## Dataset: Interval censored time to CSF fungal clearance or death in cryptococcal meningitis

Data are from a randomized controlled clinical trial comparing antifungal therapies in HIV-infected patients with cryptococcal meningitis. Only data from two of the three randomized interventions are included in this dataset: Amphotericin B monotherapy (a frequent treatment in Asia) and combination therapy with amphotericin B and flucytosine (an expensive treatment recommended by treatment guidelines).

The competing risks endpoint included here is the time from randomization to clearance of quantitative fungal counts in cerebrospinal fluid (beneficial event of interest) or death without prior fungal clearance (harmful competing event) during a follow-up period of 30 days.

Quantitative fungal counts were not measured daily and hence the time of fungal clearance was only known to have occurred between the last positive and the first zero measurement, i.e. it is interval-censored. The date of death was known exactly and the time to death was treated as interval-censored during the corresponding 24-hour interval. Patients without an event were right-censored at the time of their last positive fungal count measurement. Patients with a missing fungal count or a quantitative fungal count below the detection limit at baseline were excluded. In addition, subjects who survived for >7 days were only included if they had at least one post-enrolment quantitative fungal count measurement.

Of note, due to interval-censoring, the data could in principle have missed unobserved fungal clearances for patients who died without observed fungal clearance. However, based on the available quantitative fungal count measurements for these patients, this seemed highly unlikely for almost all cases.

The dataset contains 175 patients: 103 reached fungal clearance, 43 died without prior clearance, and 29 are right-censored.

Variables :

* study.no : Unique patient identifier
* r.arm.long : Randomized treatment arm
* tt.clearDeath.lower: Lower bound of interval-censored outcome [days] - time [in days] from randomization to CSF fungal clearance or death during a follow-up period of 30 days
* tt.clearDeath.upper: Upper bound of interval-censored outcome [days] (set to “1000” for right-censored cases)
* ev.clearDeath: Event type (numeric), 1=” Fungal clearance”, 2=”Prior death”, 0=no event/right-censored
* evtype.clearDeath: Event type (text), “Fungal clearance”, “Prior death”, or “Censored” interval-censored outcome

Reference:

Day JN, Chau TTH, Wolbers M, et al. Combination antifungal therapy for cryptococcal meningitis. The New England Journal of Medicine 2013; 368:1291–302.