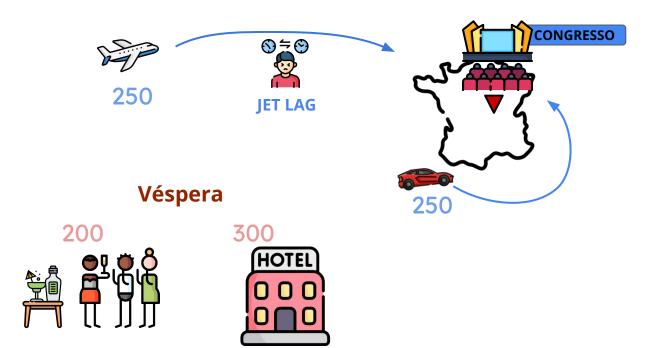




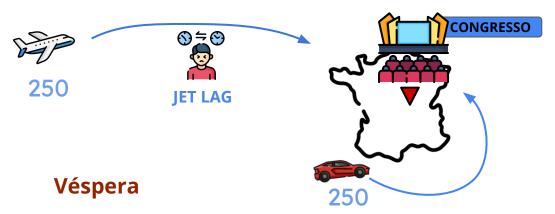












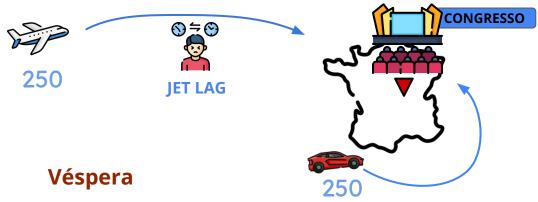
Sessão plenária











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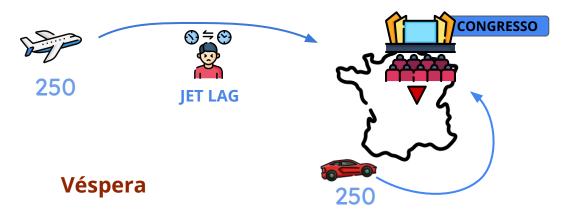


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230 compareceram







Sessão plenária

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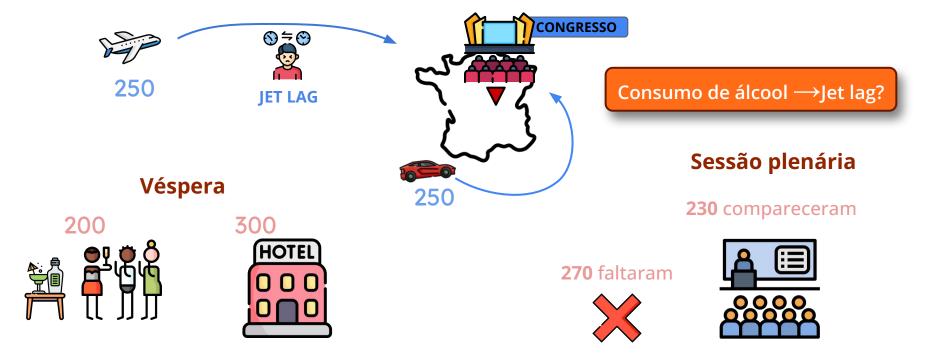


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Consumo de álcool → Jet lag?



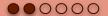


Table 1. Hypothetical example illustrating the association between drinking alcohol at the conference reception and suffering from jet lag the next day before and after stratification for whether the delegate attended the plenary session

Delegate Classification	Jet Lag	
Delegate Classification	Yes	No
A		
Drank alcohol at reception		
Yes	100	100
No	150	150



Consumo de álcool →Jet lag?





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No	150	150	





OR: (100/100)/(150/150) = 1,0[0,70-1,43]

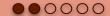


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Delegate Classification	Yes	No	
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Drank alcohol at reception			
Yes	100	100	
No	150	150	
В			
Delegate missed plenary session Drank alcohol at reception			
Yes	80	60	
No	100	30	
Delegate attended plenary session Drank alcohol at reception			
Yes	20	40	
No	50	120	



Consumo de álcool →Jet lag?



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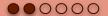


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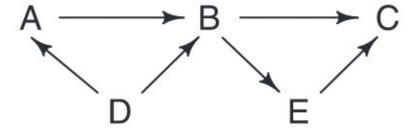
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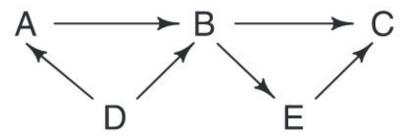
OR: **0,63** [0,42-0,93]





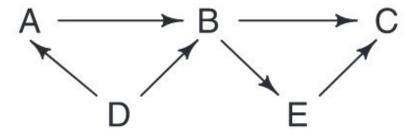


Relações causais



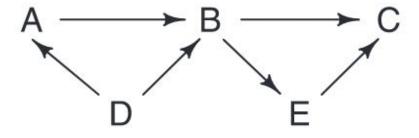


- Relações causais
- Caminho



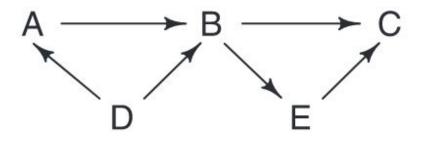


- Relações causais
- Caminho
- Caminho causal





- Relações causais
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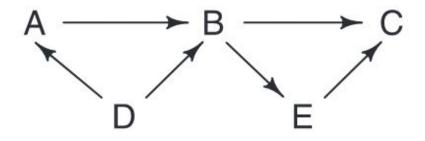


Va			Direct causes (parents)	All effects (descendants)	Direct effects (children)
A		D	D	B, C, E	В
В	ı	A, D	A, D	C, E	C, E
C	;	A, B, D, E	B, E	-	-
D	)	_	-	A, B, C, E	A, B
E		A, B, D	В	C	С

Figure 1. | Causal diagram to illustrate causes (ancestors and parents) and effects (descendants and children).

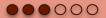


- Relações causais
- Caminho
- Caminho causal
- Ausência de ciclos



Variable	All causes (ancestors)	Direct causes (parents)	All effects (descendants)	Direct effects (children)
Α	D	D	B, C, E	В
В	A, D	A, D	C, E	C, E
С	A, B, D, E	В, Е	-	-
D	-	_	A, B, C, E	A, B
E	A, B, D	В	С	С

Figure 1. | Causal diagram to illustrate causes (ancestors and parents) and effects (descendants and children).



#### **Temporalidade nos DAGs**

E relações bidirecionais? Exemplo:

PRESSÃO ARTERIAL FUNÇÃO RENAL



#### **Temporalidade nos DAGs**

PRESSÃO ARTERIAL E relações bidirecionais? Exemplo: **FUNÇÃO RENAL** SISTÓLICA (SBP) (Medida pelo eGFR) SBP at SBP at SBP at time 2 time 1 time 3 eGFR at eGFR at eGFR at

time 2

Figure 2. | Example of how to represent a possible bidirectional relationship in a directed acyclic graph. SBP, systolic BP.

time 1

time 3



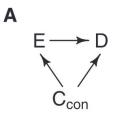
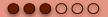


Figure 3. | Causal diagrams showing possible underlying relationships for a covariate that is associated with both the exposure of interest and the outcome of interest. (A) C is a confounder. (B) C is an effect mediator. (C) C is a collider. C, covariate; E, the exposure of interest; D the outcome of interest.



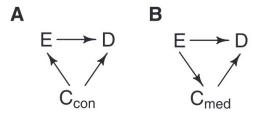
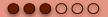


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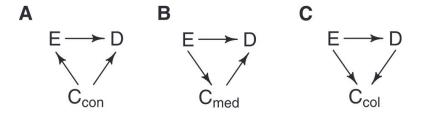


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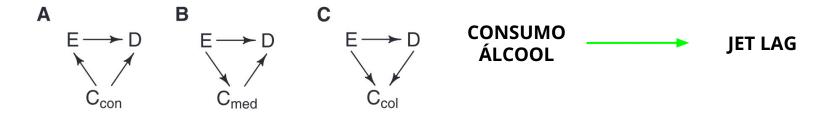


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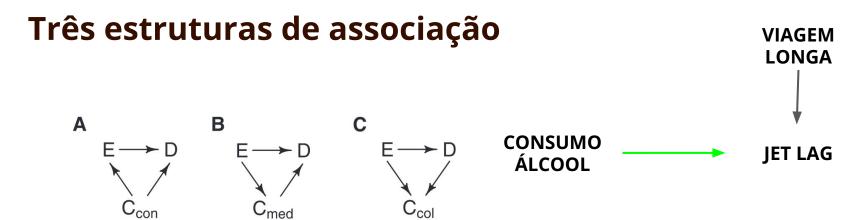


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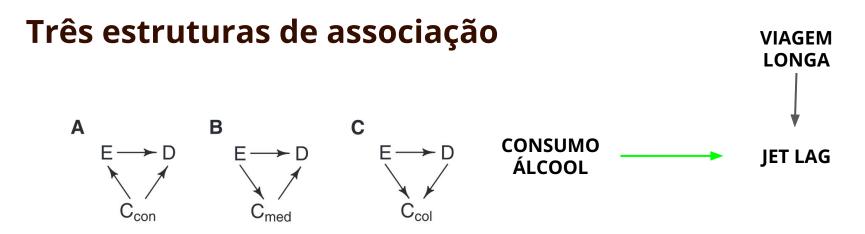


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PRESENÇA NA PLENÁRIA



## Três estruturas de associação

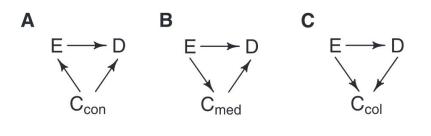
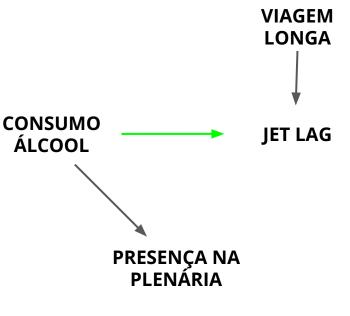


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## Três estruturas de associação

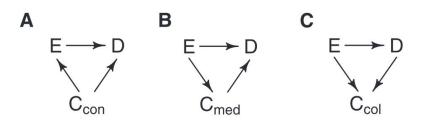
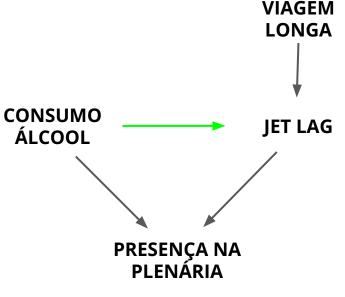


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#### Três estruturas de associação VIAGEM LONGA CONSUMO **JET LAG** ÁLCOOL Figure 3. | Causal diagrams showing possible underlying relation-**PRESENÇA NA** ships for a covariate that is associated with both the exposure of **PLENÁRIA** interest and the outcome of interest. (A) C is a confounder. (B) C is

of interest; D the outcome of interest.

an effect mediator. (C) C is a collider. C, covariate; E, the exposure



Rule No.	Type of Path	No. of Colliders on Path	Aim of Adjustment	How to Establish if Path is Open or Blocked
1	Causal	N/A	Leave open (for estimation of total causal effect)	The path will be open providing that no variables along it are conditioned on (otherwise, it will be blocked)
2	Noncausal	0	Block noncausal pathway	The path will be blocked if at least one variable along it is conditioned on (otherwise, it will be open)
3a	Noncausal	1	Block noncausal pathway	The path will be open if the only variable conditioned on is the collider <sup>a</sup> (otherwise, it will be blocked)
3b	Noncausal	>1	Block noncausal pathway	The path will be open if all of the collider variables <sup>a</sup> (and no noncollider variables) are conditioned on (otherwise, it will be blocked)



- Study of Heart and Renal Protection
  - Estudo Randomizado em pacientes com doença renal crônica





- Study of Heart and Renal Protection
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- Interesse: Hábito de fumar →Falência Renal (ESRD)





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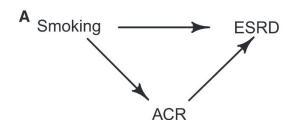




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Figure 4. | Causal diagrams that represent three possible relationships between smoking, ESRD, and albumin-to-creatinine ratio (ACR) in the Study of Heart and Renal Protection.



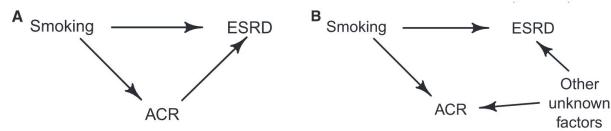


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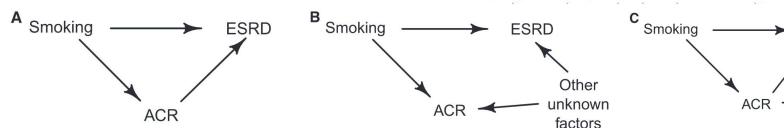
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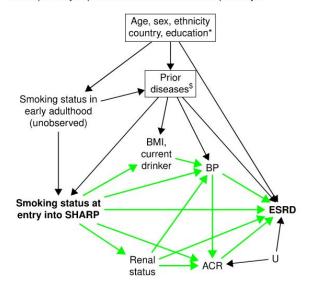


factors

**ESRD** 



A Adjustment for variables considered to be confounders keeps all causal pathways open and blocks all non-causal pathways



**B** Adjustment for effect mediators and colliders blocks causal pathways and creates a biasing pathway

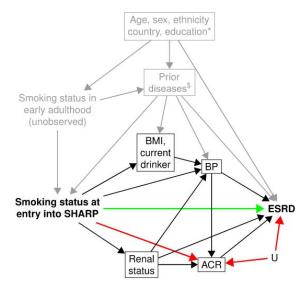


Figure 5. | Causal diagram showing assumed associations between baseline smoking status, ESRD, and baseline characteristics in the Study of Heart and Renal Protection (SHARP).



## Exemplo: Viés de Seleção

 Outros vieses podem ser identificados através de DAGs, como o viés de seleção



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- Outros vieses podem ser identificados através de DAGs, como o viés de seleção
  - "Index event bias"



## Exemplo: Viés de Seleção

Outros vieses podem ser identificados através de DAGs, como o viés de

seleção

"Index event bias"

S: Critério de seleção (Doença renal);

**E:** Exposição de interesse;

D: Progressão à Falência renal;

**C:** Outro(s) confundidor(es)

**P**: Exposição anterior à entrada no estudo

U: Fatores de risco para doença renal

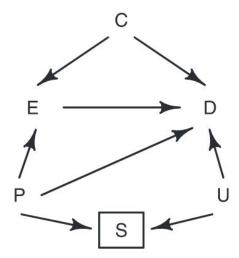


Figure 6. | Causal diagram to illustrate the issue of index event bias in observational analyses restricted to participants with CKD.



 Relevância do uso de diagramas causais para identificar, a partir de nossas suposições, quais variáveis devem ser inclusas no ajuste



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  - Contudo, vieses podem permanecer no estudo devido à confundidores não mensurados ou medições imprecisas



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- Relevância do uso de diagramas causais para identificar, a partir de nossas suposições, quais variáveis devem ser inclusas no ajuste
  - Contudo, vieses podem permanecer no estudo devido à confundidores não mensurados ou medições imprecisas
- Vieses de seleção também podem ser identificados através dos diagramas
- Encorajar o uso de diagramas causais: mesmo em situações de incerteza, diferentes versões do diagrama podem ser incluídas numa análise de sensibilidade

# **Obrigado!**

#### **Artigo proposto:**

**STAPLIN, N. et al.** Use of Causal Diagrams to Inform the Design and Interpretation of Observational Studies: An Example from the Study of Heart and Renal Protection (SHARP). Clinical Journal of the American Society of Nephrology, v. 12, n. 3, p. 546–552, mar. 2017.