

Confidence Intervals Two Sample Difference in Means Matched Pairs Free Response

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Question 1

Qualification: AP Statistics
Areas: Hypothesis Testing
Subtopics: Matched Pairs T Test For A Difference In Means, Matched Pairs T Interval For A Difference In Means
Paper: Part-A / Series: 2001 / Difficulty: Medium / Question Number: 5



5. A growing number of employers are trying to hold down the costs that they pay for medical insurance for their employees. As part of this effort, many medical insurance companies are now requiring clients to use generic brand medicines when filling prescriptions. An independent consumer advocacy group wanted to determine if there was a difference, in milligrams, in the amount of active ingredient between a certain “name” brand drug and its generic counterpart. Pharmacies may store drugs under different conditions. Therefore, the consumer group randomly selected ten different pharmacies in a large city and filled two prescriptions at each of these pharmacies, one for the “name” brand and the other for the generic brand of the drug. The consumer group's laboratory then tested a randomly selected pill from each prescription to determine the amount of active ingredient in the pill. The results are given in the following table.

ACTIVE INGREDIENT
(in milligrams)

Pharmacy	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Name brand	245	244	240	250	243	246	246	246	247	250
Generic brand	246	240	235	237	243	239	241	238	238	234

Based on these results, what should the consumer group’s laboratory report about the difference in the active ingredient in the two brands of pills? Give appropriate statistical evidence to support your response.



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Question 2

Qualification: AP Statistics

Areas: Confidence Intervals

Subtopics: Matched Pairs T Interval For A Difference In Means, Two Sample T Interval For Difference Of Means

Paper: Part-A / Series: 2004-Form-B / Difficulty: Somewhat Challenging / Question Number: 4

4. The principal at Crest Middle School, which enrolls only sixth-grade students and seventh-grade students, is interested in determining how much time students at that school spend on homework each night. The table below shows the mean and standard deviation of the amount of time spent on homework each night (in minutes) for a random sample of 20 sixth-grade students and a separate random sample of 20 seventh-grade students at this school.

	Mean	Standard Deviation
Sixth-grade students	27.3	10.8
Seventh-grade students	47.0	12.4

Based on dotplots of these data, it is not unreasonable to assume that the distribution of times for each grade were approximately normally distributed.

- (a) Estimate the difference in mean times spent on homework for all sixth- and seventh-grade students in this school using an interval. Be sure to interpret your interval.
- (b) An assistant principal reasoned that a much narrower confidence interval could be obtained if the students were paired based on their responses; for example, pairing the sixth-grade student and the seventh-grade student with the highest number of minutes spent on homework, the sixth-grade student and seventh-grade student with the next highest number of minutes spent on homework, and so on. Is the assistant principal correct in thinking that matching students in this way and then computing a matched-pairs confidence interval for the mean difference in time spent on homework is a better procedure than the one used in part (a) ? Explain why or why not.

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Question 3

Qualification: AP Statistics

Areas: Confidence Intervals

Subtopics: Matched Pairs T Interval For A Difference In Means, Hypothesis Testing - Two Tailed

Paper: Part-A / Series: 2005-Form-B / Difficulty: Medium / Question Number: 4

4. A researcher believes that treating seeds with certain additives before planting can enhance the growth of plants. An experiment to investigate this is conducted in a greenhouse. From a large number of Roma tomato seeds, 24 seeds are randomly chosen and 2 are assigned to each of 12 containers. One of the 2 seeds is randomly selected and treated with the additive. The other seed serves as a control. Both seeds are then planted in the same container. The growth, in centimeters, of each of the 24 plants is measured after 30 days. These data were used to generate the partial computer output shown below. Graphical displays indicate that the assumption of normality is not unreasonable.

	N	Mean	StDev	SE Mean
Control	12	15.989	1.098	0.317
Treatment	12	18.004	1.175	0.339
Difference	12	-2.015	1.163	0.336

- (a) Construct a confidence interval for the mean difference in growth, in centimeters, of the plants from the untreated and treated seeds. Be sure to interpret this interval.
- (b) Based only on the confidence interval in part (a), is there sufficient evidence to conclude that there is a significant mean difference in growth of the plants from untreated seeds and the plants from treated seeds? Justify your conclusion.

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