Case 2 – Dressings
Statistics 8801
Spring Semester 2009
to be discussed February 6

Subjects will be recruited for a study to compare a new dressing for minor operations like wart removal to a standard dressing. Two sites will be selected on each subject, and wounds will be simulated at each site. Each subject will have the new dressing at one site and the standard dressing at the other.

Measurements will be made on several responses, including pain, level of infection, speed on healing, and others. Each response is a score on a scale, from 1 (worst) to 5 (best). For example, a subject might report their pain at the standard site as 3 and at the new site as 4. All measurements will be repeated at 7 days, 14 days and 42 days after surgery. Most wounds using the standard dressing are known to be healed within 42 days.

Provide advice to the experimenter on how the experiment should be done. How would you decide on the number of patients? Also, describe how you would carry out the analysis of the resulting data. To answer these questions, you may really need additional information from the investigator. What additional information do you need? You may need to make up answers that would ordinarily be provided by the investigator.

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