

ESTIMANDS VS ASSUMPTIONS

- *The description of an estimand should reflect the clinical question of interest in respect of these intercurrent events...*

What if we cannot learn that estimand without strong, implausible assumptions?

- Should the choice of estimand be the result of trading what we would like to learn with what we can learn?
- Should the ICH E9 addendum emphasize an accuracy vs interpretability tradeoff?

(Hastie et al., 2009)

- E.g., rescue treatment is administered in function of post-treatment measurements.
- Consider txt effect for the principal stratum of patients who would never need rescue.
- This may seem of interest,
but available estimation strategies ignore the role of post-treatment measurements.