

Statistical Methods in Epidemiology

Lab 8 - Solutions.

Matched Case-Control Studies

I. Matched studies

i) Endometrial cancer, 1:1 matched sets

1.

```
. mhodds d est set
```

Mantel-Haenszel estimate of the odds ratio
Comparing est==2 vs. est==1, controlling for set

note: only 32 of the 63 strata formed in this analysis contribute
information about the effect of the explanatory variable

Odds Ratio	chi2(1)	P>chi2	[95% Conf. Interval]
9.666667	21.13	0.0000	2.944702 31.733072

```
. sort set d est
```

```
. by set: gen new1=est[_n+1]-est
(63 missing values generated)
```

```
. li set est d new1 in 1/40
```

	set	est	d	new1
1.	1	1	0	1
2.	1	2	1	.
3.	2	2	0	0
4.	2	2	1	.
5.	3	2	0	0
6.	3	2	1	.
7.	4	2	0	0
8.	4	2	1	.
9.	5	2	0	0
10.	5	2	1	.
11.	6	1	0	1
12.	6	2	1	.
13.	7	1	0	1
14.	7	2	1	.
15.	8	1	0	1
16.	8	2	1	.
17.	9	1	0	0
18.	9	1	1	.
19.	10	1	0	1
20.	10	2	1	.
21.	11	1	0	1
22.	11	2	1	.
23.	12	2	0	0
24.	12	2	1	.
25.	13	2	0	0

```

26.    13    2    1    .
27.    14    1    0    1
28.    14    2    1    .
29.    15    1    0    1
30.    15    2    1    .
-----+
31.    16    1    0    1
32.    16    2    1    .
33.    17    2    0    -1
34.    17    1    1    .
35.    18    2    0    0
-----+
36.    18    2    1    .
37.    19    2    0    0
38.    19    2    1    .
39.    20    2    0    0
40.    20    2    1    .
-----+
. count if newl==1
      29
. count if newl===-1
      3
. di 29/3
9.6666667

2.
. mhodds d age3 set, compare(2,1)

Mantel-Haenszel estimate of the odds ratio
Comparing age3==2 vs. age3==1, controlling for set

note: only 0 of the 49 strata formed in this analysis contribute
      information about the effect of the explanatory variable

-----+
Odds Ratio      chi2(1)      P>chi2      [95% Conf. Interval]
-----+
.          .          .          .
-----+
.          .          .          .
-----+
.          .          .          .

. mhodds d age3 set, compare(3,1)

Mantel-Haenszel estimate of the odds ratio
Comparing age3==3 vs. age3==1, controlling for set

note: only 0 of the 27 strata formed in this analysis contribute
      information about the effect of the explanatory variable

-----+
Odds Ratio      chi2(1)      P>chi2      [95% Conf. Interval]
-----+
.          .          .          .
-----+
.          .          .          .
-----+
.          .          .          .

3.
. mhodds d est set, by(age3)

Mantel-Haenszel estimate of the odds ratio
Comparing est==2 vs. est==1, controlling for set
by age3

note: only 32 of the 63 strata formed in this analysis contribute
      information about the effect of the explanatory variable

```

age3	Odds Ratio	chi2(1)	P>chi2	[95% Conf. Interval]
1	6.000000	3.57	0.0588	0.72235 49.83724
2	15.000000	12.25	0.0005	1.98141 113.55557
3	8.000000	5.44	0.0196	1.00059 63.96252

Mantel-Haenszel estimate controlling for set and age3

Odds Ratio	chi2(1)	P>chi2	[95% Conf. Interval]
9.666667	21.13	0.0000	2.944702 31.733072

Test of homogeneity of ORs (approx): chi2(2) = 0.41
Pr>chi2 = 0.8128

The χ^2 test for heterogeneity of the age specific odds ratios does not provide evidence for a modifying effect of age. That test is in fact a Pearson χ^2 performed on a 2x3 table of the age group vs. exposure. Each cell includes either the number of exposed cases and unexposed controls, or the number of unexposed cases and exposed controls in a specific age group. We can construct such a table and perform the chi-squared test of the null hypothesis of no association. Observe that it is exactly the same test as the one produced above.

```
. tab est age3 if newl==1|newl==1, chi2

      |          age3
    est |    1      2      3 |   Total
----+-----+-----+-----+
    1 |    6     15      8 |    29
    2 |    1      1      1 |     3
----+-----+-----+-----+
  Total |    7     16      9 |    32

Pearson chi2(2) = 0.4145  Pr = 0.813
```

4.

```
. mhodds d est set hyp
```

Mantel-Haenszel estimate of the odds ratio
Comparing est==2 vs. est==1, controlling for set and hyp

note: only 18 of the 94 strata formed in this analysis contribute
information about the effect of the explanatory variable

Odds Ratio	chi2(1)	P>chi2	[95% Conf. Interval]
17.000000	14.22	0.0002	2.262402 127.740345

ii) Endometrial cancer, 1:4 matched sets

1.

```
. mhodds d est set
```

Mantel-Haenszel estimate of the odds ratio
Comparing est==1 vs. est==0, controlling for set

note: only 58 of the 63 strata formed in this analysis contribute
information about the effect of the explanatory variable

Odds Ratio	chi2(1)	P>chi2	[95% Conf. Interval]
8.461538	31.16	0.0000	3.437773 20.826746

2.

```
. mhodds d age3 set, compare(2,1)
```

Mantel-Haenszel estimate of the odds ratio
Comparing age3==2 vs. age3==1, controlling for set

note: only 0 of the 49 strata formed in this analysis contribute
information about the effect of the explanatory variable

Odds Ratio	chi2(1)	P>chi2	[95% Conf. Interval]
.	.	.	.

```
. mhodds d age3 set, compare(3,1)
```

Mantel-Haenszel estimate of the odds ratio
Comparing age3==3 vs. age3==1, controlling for set

note: only 0 of the 27 strata formed in this analysis contribute
information about the effect of the explanatory variable

Odds Ratio	chi2(1)	P>chi2	[95% Conf. Interval]
.	.	.	.

3.

```
. mhodds d est set, by(age3)
```

Mantel-Haenszel estimate of the odds ratio
Comparing est==1 vs. est==0, controlling for set
by age3

note: only 58 of the 63 strata formed in this analysis contribute
information about the effect of the explanatory variable

age3	Odds Ratio	chi2(1)	P>chi2	[95% Conf. Interval]
1	3.800000	3.38	0.0660	0.82165 17.57438
2	10.666667	18.69	0.0000	2.78773 40.81376
3	13.500000	9.77	0.0018	1.59832 114.02620

```
Mantel-Haenszel estimate controlling for set and age3
-----
Odds Ratio      chi2(1)      P>chi2      [95% Conf. Interval]
-----
8.461538       31.16       0.0000      3.437773 20.826746
-----

Test of homogeneity of ORs (approx): chi2(2) = 1.41
                                         Pr>chi2 = 0.4943
```

4.

```
. mhodds d est set hyp
```

Mantel-Haenszel estimate of the odds ratio
Comparing est==1 vs. est==0, controlling for set and hyp

note: only 39 of the 114 strata formed in this analysis contribute information about the effect of the explanatory variable

```
-----
Odds Ratio      chi2(1)      P>chi2      [95% Conf. Interval]
-----
29.222222      33.47       0.0000      4.984146 171.330903
-----
```

II. Conditional logistic regression

1.

```
. xi: clogit d i.est, group(set) or
i.est          _Iest_1-2          (naturally coded; _Iest_1 omitted)

Iteration 0:  log likelihood = -31.455999
Iteration 1:  log likelihood = -31.443712
Iteration 2:  log likelihood = -31.443696
Iteration 3:  log likelihood = -31.443696

Conditional (fixed-effects) logistic regression  Number of obs = 126
                                                LR chi2(1) = 24.45
                                                Prob > chi2 = 0.0000
                                                Pseudo R2 = 0.2799

Log likelihood = -31.443696
```

```
-----
d | Odds Ratio   Std. Err.      z     P>|z|      [95% Conf. Interval]
-----+
_Iest_2 |  9.666667  5.862625    3.74    0.000    2.944702  31.73307
-----
```

2.

```
. xi: clogit d i.age3, group(set) or
i.age3          _Iage3_1-3          (naturally coded; _Iage3_1 omitted)
note: _Iage3_2 omitted due to no within-group variance.
note: _Iage3_3 omitted due to no within-group variance.
```

```
Iteration 0:  log likelihood = -43.668272
```

```
Conditional (fixed-effects) logistic regression  Number of obs = 126
                                                LR chi2(0) = 0.00
                                                Prob > chi2 = .
                                                Pseudo R2 = 0.0000

Log likelihood = -43.668272
```

```

-----+
d | Coef. Std. Err. z P>|z| [95% Conf. Interval]
-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
3.
. xi: clogit d i.est*i.age3, group(set) or
i.est _Iest_1-2 (naturally coded; _Iest_1 omitted)
i.age3 _Iage3_1-3 (naturally coded; _Iage3_1 omitted)
i.est*i.age3 _IestXage_#_# (coded as above)
note: _Iage3_2 omitted due to no within-group variance.
note: _Iage3_3 omitted due to no within-group variance.

Iteration 0: log likelihood = -31.545327
Iteration 1: log likelihood = -31.249157
Iteration 2: log likelihood = -31.238555
Iteration 3: log likelihood = -31.238532
Iteration 4: log likelihood = -31.238532

Conditional (fixed-effects) logistic regression Number of obs = 126
                                                LR chi2(3) = 24.86
                                                Prob > chi2 = 0.0000
Log likelihood = -31.238532                      Pseudo R2 = 0.2846

-----+
d | Odds Ratio Std. Err. z P>|z| [95% Conf. Interval]
-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
_Iest_2 | 6 6.480741 1.66 0.097 .7223514 49.83724
_IestXage2 | 2.5 3.736085 0.61 0.540 .1336212 46.77401
_IestXage3 | 1.333333 2.018434 0.19 0.849 .068607 25.91248
-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
```

. est store A

```

. xi: clogit d i.est i.age3, group(set) or
i.est _Iest_1-2 (naturally coded; _Iest_1 omitted)
i.age3 _Iage3_1-3 (naturally coded; _Iage3_1 omitted)
note: _Iage3_2 omitted due to no within-group variance.
note: _Iage3_3 omitted due to no within-group variance.

Iteration 0: log likelihood = -31.455999
Iteration 1: log likelihood = -31.443712
Iteration 2: log likelihood = -31.443696
Iteration 3: log likelihood = -31.443696

Conditional (fixed-effects) logistic regression Number of obs = 126
                                                LR chi2(1) = 24.45
                                                Prob > chi2 = 0.0000
Log likelihood = -31.443696                      Pseudo R2 = 0.2799

-----+
d | Odds Ratio Std. Err. z P>|z| [95% Conf. Interval]
-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
_Iest_2 | 9.666667 5.862625 3.74 0.000 2.944702 31.73307
-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
```

. lrtest A
likelihood-ratio test
(Assumption: . nested in A)

LR chi2(2) = 0.41
Prob > chi2 = 0.8145

The effect of estrogen does not seem to differ statistically significantly across age groups as indicated by the p-value of 0.82.

OR using a Wald test,

```

. xi: clogit d i.est*i.age3, group(set) or nolog

i.est          _Iest_1-2          (naturally coded; _Iest_1 omitted)
i.age3         _Iage3_1-3        (naturally coded; _Iage3_1 omitted)
i.est*i.age3   _IestXage_#_#    (coded as above)
note: _Iage3_2 omitted due to no within-group variance.
note: _Iage3_3 omitted due to no within-group variance.

Conditional (fixed-effects) logistic regression  Number of obs = 126
                                                LR chi2(3) = 24.86
                                                Prob > chi2 = 0.0000
Log likelihood = -31.238532                      Pseudo R2 = 0.2846

-----+
d | Odds Ratio Std. Err.      z     P>|z| [95% Conf. Interval]
-----+
_Iest_2 |       6  6.480741    1.66  0.097   .7223514  49.83724
_IestXage2|     2.5 3.736085    0.61  0.540   .1336212  46.77401
_IestXage3| 1.333333 2.018434    0.19  0.849   .068607   25.91248
-----+



. testparm _IestXage_2_*
( 1) [d]_IestXage_2_2 = 0
( 2) [d]_IestXage_2_3 = 0

chi2( 2) = 0.40
Prob > chi2 = 0.8197

4.
. xi: clogit d i.est*age, group(set) or nolog
i.est          _Iest_1-2          (naturally coded; _Iest_1 omitted)
i.est*age     _IestXage_#       (coded as above)

Conditional (fixed-effects) logistic regression  Number of obs = 126
                                                LR chi2(3) = 25.05
                                                Prob > chi2 = 0.0000
Log likelihood = -31.143046                      Pseudo R2 = 0.2868

-----+
d | Odds Ratio Std. Err.      z     P>|z| [95% Conf. Interval]
-----+
_Iest_2 | 2.347916 15.05843    0.13  0.894   8.16e-06  675908.9
age | .7123318 .3134671    -0.77  0.441   .30068   1.687564
_IestXage_2| 1.020938 .0921052    0.23  0.818   .8554743  1.218404
-----+


. est store A

. xi: clogit d i.est age, group(set) or nolog
i.est          _Iest_1-2          (naturally coded; _Iest_1 omitted)

Conditional (fixed-effects) logistic regression  Number of obs = 126
                                                LR chi2(2) = 25.00
                                                Prob > chi2 = 0.0000
Log likelihood = -31.169601                      Pseudo R2 = 0.2862

-----+
d | Odds Ratio Std. Err.      z     P>|z| [95% Conf. Interval]
-----+
_Iest_2 | 10.24897 6.391759    3.73  0.000   3.018766  34.79614
age | .7406473 .2988585    -0.74  0.457   .3358483  1.633352
-----+


. lrtest A

likelihood-ratio test                               LR chi2(1) = 0.05
(Assumption: . nested in A)                         Prob > chi2 = 0.8177

```

5.

```
. xi: clogit d i.est i.hyp, group(set) or nolog
i.est          _Iest_1-2          (naturally coded; _Iest_1 omitted)
i.hyp          _Ihyp_1-2          (naturally coded; _Ihyp_1 omitted)

Conditional (fixed-effects) logistic regression  Number of obs      =     126
                                                LR chi2(2)        =    24.56
                                                Prob > chi2       =  0.0000
Log likelihood = -31.390231                      Pseudo R2        =  0.2812
```

d	Odds Ratio	Std. Err.	z	P> z	[95% Conf. Interval]
_Iest_2	10.04889	6.231033	3.72	0.000	2.980659 33.8785
_Ihyp_2	.8669705	.3790934	-0.33	0.744	.3679647 2.04269

The effect is increased after adjusting for hypertension. However, this change is not statistically significant as indicated by the Wald test on the hypertension term because as you can see the SE of the estrogen estimate has increased also.

6. If we want to check for an interaction this is done with a LR-test as follows:

```
. xi: clogit d i.est*i.hyp, group(set) or nolog
i.est          _Iest_1-2          (naturally coded; _Iest_1 omitted)
i.hyp          _Ihyp_1-2          (naturally coded; _Ihyp_1 omitted)
i.est*i.hyp   _IestXhyp_#_#    (coded as above)

Conditional (fixed-effects) logistic regression  Number of obs      =     126
                                                LR chi2(3)        =    24.73
                                                Prob > chi2       =  0.0000
Log likelihood = -31.304703                      Pseudo R2        =  0.2831

-----
```

d	Odds Ratio	Std. Err.	z	P> z	[95% Conf. Interval]
_Iest_2	11.53888	8.259096	3.42	0.001	2.837301 46.92689
_Ihyp_2	1.249836	1.218767	0.23	0.819	.1848463 8.450749
_IestXhyp2	.6406665	.6842618	-0.42	0.677	.0789785 5.197028

```
. est store A

. xi: clogit d i.est i.hyp, group(set) or nolog
i.est          _Iest_1-2          (naturally coded; _Iest_1 omitted)
i.hyp          _Ihyp_1-2          (naturally coded; _Ihyp_1 omitted)

Conditional (fixed-effects) logistic regression  Number of obs      =     126
                                                LR chi2(2)        =    24.56
                                                Prob > chi2       =  0.0000
Log likelihood = -31.390231                      Pseudo R2        =  0.2812

-----
```

d	Odds Ratio	Std. Err.	z	P> z	[95% Conf. Interval]
_Iest_2	10.04889	6.231033	3.72	0.000	2.980659 33.8785
_Ihyp_2	.8669705	.3790934	-0.33	0.744	.3679647 2.04269

```
. lrtest A

likelihood-ratio test
(Assumption: . nested in A)           LR chi2(1) = 0.17
                                         Prob > chi2 = 0.6792
```

As you can see, the effect of abnormal level of estrogen on the odds of having endometrial cancer is not statistically significantly different (p -value = 0.68) across levels of hypertension, compared to similar people with the same level of hypertension but with normal level of estrogen.

7.

```
. use "C:\SME_2006-2007\PRACTICALS\Lab5\bdendo.dta"
(1:4 Endometrial Cancer Study)

. li set d est age in 1/10
```

	set	d	est	age
1.	1	1	1	74
2.	1	0	0	75
3.	1	0	0	74
4.	1	0	1	75
5.	1	0	0	74
6.	2	1	1	67
7.	2	0	1	68
8.	2	0	0	67
9.	2	0	1	67
10.	2	0	1	67

7(1.)

```
. xi: clogit d est, group(set)

Iteration 0:  log likelihood = -83.721884
Iteration 1:  log likelihood = -83.72159
Iteration 2:  log likelihood = -83.72159

Conditional (fixed-effects) logistic regression  Number of obs     =      315
                                                LR chi2(1)        =     35.35
                                                Prob > chi2       =     0.0000
                                                Pseudo R2        =     0.1743

Log likelihood = -83.72159

-----
```

d	Coef.	Std. Err.	z	P> z	[95% Conf. Interval]
est	2.073761	.4208245	4.93	0.000	1.24896 2.898562

7(2.)

```
. xi: clogit d i.age3, group(set)
i.age3          _Iage3_1-3          (naturally coded; _Iage3_1 omitted)
note: _Iage3_2 omitted due to no within-group variance.
note: _Iage3_3 omitted due to no within-group variance.
```

```
Iteration 0:  log likelihood = -101.39459

Conditional (fixed-effects) logistic regression  Number of obs     =      315
                                                LR chi2(0)        =      0.00
                                                Prob > chi2       =      .
                                                Pseudo R2        =     0.0000

Log likelihood = -101.39459
```

```

-----+
d | Coef. Std. Err. z P>|z| [95% Conf. Interval]
-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
7(3.)
.xi: clogit d i.est*i.age3, group(set) nolog
i.est _Iest_0-1 (naturally coded; _Iest_0 omitted)
i.age3 _Iage3_1-3 (naturally coded; _Iage3_1 omitted)
i.est*i.age3 _IestXage_#_# (coded as above)
note: _Iage3_2 omitted due to no within-group variance.
note: _Iage3_3 omitted due to no within-group variance.

Conditional (fixed-effects) logistic regression Number of obs = 315
LR chi2(3) = 36.03
Prob > chi2 = 0.0000
Pseudo R2 = 0.1777

Log likelihood = -83.380155

-----+
d | Coef. Std. Err. z P>|z| [95% Conf. Interval]
-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
_Iest_1 | 1.430827 .8256893 1.73 0.083 -.1874939 3.049149
_IestXage2 | .847401 1.03377 0.82 0.412 -1.178751 2.873553
_IestXage3 | .7801409 1.154229 0.68 0.499 -1.482107 3.042389
-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
```

. est store A

```

.xi: clogit d i.est i.age3, group(set) nolog
i.est _Iest_0-1 (naturally coded; _Iest_0 omitted)
i.age3 _Iage3_1-3 (naturally coded; _Iage3_1 omitted)
note: _Iage3_2 omitted due to no within-group variance.
note: _Iage3_3 omitted due to no within-group variance.

Conditional (fixed-effects) logistic regression Number of obs = 315
LR chi2(1) = 35.35
Prob > chi2 = 0.0000
Pseudo R2 = 0.1743

Log likelihood = -83.72159

-----+
d | Coef. Std. Err. z P>|z| [95% Conf. Interval]
-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
_Iest_1 | 2.073761 .4208245 4.93 0.000 1.24896 2.898562
-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
```

. lrtest A

```

likelihood-ratio test LR chi2(2) = 0.68
(Assumption: . nested in A) Prob > chi2 = 0.7107
```

7(4.)

```

.xi: clogit d i.est*age, group(set) or nolog
i.est _Iest_0-1 (naturally coded; _Iest_0 omitted)
i.est*age _IestXage_# (coded as above)
Conditional (fixed-effects) logistic regression Number of obs = 315
LR chi2(3) = 36.86
Prob > chi2 = 0.0000
Pseudo R2 = 0.1818

Log likelihood = -82.963318
```

d	Odds Ratio	Std. Err.	z	P> z	[95% Conf. Interval]
_Iest_1	2.076744	9.452452	0.16	0.872	.0002774 15548.54
age	.7343274	.1852424	-1.22	0.221	.447883 1.203968
_IestXag1	1.01918	.0645293	0.30	0.764	.9002377 1.153838


```

Prob > chi2      = 0.0000
Log likelihood = -83.721527          Pseudo R2      = 0.1743

-----
d | Coef. Std. Err.      z   P>|z| [95% Conf. Interval]
-----+
_Iest_1 | 2.074574 .4270105    4.86 0.000    1.237649 2.911499
_Ihyp_2 | -.0037132 .3306428   -0.01 0.991   -.6517611 .6443347
-----+
.
```

. lrtest A

likelihood-ratio test LR chi2(1) = 0.53
(Assumption: . nested in A) Prob > chi2 = 0.4681

III. Conditional vs. unconditional logistic

1.

```

.xi: logit d i.bcg i.age, or nolog
i.bcg           _Ibcg_0-1          (naturally coded; _Ibcg_0 omitted)
i.age           _Iage_0-6          (naturally coded; _Iage_0 omitted)

Logit estimates                                         Number of obs = 1370
                                                       LR chi2(7) = 106.83
                                                       Prob > chi2 = 0.0000
Log likelihood = -632.13736                           Pseudo R2 = 0.0779

-----
d | Odds Ratio Std. Err.      z   P>|z| [95% Conf. Interval]
-----+
_Ibcg_1 | .3312718 .0638478   -5.73 0.000    .2270533 .4833272
_Iage_1 | 1.339224 .3513803    1.11 0.266    .8007897 2.239692
_Iage_2 | 1.237187 .3740553    0.70 0.481    .6840382 2.237641
_Iage_3 | 1.624545 .5225785    1.51 0.131    .8648085 3.051712
_Iage_4 | 3.401921 1.002921    4.15 0.000    1.908892 6.062713
_Iage_5 | 2.422219 .5959147    3.60 0.000    1.495549 3.92307
_Iage_6 | 2.084825 .4998738    3.06 0.002    1.303104 3.335495
-----+
```

2.

```

.gen grp=1

.xi: clogit d i.bcg i.age, group(grp) or
i.bcg           _Ibcg_0-1          (naturally coded; _Ibcg_0 omitted)
i.age           _Iage_0-6          (naturally coded; _Iage_0 omitted)
note: multiple positive outcomes within groups encountered.
Iteration 0:  log likelihood = -628.56209
Iteration 1:  log likelihood = -628.56207
Conditional (fixed-effects) logistic regression Number of obs = 1370
                                                       LR chi2(7) = 106.75
                                                       Prob > chi2 = 0.0000
Log likelihood = -628.56207                           Pseudo R2 = 0.0783

-----
d | Odds Ratio Std. Err.      z   P>|z| [95% Conf. Interval]
-----+
_Ibcg_1 | .3315068 .0638743   -5.73 0.000    .2272396 .4836163
_Iage_1 | 1.338976 .3512043    1.11 0.266    .8007714 2.238913
_Iage_2 | 1.237001 .3738914    0.70 0.482    .6840517 2.236924
_Iage_3 | 1.624024 .5222335    1.51 0.132    .8647159 3.05008
_Iage_4 | 3.398322 1.001408    4.15 0.000    1.90737 6.054721
_Iage_5 | 2.42044 .5952393    3.59 0.000    1.494738 3.919435
_Iage_6 | 2.08362 .4993951    3.06 0.002    1.302583 3.332972
-----+
```

Here grp is the variable declaring the matching set and it takes the value 1 for all subjects, meaning that the effect of matching is neutral. This could be the case if (a) the matching variable is associated neither with the disease nor with the exposure, or (b) the matching variable is associated only with the disease. Under such circumstances both approaches (conditional & unconditional) lead to approximately identical results and matching can be ignored in the analysis.