



Education Blast: Summer Course in Clinical Research



Observational studies

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- **Case Study** - Study of one diseased individual; detailed description of an uncommon disease. No comparison group.
- **Case Series** - Study of multiple cases with similar characteristics. Results may generate causal hypotheses. No comparison group.
- **Ecological Study** - A study in which at least one variable is measured at the group (not individual) level.
 - average sunlight exposure at geographic location; community violence
 - occurrence of disease is compared between groups having different levels of exposure, i.e., a comparison group
 - Appropriate for initial investigation of causal hypothesis
- **Cross-Sectional Study** - Measures exposure and disease at one time point. Weaker evidence of causal association because the exposure may not have preceded the disease.

Prospective and Retrospective Cohort Studies

