Quality of Life — Adjusted Survival Analysis: Parametrics and Beyond

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Abstract: The MRL (mean remaining life) function fails to capture totally the impact of the important QoL (quality of life) factor which is quite often a basic ingredient in survival analysis of patients with terminal as well as chronic diseases, such as cancer, dementia, diabetes, and heart transplant, among others. To incorporate the QoL impact, various methods have been advocated. In a parametric setup, a QoL based utility function has been introduced in a Markov model formulation, although it may be less robust than nonparametric and semiparametric approaches. These later developments are highlighted here.

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