

■ Understanding Diagnostic Measurements

OVERVIEW

Understanding Diagnostic Measurements surveys the measurements used to assess a diagnostic's accuracy because a test must achieve a certain level of accuracy before receiving regulatory approval. Understand how these measurements determine false negative and false positive percentages. Learn the meaning of variability, sensitivity, and specificity and calculate each. This course is for those new to diagnostic development who need a primer on the necessary measures to achieve regulatory approval.

Five Takeaways:

1. Produce and interpret a standard curve to analyze a diagnostic's results.
2. Recognize types of data distributions and how each is used to determine if a patient's condition falls in the normal or abnormal range.
3. Choose the correct measurement to determine the disease state of a patient.
4. Explain how precision, bias, specificity, and sensitivity measurements determine the accuracy of a diagnostic.
5. Discuss how false positive and false negative percentages and their comparison to the gold standard determines regulatory approval for a novel diagnostic.

AGENDA

Introduction to Measurements

The gold standard
 Requirements for regulatory approval
 Types of diagnostic measurements
 Direct and indirect measurements
 Determining unknown analyte concentrations
 Standard curve estimations
 Constructing a standard curve
 Reading a standard curve
 Science of colorimetric assays

Variability of Measurements

Variability defined
 Distribution of values
 Graphic display of distributions
 Bi-modal distribution
 Variability factors

Examples of Test Distributions

Blood pressure and cholesterol
 Cholesterol predicts atherosclerotic disease
 Bi-model distribution
 Ideal distribution



Testing Accuracy

Measurement considerations

Accuracy defined

False positive and false negative defined

Specificity and sensitivity defined

Reading specificity and sensitivity distributions

Reading true positive and true negative
distributions

Reading false negatives and false positive
distributions

Reading positive and negative predictive value
distributions

Reading low prevalence distributions

Example: mammograph for breast cancer

Example: PSA diagnostic for prostate cancer

