



Research article

Female breast cancer mortality in relation to puberty on Staten Island, New York

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Appendix 3. Staten island breast cancer research initiative double match program procedure

To analyze the confounding variable of age, one technique used was an age-matched case-control study where each case was matched with two randomly chosen control individuals with the same age.

To obtain the first match, cases and controls were assigned a random number generated by the random number function in Microsoft Excel (RANDBETWEEN). A random case was selected. The case-control matching procedure in MedCalc for Windows, version 17.9.7 was used to match this case to a random control with the same age. The selected control was removed from the dataset and the procedure was repeated for the remaining cases.

To obtain a second match, controls that were not used during this first match and all cases were copied back into Microsoft Excel. These cases and controls were again assigned a random number generated by the random number function in Microsoft Excel. These individuals were put back in MedCalc and the second match was made.

This set of 2–1 matches constituted a single replicate. We calculated 15 random replicates and reported median results as well as maximum and minimum odds ratios.

