

Treatment and no treatment should be studied in similar groups

Porque...

- Only when the treated and untreated groups are similar can we be sure that the effects are due to the treatment
- The observed effects may be due to differences between the people who do and don't receive the treatment
- Only if the groups are randomly created (randomized) can we assume that they are similar

Señales de alerta

“...**observational** study...”

“...there is an **association**...”

It is not a **randomised clinical trial**

Observational studies, unlike randomized clinical trials, cannot prove a cause-effect relationship because the treated and untreated groups are not similar



- **Be cautious** if the groups in which a treatment is studied are not randomly created
- **Remember** that the study groups should be the same except for the treatment they receive
- **Ask yourself** whether the observed effect may be due to something other than the treatment