

THORAX

The Journal of the British Thoracic Society

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STATISTICAL METHODS The Editor recommends that authors refer to Altman DG, Gore SM, Gardner MJ, Pocock SJ. Statistical guidelines for contributors to medical journals. *BMJ* 1983;286:1489-93. Authors should name any statistical methods used and give details of randomisation procedures. For large numbers of observations it is often preferable to give mean values and an estimate of the scatter (usually 95% confidence intervals) with a footnote stating from whom the full data may be obtained. The power of the study to detect a significant difference should be given when appropriate and may be requested by referees. Standard deviation (SD) and standard error (SE) should be given in parenthesis (not preceded by \pm) and identified by SD or SE at the first mention.

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1 Anderson HR. Chronic lung disease in the Papua New Guinea Highlands. *Thorax* 1979;34:647-53.

2 Green AB, Brown CD. *Textbook of pulmonary disease*. 2nd ed. London: Silver Books, 1982:49.

3 Grey EF. Cystic fibrosis. In: Green AB, Brown CD, eds. *Textbook of pulmonary disease*. London: Silver Books, 1982:349-62.

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