

# Model-based statistical approaches for pharmacokinetic bioequivalence studies with sparse sampling and extension to two-stage designs

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**Evaluation of Model-Based BioEquivalence  
(MBBE) statistical approaches for sparse  
designs PK studies**

*This presentation reflects the views of the authors and should not be construed to represent FDA's views or policies.*

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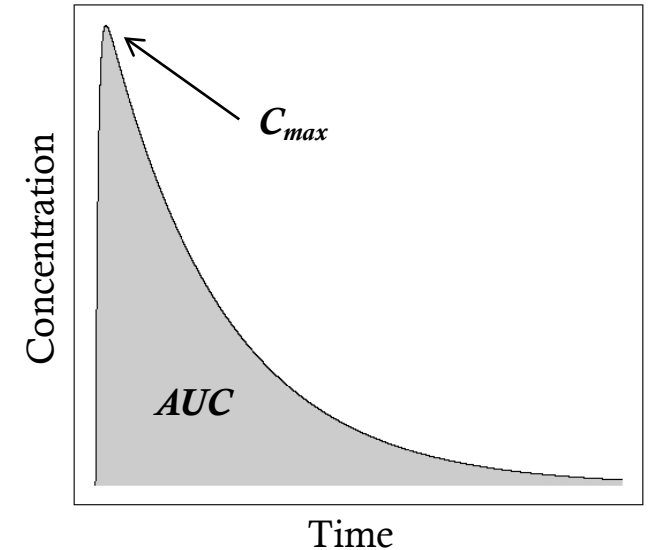
**Sept 23, 2019 – Sept 22, 2021**

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Results
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- **Part 2: Adaptive and Sequential Design in MBBE**  
Methods  
Simulation study  
Results
- **Conclusion & Perspectives**

# Introduction

- Pharmacokinetic (PK): study of the time course of the drug in the body<sup>[1]</sup>
  - $AUC$ : area under the plasma drug concentration versus time curve
  - $C_{max}$ : maximum plasma concentration
- Bioequivalence (BE): PK equivalence between drug formulations
  - traditionally, TOST<sup>[2]</sup> on estimates of  $AUC$  and  $C_{max}$  obtained using the non-compartmental analysis (NCA)<sup>[3]</sup>
  - in a previous work, model-based (MB) TOST, using nonlinear mixed effects model (NLMEM), was proposed as an alternative for NCA-based TOST in sparse design<sup>[4]</sup>
- At the design stage
  - assumptions on the expected variability of  $AUC$  and  $C_{max}$  are needed
  - if uncertainty, recently proposed to perform two-stage studies for TOST-NCA: group sequential<sup>[5]</sup> or adaptive designs<sup>[6]</sup>



<sup>[1]</sup>: J. Gabrielsson *et al.*, *Pharmacokinetic & pharmacodynamic*, 4th edition 2006  
<sup>[4]</sup>: Dubois *et al.*, *Statistics in Medicine*, 2011

<sup>[2]</sup>: Schuirmann, *Journal of Pharmacokinetics and Biopharmaceutics*, 1987  
<sup>[5]</sup>: Kieser *et al.*, *Statistics in Medicine*, 2015

<sup>[3]</sup>: Guidance for industry – Bioequivalence: Blood level bioequivalence study, VICH GL52, 2016 4  
<sup>[6]</sup>: Maurer *et al.*, *Statistics in Medicine*, 2018

# Two one-sided test (TOST)

- $\beta^{Tr}$ : ratio of  $AUC$  or  $C_{max}$  geometric means to be compared to the threshold  $\delta = \log(1.25) \approx 0.223$ <sup>[1]</sup>
- TOST null hypothesis  $H_0: \{ \beta^{Tr} \leq -\delta \text{ or } \beta^{Tr} \geq \delta \}$  is decomposed into

$$H_{0,-\delta}: \{ \beta^{Tr} \leq -\delta \} \text{ or } H_{0,\delta}: \{ \beta^{Tr} \geq \delta \}$$

- both  $H_{0,-\delta}$  and  $H_{0,\delta}$  shall be rejected at  $\alpha = 5\%$  if

$$Z_{-\delta} = \frac{\beta^{Tr} + \delta}{SE(\beta^{Tr})} \geq z_{1-\alpha} \text{ and } Z_{\delta} = \frac{\beta^{Tr} - \delta}{SE(\beta^{Tr})} \leq -z_{1-\alpha}$$

$SE(\beta^{Tr})$ : standard error of  $\beta^{Tr}$

$z_{1-\alpha}$ :  $1 - \alpha^{th}$  quantile of the normal distribution

- or equivalently

$$CI(\beta^{Tr})_{1-2\alpha} = \beta^{Tr} \pm z_{1-\alpha} \times SE(\beta^{Tr}) \text{ included in } [-\delta ; +\delta ]$$

where  $CI_{1-2\alpha}(\beta^{Tr})$ : confidence interval of  $\beta^{Tr}$  at level  $1 - 2\alpha$

**NB: Often exponential of each boundary of the  $CI_{90\%}$  are computed and compared to [ 0.8 ; 1.25 ]**

<sup>[1]</sup>: Guidance for industry – Bioequivalence: Blood level bioequivalence study, VICH GL52, 2016

# NCA-TOST for crossover designs

- AUC and  $C_{\max}$  traditionally obtained using the trapezoidal rule and directly from the observations respectively
- Estimation using linear mixed effect model
- Individual AUC of subject  $i=1, \dots, N$  at period  $k=1, \dots, K$

$$\log(AUC_{ik}) = \lambda_{AUC} + \beta_{AUC}^{Tr} T_{ik} + \beta_{AUC}^P P_k + \beta_{AUC}^S S_i + \eta_{AUC_i} + \kappa_{AUC_{ik}}$$

- $\lambda_{AUC}$ : expected value of AUC for reference class
- $\beta_{AUC}^{Tr}$ ,  $\beta_{AUC}^P$ ,  $\beta_{AUC}^S$ : treatment, period, and sequence effect coefficients
- $T_{ik}$ ,  $P_k$ ,  $S_i$ : treatment, period, and sequence covariate vectors
- $\eta_{AUC_i} \sim N(0, \omega_{AUC})$ : between-subject random effect
- $\kappa_{AUC_{ik}} \sim N(0, \gamma_{AUC})$ : within-subject random effect
- Asymptotic  $SE(\beta_{AUC}^{Tr})$  estimated from observed Fisher Information matrix (FIM)
- NB: Same for  $C_{\max}$

# NCA-TOST for crossover designs

- AUC and  $C_{\max}$  traditionally obtained using the trapezoidal rule and directly from the observations respectively
- Estimation using linear mixed effect model

## PROS

- Reproducible
- Few assumptions

## CONS

- Require more than 10 samples per subject per period
- Not appropriate for nonlinear PK

# NLMEM- TOST for crossover studies

- For crossover design, the concentration  $y_{ijk}$  of subject  $i$  ( $i = 1, \dots, N$ ), at sampling time  $t_{ijk}$  ( $i = 1, \dots, n_{ijk}$ ), at period  $k$  ( $k = 1, \dots, K$ )

$$y_{ijk} = f(t_{ijk}, \varphi_{ik}) + g(t_{ijk}, \varphi_{ik})\epsilon_{ijk}$$

➤ where

- $f(t_{ijk}, \varphi_{ik})$ : structural PK model
- $g(t_{ijk}, \varphi_{ik}) = \sigma_{inter} + \sigma_{slope} \times f(t_{ijk}, \varphi_{ik})$ : combined error model
- $\epsilon_{ijk} \sim N(0,1)$ : residual errors

$$\log(\varphi_{ikl}) = \log(\lambda_l) + \beta_l^{Tr} Tr_i + \beta_l^P P_k + \beta_l^S S_i + \eta_{il} + \kappa_{ikl}$$

➤ where

- $l = 1, \dots, p$  with  $p$  the number of PK parameters
  - $\lambda_l$ : fixed effect for the covariate reference class
  - $Tr_i, P_k, S_i$ : indicators for the treatment, period and sequence
  - $\beta_l^{Tr}, \beta_l^P, \beta_l^S$ : coefficients of treatment, period and sequence effects on the log of the PK parameter
  - $\eta_{il} \sim N(0, \omega_{il})$ : between subject variability (BSV)
  - $\kappa_{ikl} \sim N(0, \gamma_{il})$ : within subject variability (WSV)
- $\beta^{Tr} = h(\lambda_l, \beta_l^{Tr})$  on  $AUC$  and  $C_{max}$  are secondary parameters of PK model
  - $SE(\beta^{Tr})$  determined by delta method using fixed effects population Fisher Information Matrix (FIM)



# NLMEM- TOST for crossover studies

- For **crossover** design, the concentration  $y_{ijk}$  of subject  $i$  ( $i = 1, \dots, N$ ), at sampling time  $t_{ijk}$  ( $i = 1, \dots, n_{ijk}$ ), at period  $k$  ( $k = 1, \dots, K$ )

$$y_{ijk} = f(t_{ijk}, \varphi_{ik}) + g(t_{ijk}, \varphi_{ik})\epsilon_{ijk}$$

$$\log(\varphi_{ikl}) = \log(\lambda_l) + \beta_l^{Tr} Tr_i + \beta_l^P P_k + \beta_l^S S_i + \eta_{il} + \kappa_{ikl}$$

- $\beta^{Tr} = h(\lambda_l, \beta_l^{Tr})$  on  $AUC$  and  $C_{max}$  are secondary parameters of PK model
- $SE(\beta^{Tr})$  determined by delta method using fixed effects population Fisher Information Matrix (FIM)

## PRO

- Few samples per subject

## CON

- Assumptions on PK model
- Potential increase of type I error when using asymptotic SE<sup>[1]</sup>

# TOST for parallel designs

- For biosimilars (long half-life) and BE studies in patients, often parallel designs are needed
- For both NCA and NLMEM, the approach is similar except
  - There is no within subject variability
  - There is not sequence and period effect

- NCA-TOST

- Individual AUC of subject  $i=1, \dots, N$

$$\log(AUC_i) = \lambda_{AUC} + \beta_{AUC}^{Tr} T_i + \eta_{AUC_i}$$

- NLMEM-TOST

$$\log(\varphi_{il}) = \log(\lambda_l) + \beta_l^{Tr} Tr_i + \eta_{il}$$

# Objectives

1. To propose **new approaches** to correct for type I error inflation of TOST in MBBE and to evaluate them by **clinical trial simulation**
  - Crossover designs
  - Parallel designs
2. To implement **two-stage sequential<sup>[1]</sup> and adaptive<sup>[2]</sup> designs** with model-based TOST and to evaluate them by **clinical trial simulation**

<sup>[1]</sup>: Kieser *et al.*, *Statistics in Medicine*, 2015

<sup>[2]</sup>: Maurer *et al.*, *Statistics in Medicine*, 2018

# Objectives

1. To propose **new approaches** to correct for type I error inflation of TOST in MBBE and to evaluate them by **CTS**
  - Crossover designs
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2. To implement **two-stage sequential<sup>[1]</sup> and adaptive<sup>[2]</sup> designs** with model-based TOST and to evaluate them by **CTS**

<sup>[1]</sup>: Kieser *et al.*, *Statistics in Medicine*, 2015

<sup>[2]</sup>: Maurer *et al.*, *Statistics in Medicine*, 2018

# Other approaches for computing SE in MBBE

## TO ST using parametric bootstrap (TO ST boot)

- 1) Build  $1, \dots, B$  ( $B=250$ ) data sets of  $\sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{k=1}^K n_{ik}$  vectors of response using equation (1) and
  - $B$  ( $Np$ ) matrices of random effects from  $N(0, \hat{\Omega})$
  - $B$  ( $2Np$ ) matrices of random effects from  $N(0, \hat{\Gamma})$
  - $B \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{k=1}^K n_{ik}$  residual errors from  $N(0, 1)$
- 3) Fit the  $B$  new datasets to get  $B$  estimates of  $(\lambda, \beta, \omega, \gamma, a, b)$
- 4) TO ST using the standard deviation of the  $B \widehat{\beta}_m^{Tr}$  instead of  $SE(\widehat{\beta}_m^{Tr})$

# Other approaches for computing SE in MBBE

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- 4) TO ST using the standard deviation of the  $B \widehat{\beta}_m^{Tr}$  instead of  $SE(\widehat{\beta}_m^{Tr})$

## TO ST using *a posteriori* distribution (TO ST post)

- 1) Draw  $1, \dots, B$  ( $B=1000$ ) samples from the *a posteriori* distributions of  $(\lambda, \beta, \omega, \gamma, a, b)$  using Stan
  - Initialize the HMC chain at estimates from step 1
  - Default distribution on fixed effects  $\lambda, \beta$
  - Cauchy(0, 2.5) priors on  $\omega, \gamma, a, b$  i.e.
- 3) TO ST using the standard deviation of  $\widehat{\beta}_m^{Tr}$  *a posteriori* distribution.

# Other approaches for computing SE in MBBE

## TO ST using parametric bootstrap (TO ST boot)

- 1) Build  $1, \dots, B$  ( $B=250$ ) data sets of  $\sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{k=1}^K n_{ik}$  vectors of response using equation (1) and
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## TO ST using *a posteriori* distribution (TO ST post)

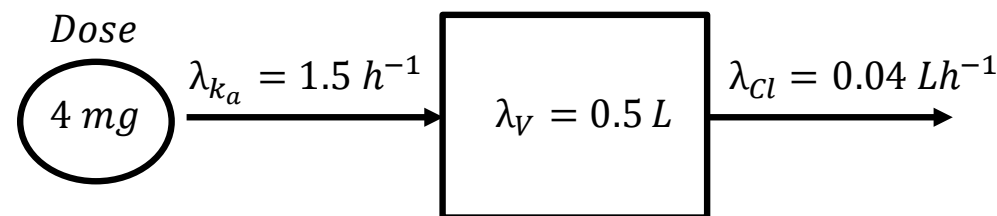
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  - Default distribution on fixed effects  $\lambda, \beta$
  - Cauchy(0, 2.5) priors on  $\omega, \gamma, a, b$  i.e.
- 3) TO ST using standard deviation of  $\widehat{\beta}_m^{Tr}$  *a posteriori* distribution.

## TO ST using Gallant correction (TO ST Gallant)

- 1) Calculate  $SE_G(\widehat{\beta}_m^{Tr}) = SE(\widehat{\beta}_m^{Tr}) \times \sqrt{\frac{2N}{df_{Gallant}}}$  with  $df_G = 2N - \dim(\lambda)$
- 2) TO ST using  $SE_G(\widehat{\beta}_m^{Tr})$  instead of  $SE(\widehat{\beta}_m^{Tr})$  and  $t_{1-\alpha, df_G}$  instead of  $z_{1-\alpha}$

# Crossover design: Simulation study

- PK model concentrations of theophylline<sup>[1]</sup>



- Under rich (R) and sparse (S) designs:

➤ **R:** n=10 sampling times,  $t = (0.25, 0.5, 1, 2, 3.5, 5, 7, 9, 12, 24)$

➤ **S:** n=3 sampling times,  $t = (0.25, 3.35, 24)$

➤ **2 designs N = 40, n = 10; N = 40, n = 3**

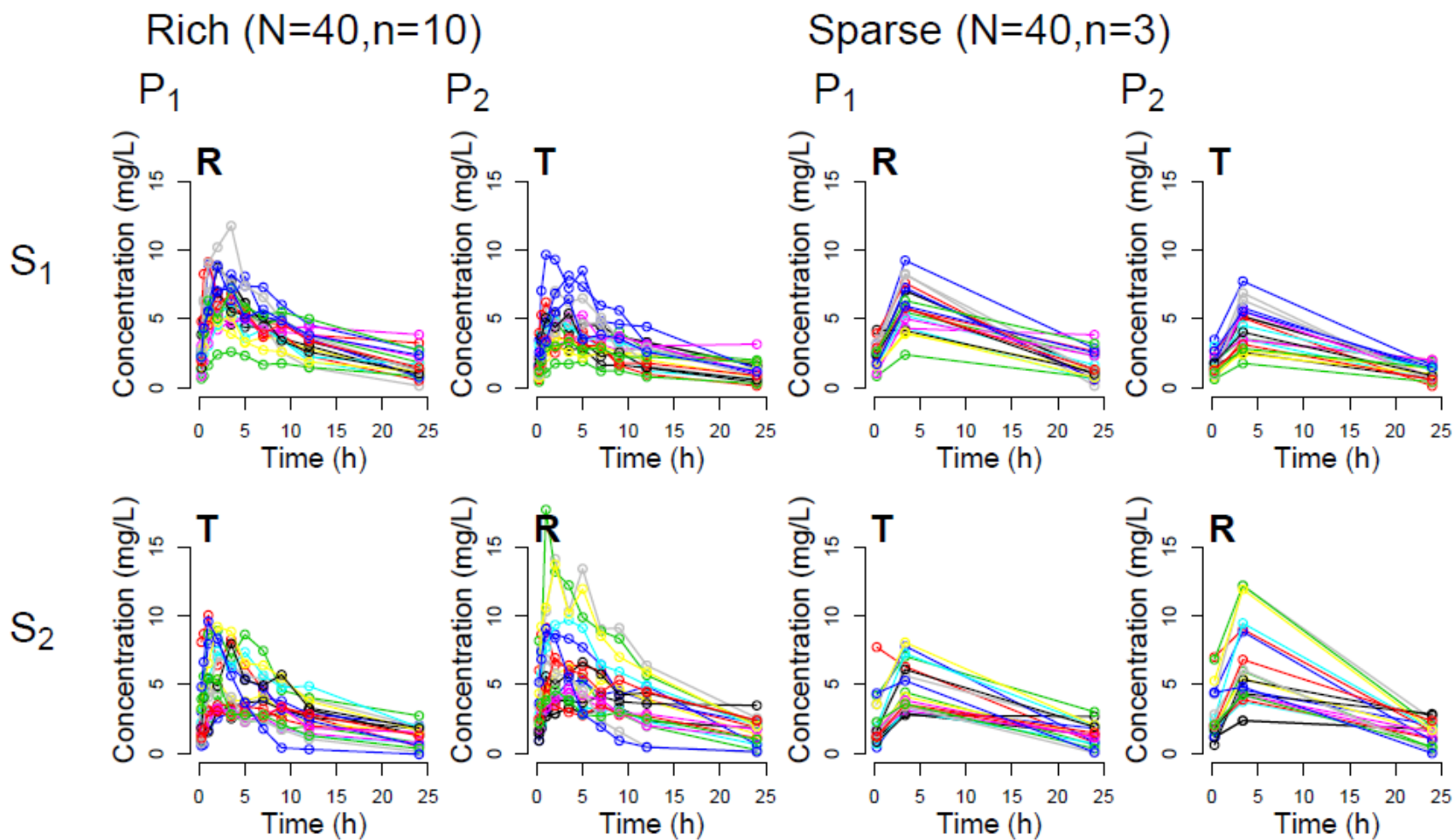
$\omega(\%)$	$\gamma(\%)$	$\sigma_{inter}$ (mg/L)	$\sigma_{slope}$ (%)
50	15	0.1	10

Same  $\omega$  and  $\gamma$  for all PK parameters  
 $\beta^P = \beta^S = 0$

- Simulations under  $H_0: \beta^{Tr} = \log(0.80)$  and  $H_1: \beta^{Tr} = \log(1) = 0$
- Evaluation of BE on  $AUC$  and  $C_{max}$  independently
- 500 data sets
- Estimation using SAEM algorithm in Monolix software**

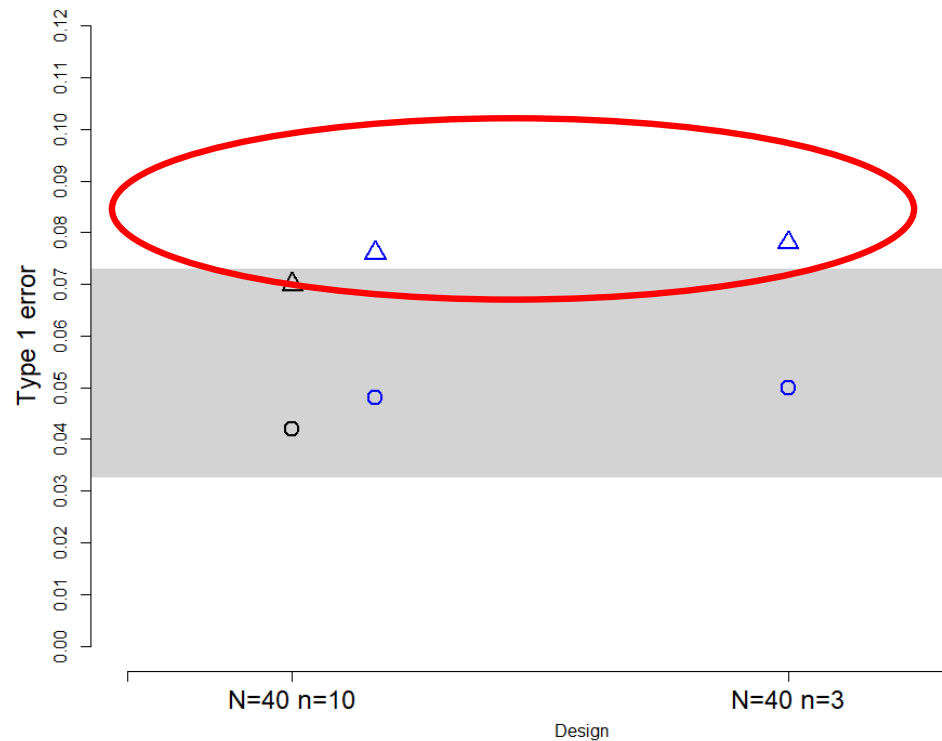


# Crossover design: One simulated data set

 $H_0$ 

# Crossover: type I error with asymptotic SE

Type I error and Power of **NCA TOST** and **MB TOST**  
on  $\beta_{\text{AUC}}^{\text{Tr}}$  (○) and  $\beta_{\text{Cmax}}^{\text{Tr}}$  (Δ)

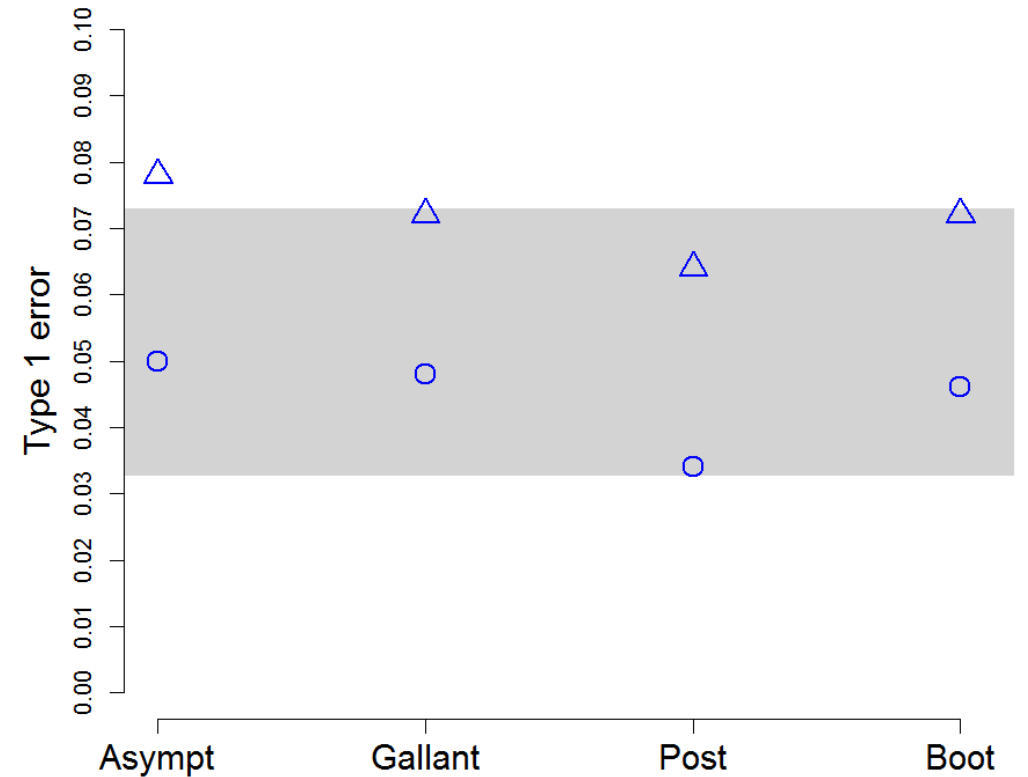


Power	N=40, n=10		N=40, n=3
	NCA TOST	MB TOST Asympt	MB TOST Asympt
$\beta_{\text{AUC}}^{\text{Tr}}$	1.000	1.000	0.998
$\beta_{\text{Cmax}}^{\text{Tr}}$	1.000	1.000	1.000

# Crossover: results for various SE

Type I error and Power of **MB TOST** on  $\beta_{\text{AUC}}^{\text{Tr}}$  (○) and  $\beta_{\text{Cmax}}^{\text{Tr}}$  (△)

**N=40 n=3**



<b>1 min</b>	<b>1 min</b>	<b>2.5 min</b>	<b>5 hours</b>
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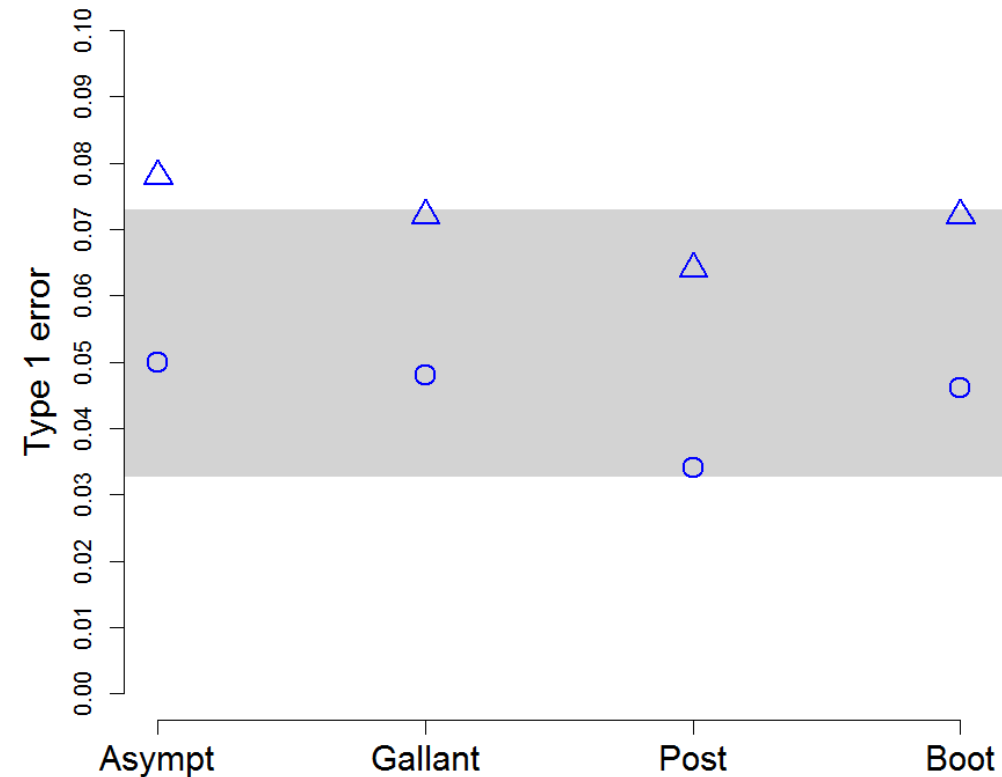
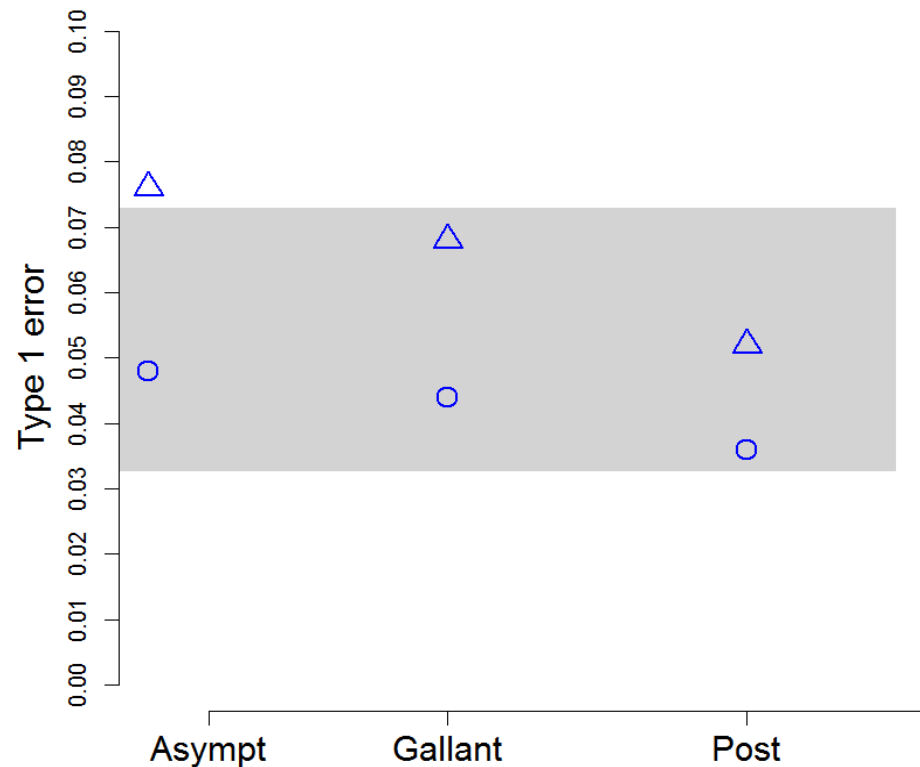
$\beta_{\text{AUC}}^{\text{Tr}}$	0.998	0.998	0.996	*
$\beta_{\text{Cmax}}^{\text{Tr}}$	1.000	1.000	0.996	*

# Crossover: results for various SE

Type I error and Power of **MB TOST** on  $\beta_{\text{AUC}}^{\text{Tr}}$  (○) and  $\beta_{\text{Cmax}}^{\text{Tr}}$  (Δ)

**N=40 n=10**

**N=40 n=3**



Computing time

Asympt	1 min	1 min	7 min
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Asympt	1 min	1 min	2.5 min	5 hours
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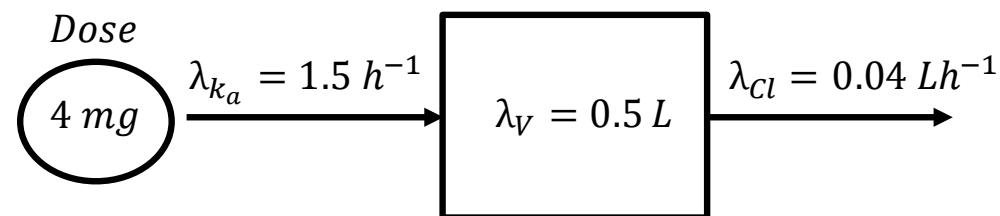
Power

$\beta_{\text{AUC}}^{\text{Tr}}$	1.000	1.000	0.998
$\beta_{\text{Cmax}}^{\text{Tr}}$	1.000	1.000	0.998

$\beta_{\text{AUC}}^{\text{Tr}}$	0.998	0.998	0.996	*
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# Parallel design: Simulation study

- PK model concentrations of theophylline<sup>[1]</sup>



- Under rich (R) and sparse (S) designs:

➤ **R:** n=10 sampling times,  $t = (0.25, 0.5, 1, 2, 3.5, 5, 7, 9, 12, 24)$

➤ **S:** n=3 sampling times,  $t = (0.25, 3.35, 24)$

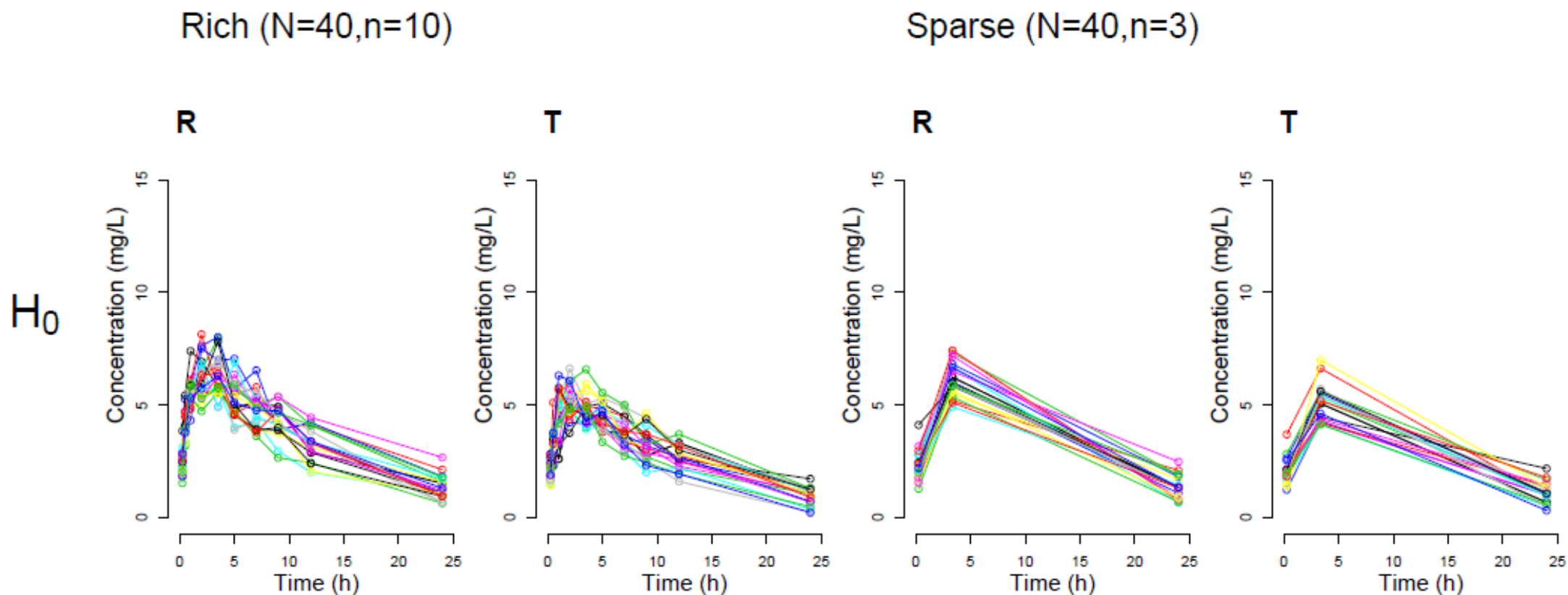
➤ **2 designs: N = 40, n = 10; N = 40, n = 3 (N = 20 per group)**

➤ **2 levels of variability**

	$\omega_{k_a}$ (%)	$\omega_V$ (%)	$\omega_{cl}$ (%)
Low (L)	22	11	22
High (H)	52		

- Simulations under  $H_0: \beta^{Tr} = \log(0.80)$  and  $H_1: \beta^{Tr} = \log(1) = 0$
- Evaluation of BE on **AUC** and  $C_{max}$  independently
- 500 data sets
- Estimation using SAEM algorithm in saemix (R)**

# Parallel design: One simulated data set for low variability



# Parallel: type I error of TOST with asymptotic SE

Sampling time		Rich		Sparse	
Variability		Low	High	Low	High
NCA-TOST	AUC	0.052	<b>0.022</b>	-	-
	$C_{\max}$	0.062	<b>0.012</b>	-	-
MB-TOST	AUC	0.056	<b>0.004</b>	<b>0.076</b>	<b>0.006</b>
	$C_{\max}$	0.058	<b>0.008</b>	0.066	<b>0.002</b>

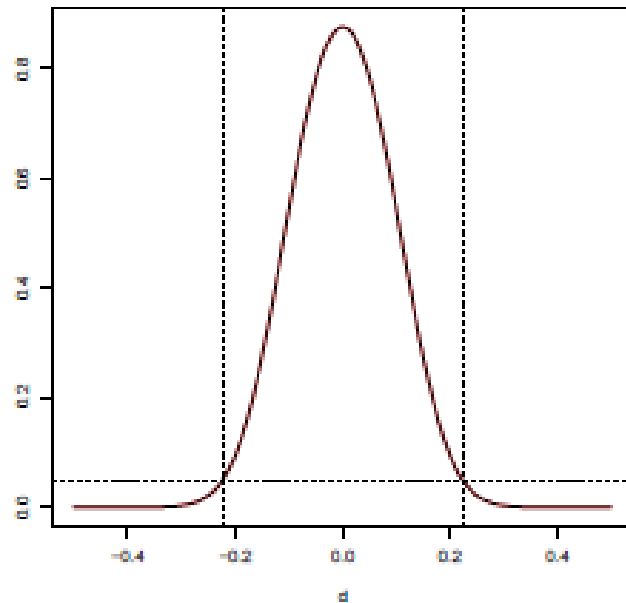
# TOST and BOT

- TOST is a conservative test in case of high variability <sup>[1,2]</sup>
- Better test in BE: the Bioequivalence Optimal Test (BOT)
- TOST on  $\beta^{Tr}$ 
  - Both  $H_{0,-\delta}: \{\beta^{Tr} \leq -\delta\}$  and  $H_{0,\delta}: \{\beta^{Tr} \geq \delta\}$  shall be rejected at  $\alpha = 5\%$
  - Reject if:  $\frac{\beta^{Tr}}{SE(\beta^{Tr})} \geq z_{1-\alpha} - \frac{\delta}{SE(\beta^{Tr})}$  and  $\frac{\beta^{Tr}}{SE(\beta^{Tr})} \leq -z_{1-\alpha} + \frac{\delta}{SE(\beta^{Tr})}$
  - Implies  $SE(\beta^{Tr}) > \frac{\delta}{z_{1-\alpha}}$  otherwise type I error of TOST = 0
- BOT on  $\beta^{Tr}$ 
  - Idea: the distribution of the absolute difference of the treatment effects on log AUC/log Cmax are given by a folded normal distribution
  - Reject if:  $|\beta^{Tr}| \leq u_\alpha$  where  $u_\alpha$  is the  $\alpha$ -quantile of the folded normal distribution  $N_F(\delta, SE(\beta^{Tr})^2)$
  - Type I error is  $\alpha$  per construction
  - BOT is uniformly most powerful



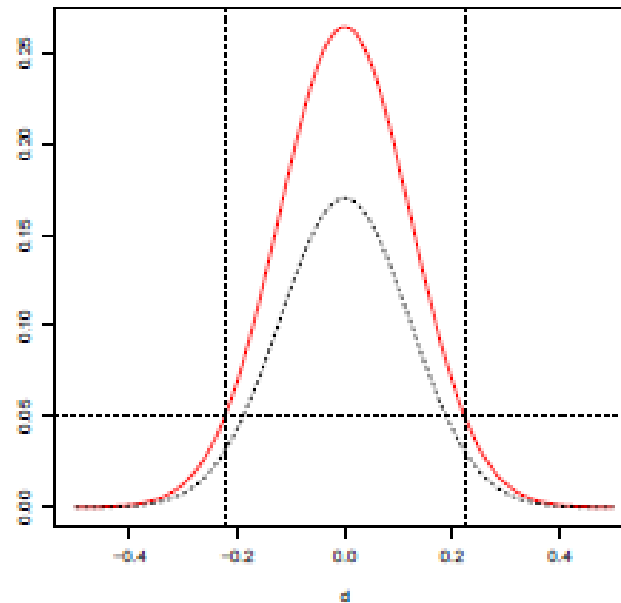
# Power curve comparison of TOST & BOT

TOST (black dashed line) vs. BOT (red solid line)



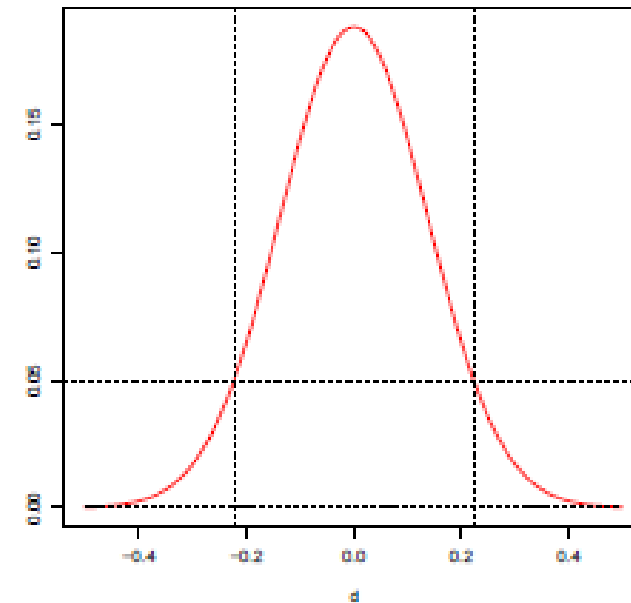
$$SE(\beta^{Tr}) = 0.07$$

Type I error of TOST = 0.05



$$SE(\beta^{Tr}) = 0.12$$

Type I error of TOST = 0.03



$$SE(\beta^{Tr}) = 0.14 \text{ (log(1.25)/1.645)}$$

Type I error of TOST = 0.00

## RESEARCH ARTICLE

### Efficient model-based Bioequivalence Testing

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# Parallel: type I error of TOST and BOT with asymptotic SE

Sampling time		Rich		Sparse	
Variability		Low	High	Low	High
NCA-TOST	AUC	0.052	<b>0.022</b>	-	-
	$C_{\max}$	0.062	<b>0.012</b>	-	-
NCA-BOT	AUC	0.052	0.054	-	-
	$C_{\max}$	0.062	0.052	-	-
MB-TOST	AUC	0.056	<b>0.004</b>	<b>0.076</b>	<b>0.006</b>
	$C_{\max}$	0.058	<b>0.008</b>	0.066	<b>0.002</b>
MB-BOT	AUC	0.056	0.064	<b>0.076</b>	0.034
	$C_{\max}$	0.070	0.060	0.070	0.058

# Parallel: Power of TOST and BOT with asymptotic SE

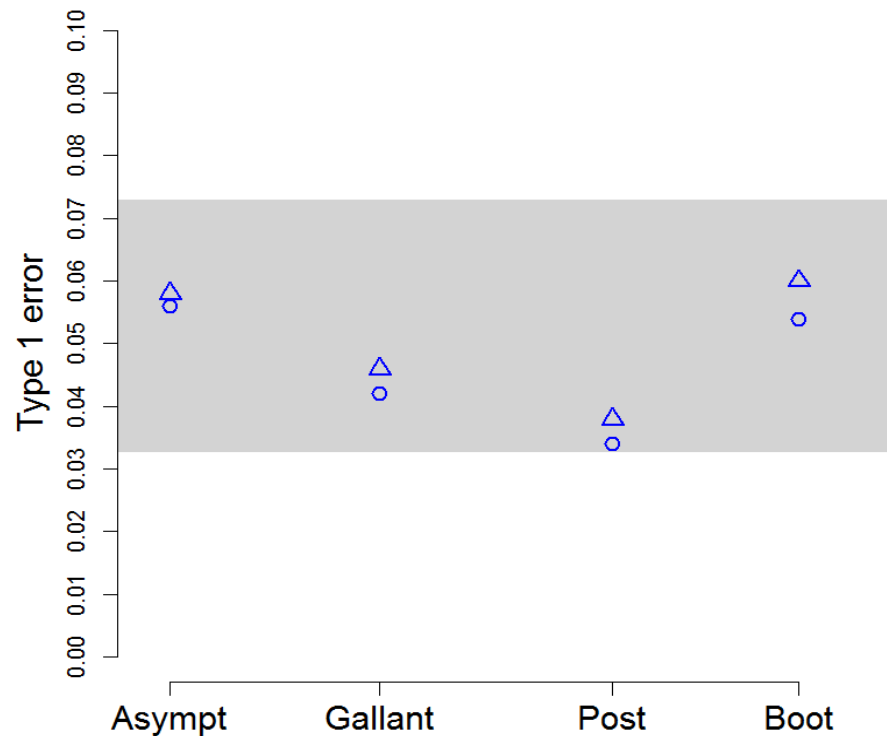
Sampling Time		Rich		Sparse	
Variability		Low	High	Low	High
NCA-TOST	AUC	0.998	0.132	-	-
	$C_{\max}$	0.998	0.056	-	-
NCA-BOT	AUC	0.998	0.228	-	-
	$C_{\max}$	0.998	0.154	-	-
MB-TOST	AUC	0.830	0.008	0.804	0.004
	$C_{\max}$	1.000	0.024	1.000	0.016
MB-BOT	AUC	0.838	0.140	0.808	0.132
	$C_{\max}$	1.000	0.138	1.000	0.116

# Parallel: Type I error of TOST various SE

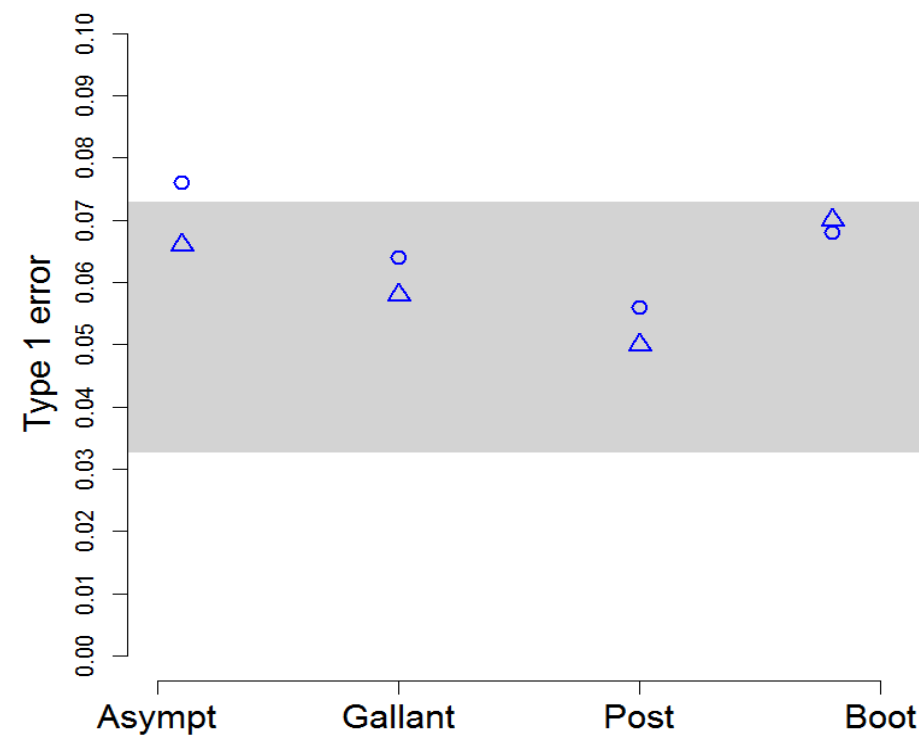
## Low variability

Type I error of **MB TOST** on  $\beta_{\text{AUC}}^{\text{Tr}}$  (o) and  $\beta_{\text{Cmax}}^{\text{Tr}}$  ( $\Delta$ )

**N=40 n=10**



**N=40 n=3**



Computing time

Asympt	0.25 min	0.25 min	5 min	43 min
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Power

$\beta_{\text{AUC}}^{\text{Tr}}$	0.830	0.782	0.772	0.832
$\beta_{\text{Cmax}}^{\text{Tr}}$	1.000	1.000	0.966	1.000

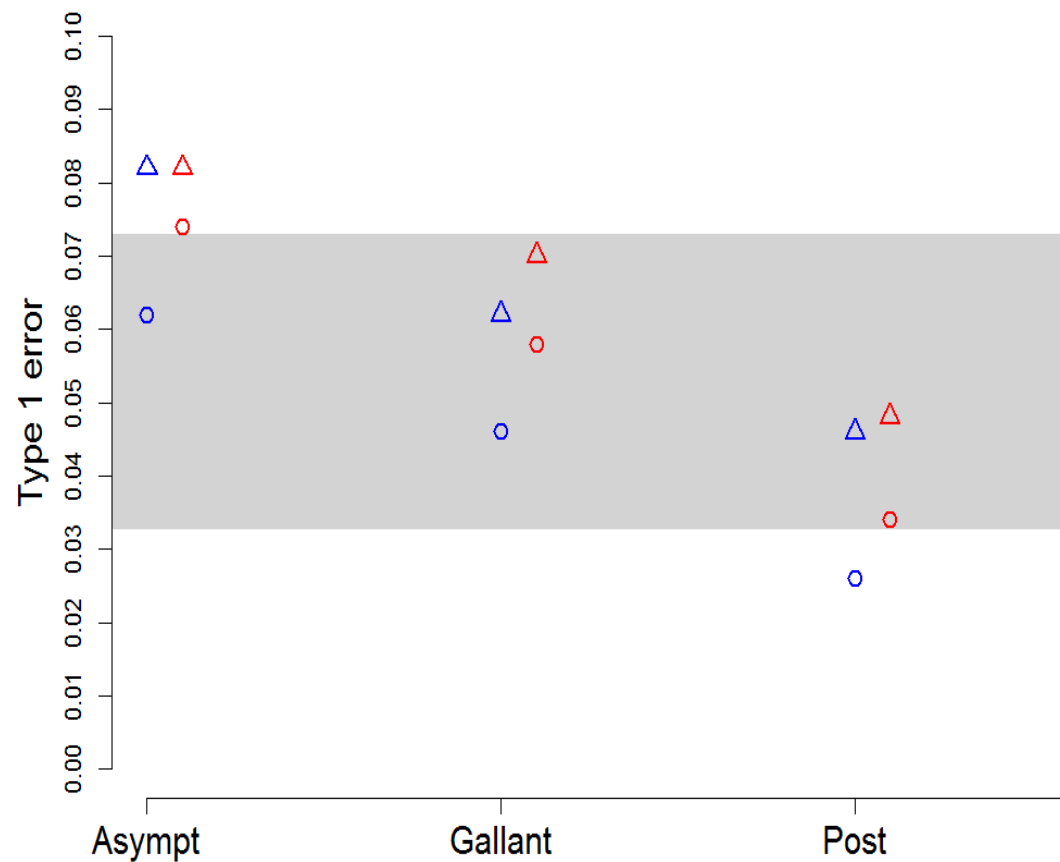
$\beta_{\text{AUC}}^{\text{Tr}}$	0.804	0.762	0.712	0.800
$\beta_{\text{Cmax}}^{\text{Tr}}$	1.000	0.998	0.990	1.000

# Parallel: Type I error of TOST various SE

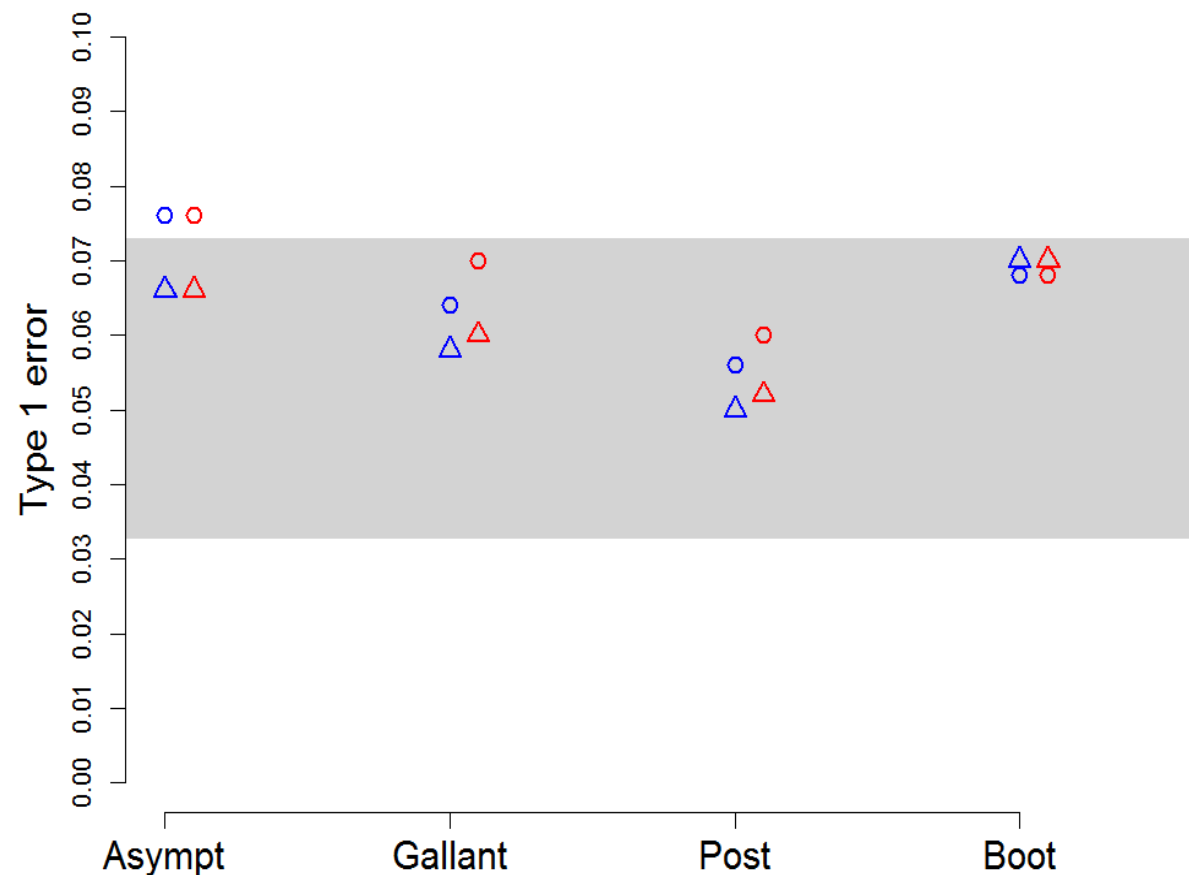
## Low variability

Type I error of **MB TOST** and **MB BOT** on  $\beta_{\text{AUC}}^{\text{Tr}}$  ( $\circ$ ) and  $\beta_{\text{Cmax}}^{\text{Tr}}$  ( $\Delta$ )

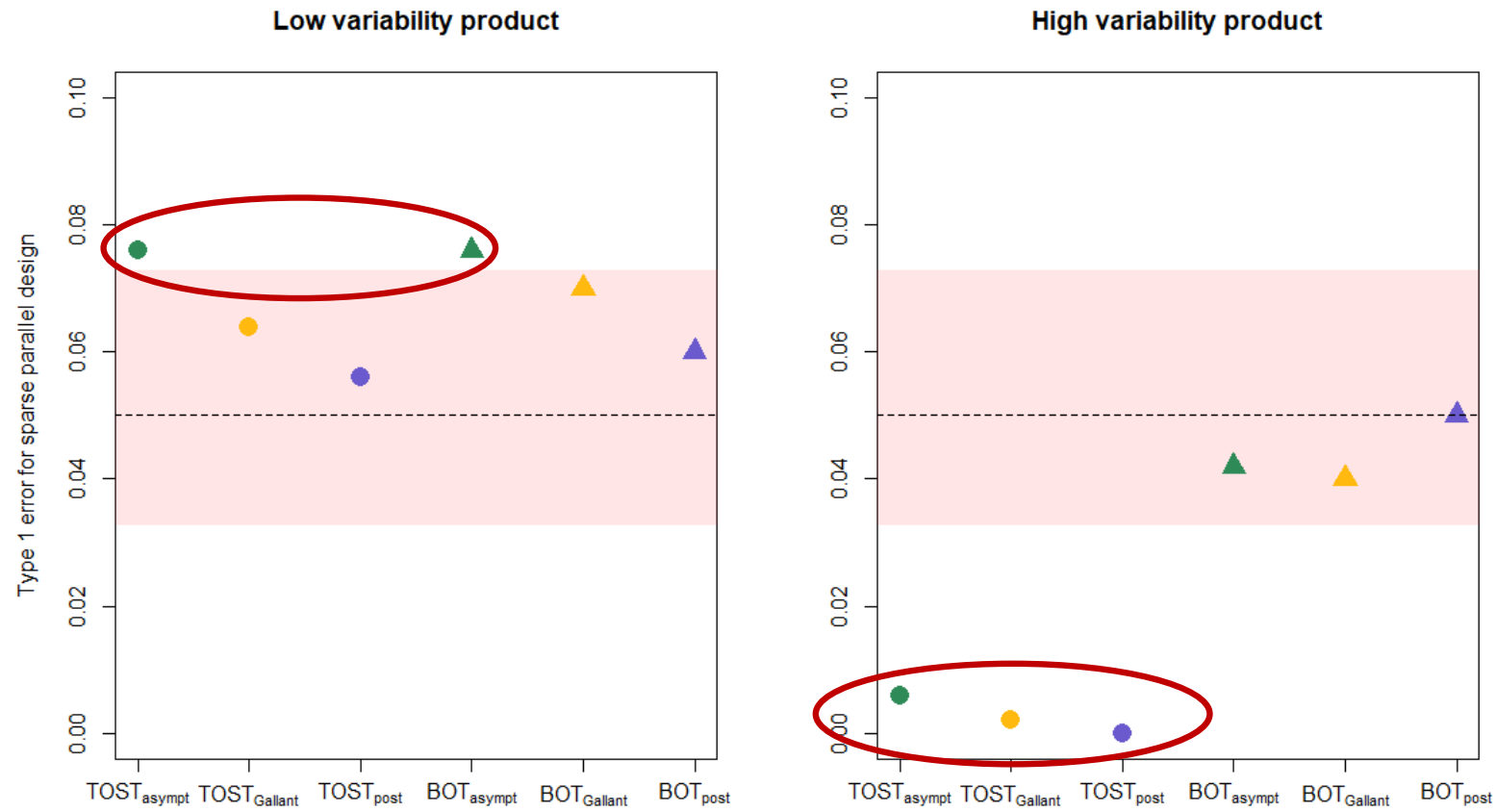
**N=20 n=3**



**N=40 n=3**



# Parallel: main conclusion on type I error



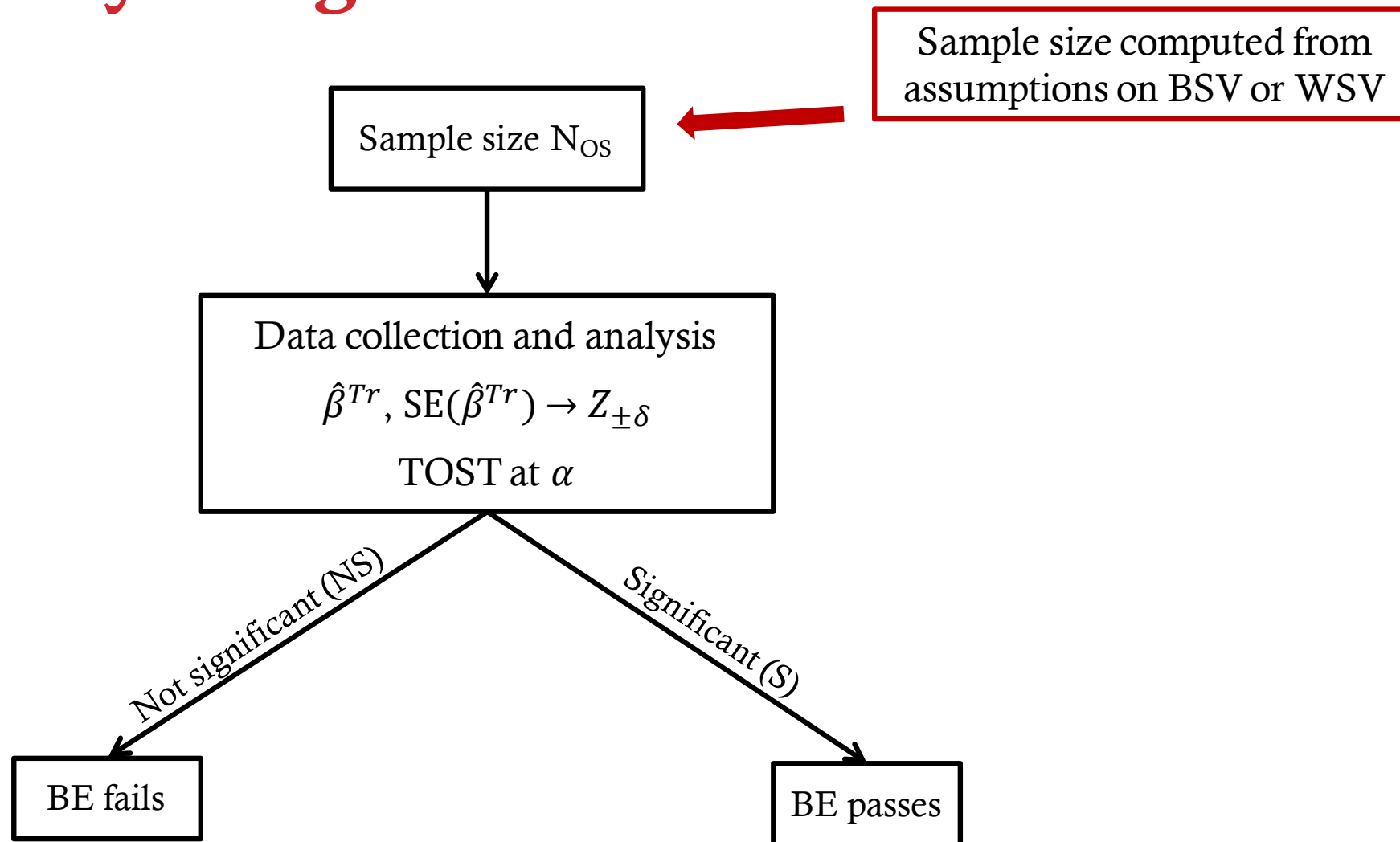
# Objectives

1. To propose **new approaches** to correct for type I error inflation of TOST in MBBE and to evaluate them by **CTS**
  - Crossover designs
  - Parallel designs
2. To implement **two-stage sequential<sup>[1]</sup> and adaptive<sup>[2]</sup> designs** with model-based TOST and to evaluate them by **CTS**

<sup>[1]</sup>: Kieser *et al.*, *Statistics in Medicine*, 2015

<sup>[2]</sup>: Maurer *et al.*, *Statistics in Medicine*, 2018

# One-stage study design





# Two-stage study designs: sequential or adaptive

## Sample size $N_1$

### Sequential<sup>[1]</sup> (TSS)

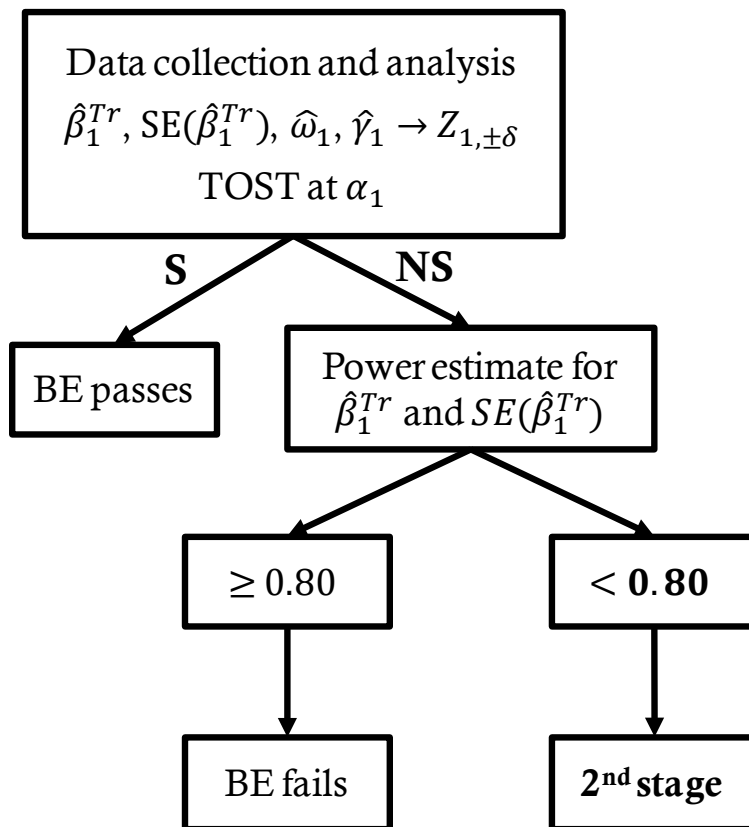
$$N_1 = N_{os}/2$$

### Adaptive<sup>[2]</sup> (TSA)

Define weight  $w_1$  as  $N_1/N_2 = w_1/1-w_1$ . Here  $w_1 = 0.5$  then  $N_1 = N_{os}/2$

Type I error  
 $\alpha_1 = \alpha_2 = 0.0304$   
 to ensure global  
 $\alpha \leq 0.05$

## First stage



## Second stage

### Sequential<sup>[1]</sup> (TSS)

$$N_2 = N_1 = N_{os}/2$$

### Using both stages data

$$\hat{\beta}_2^{Tr}, SE(\hat{\beta}_2^{Tr}), \hat{\omega}_2, \hat{\gamma}_2 \rightarrow Z_{2,\pm\delta}$$

TOST at  $\alpha_2$

**S** **NS**

BE passes

BE fails

### Adaptive<sup>[2]</sup> (TSA)

Sample size  $N_2$  calculation  
 using  $\beta^{Tr}, \hat{\omega}_1, \hat{\gamma}_1$  and  $\alpha_2$

### Using only 2<sup>nd</sup> stage data

$$\hat{\beta}_2^{Tr}, SE(\hat{\beta}_2^{Tr}), \hat{\omega}_2, \hat{\gamma}_2 \rightarrow Z_{2,\pm\delta}$$

Standard combination test<sup>[2]</sup>  
 $w_1 \times Z_{1,\pm\delta} + (1 - w_1) \times Z_{2,\pm\delta}$   
 at  $\alpha_2$

**S** **NS**

BE passes

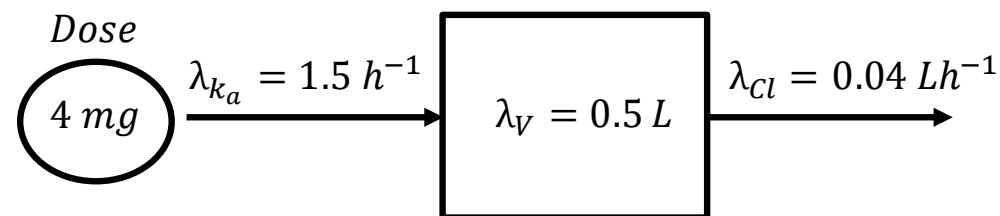
BE fails

<sup>[1]</sup>: Kieser et al., *Statistics in Medicine*, 2015

<sup>[2]</sup>: Maurer et al., *Statistics in Medicine*, 2018

# Simulation study

- PK model concentrations of theophylline<sup>[1]</sup>



- Rich S=study design

➤  $n = 10$  sampling times  $t = (0.25, 0.50, 1, 2, 3.50, 5, 7, 9, 12, 24 h)$

→ Standard one-compartment PK model with rich sampling times

➤ Parallel (low variability)

$\omega_{k_a}$ (%)	$\omega_V$ (%)	$\omega_{cl}$ (%)	$\sigma_{inter}$ (mg/L)	$\sigma_{slope}$ (%)
22	11	22	0.1	10

➤ Crossover

$\omega$ (%)	$\gamma$ (%)	$\sigma_{inter}$ (mg/L)	$\sigma_{slope}$ (%)
50	15	0.1	10

Same  $\omega$  and  $\gamma$  for all PK parameters  
 $\beta^P = \beta^S = 0$

- Simulation under  $H_0: \beta^{Tr} = \log(0.80)$  and  $H_1: \beta^{Tr} = \log(1) = 0$
- 500 simulated data sets
- Evaluation of BE on **AUC** and  $C_{max}$  independently
- Estimation using SAEM algorithm in saemix (parallel) or Monolix (crossover)

# Sample size calculation

- Assumptions

- Type I error  $\alpha = 0.05$  ; power  $1 - \beta = 0.80$
- Assumed  $\beta^{Tr} = \log(0.95)$
- Assumed correct values for fixed effects  $\lambda_l$
- **Three assumptions for variances:**

- Parallel

BSV $\omega$ (%)			Residual errors standard deviations	
Low	True	High	$\sigma_{inter}$ (mg/L)	$\sigma_{slope}$ (%)
10	22	30	0.1	10

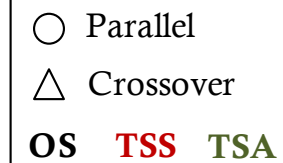
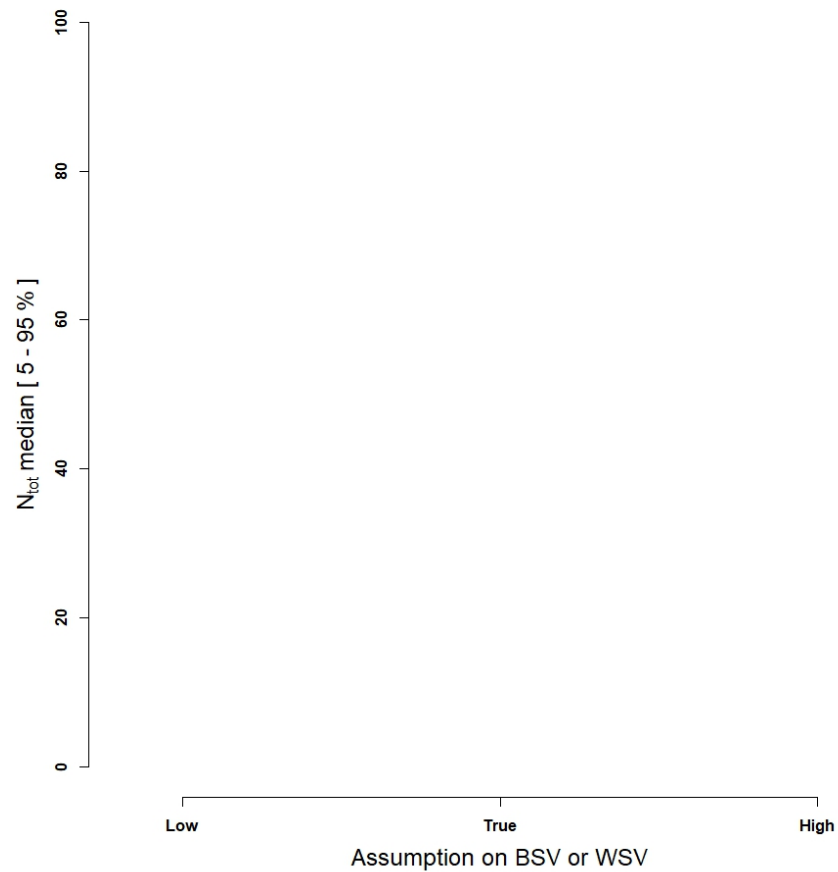
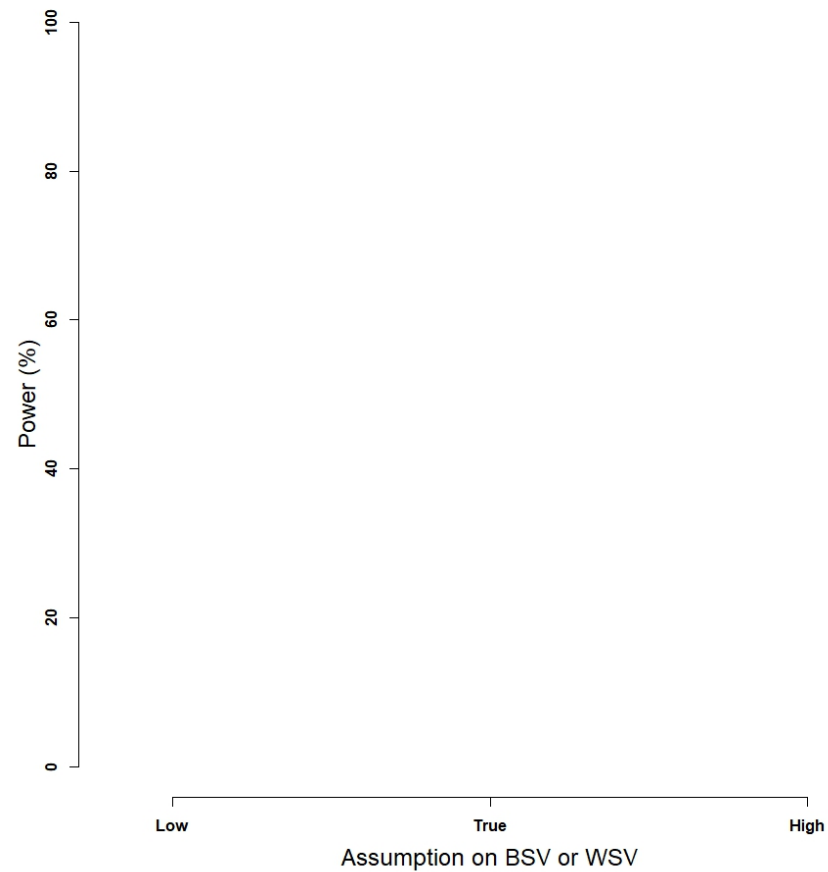
- Cross over

BSV $\omega$ (%)	WSV $\gamma$ (%)			Residual errors standard deviations	
	Low	True	High	$\sigma_{inter}$ (mg/L)	$\sigma_{slope}$ (%)
50	5	15	25	0.1	10

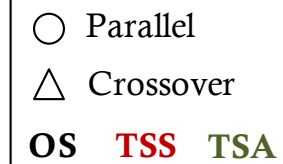
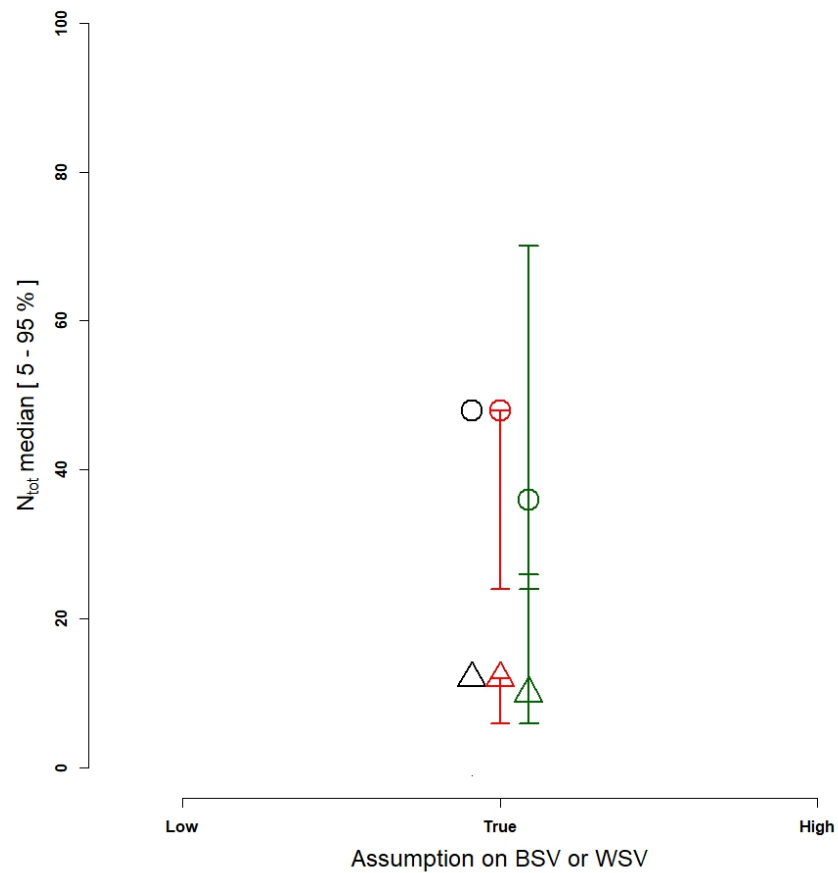
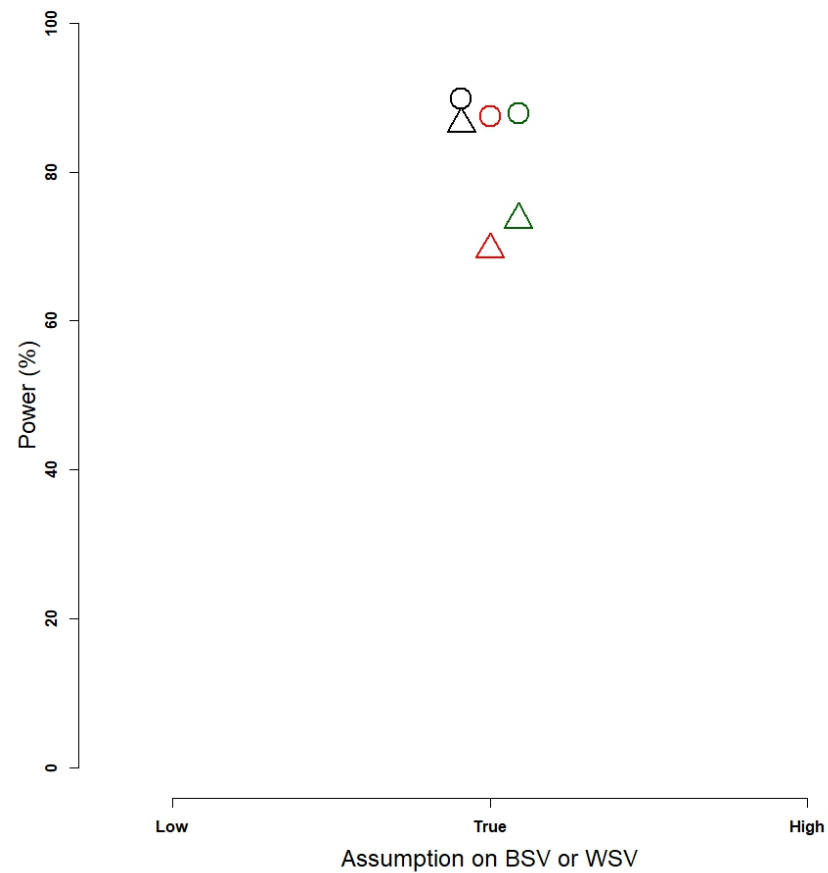
- Number of subjects for One Stage design computed using the expected population FIM (PFIM 4.0 software)<sup>[1]</sup>

<sup>[1]</sup>: Dumont et al., *Computer Methods and Programs in Biomedicine*, 2018

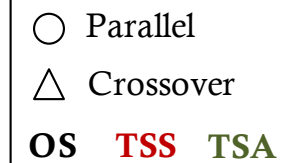
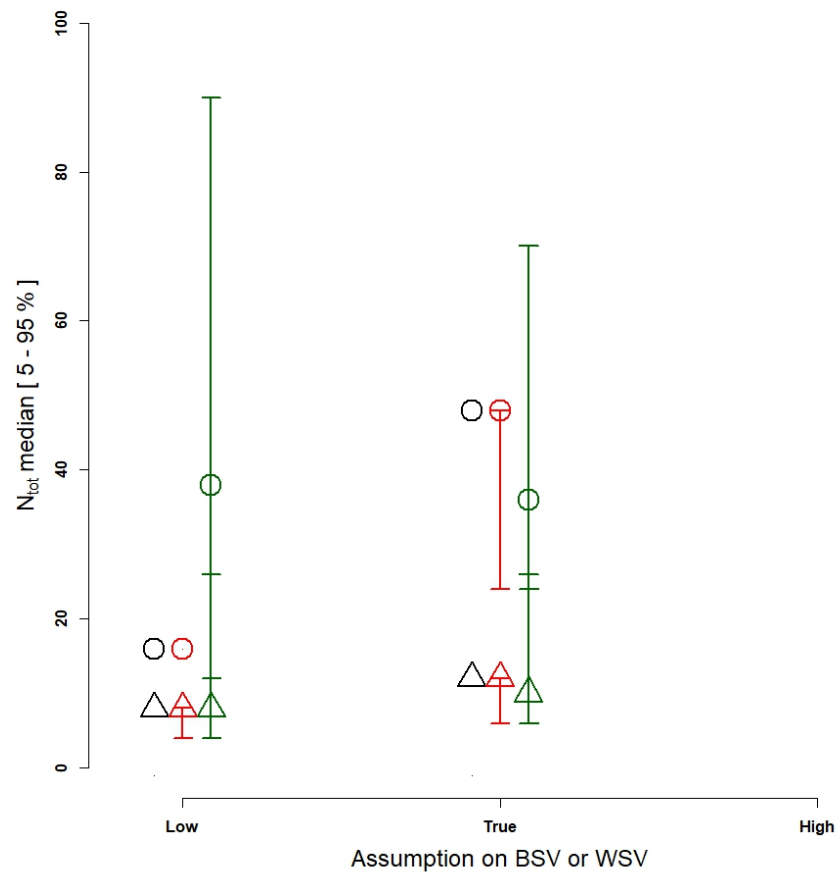
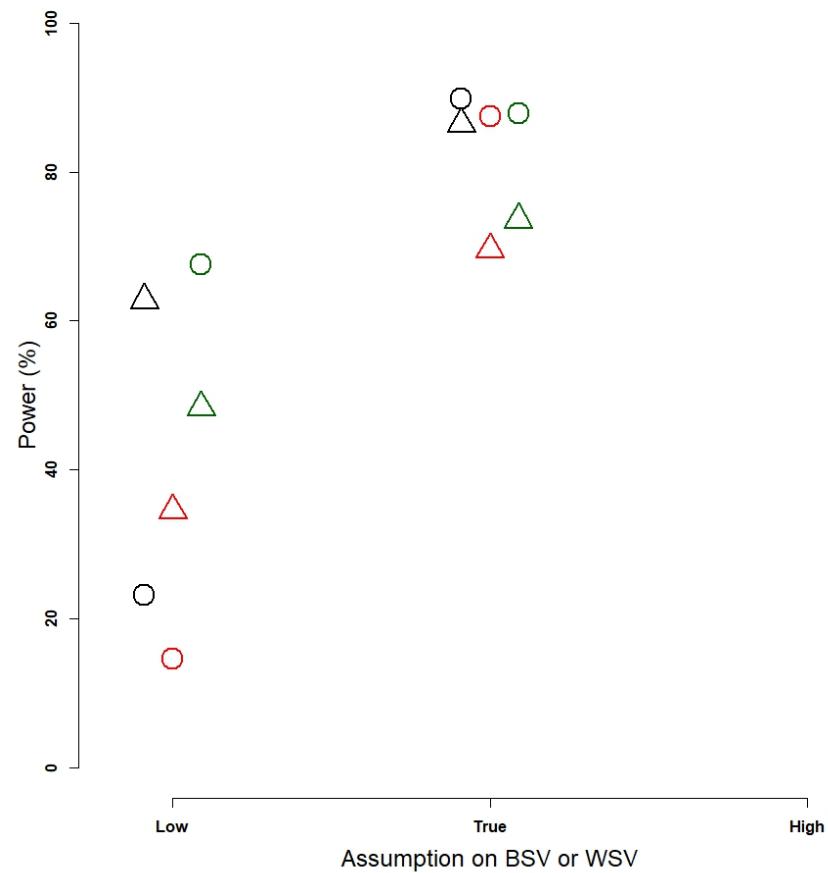
# Under $H_1$ (Bioequivalence)



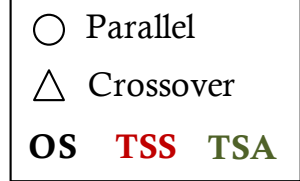
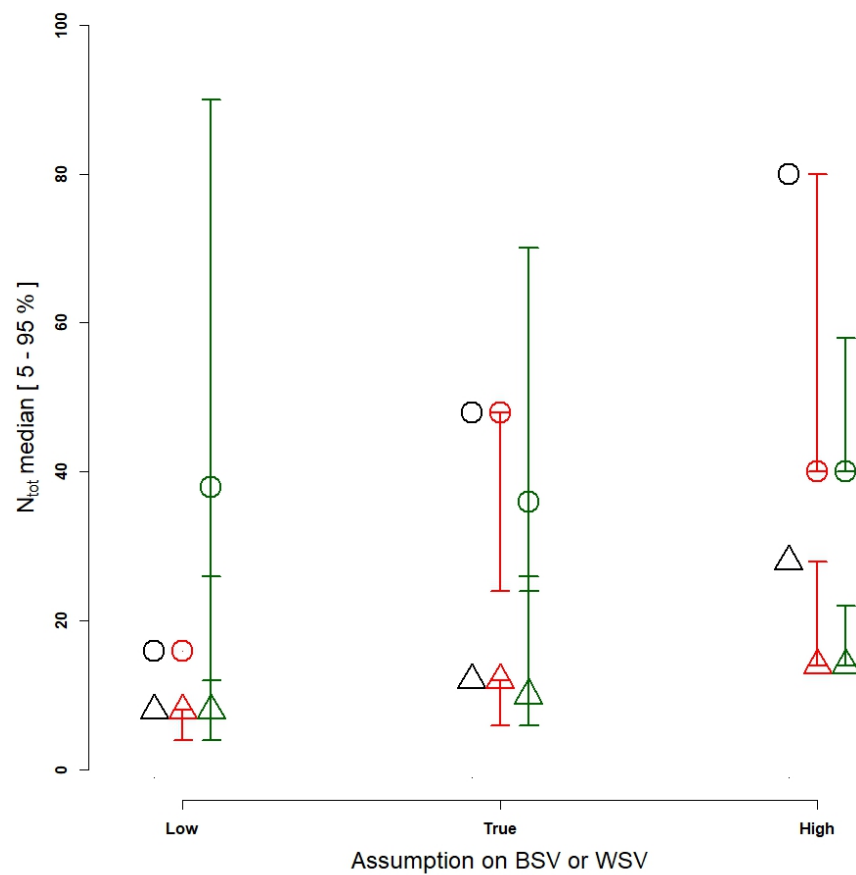
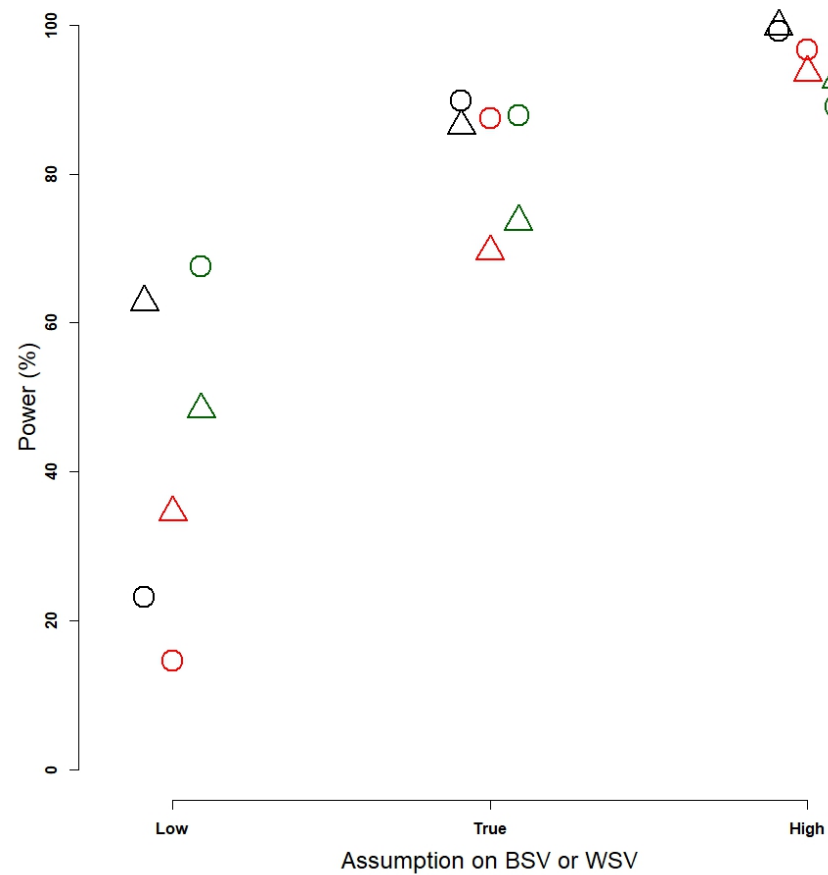
# Under $H_1$ (Bioequivalence)



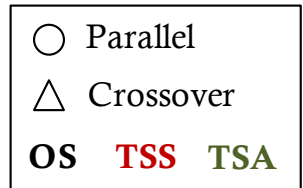
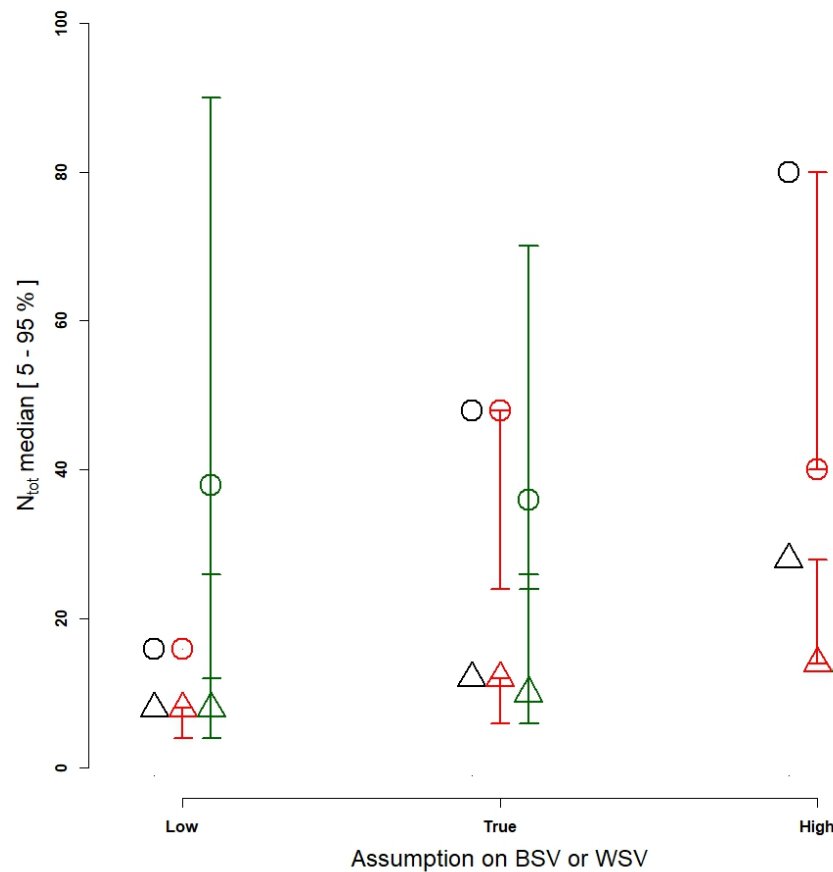
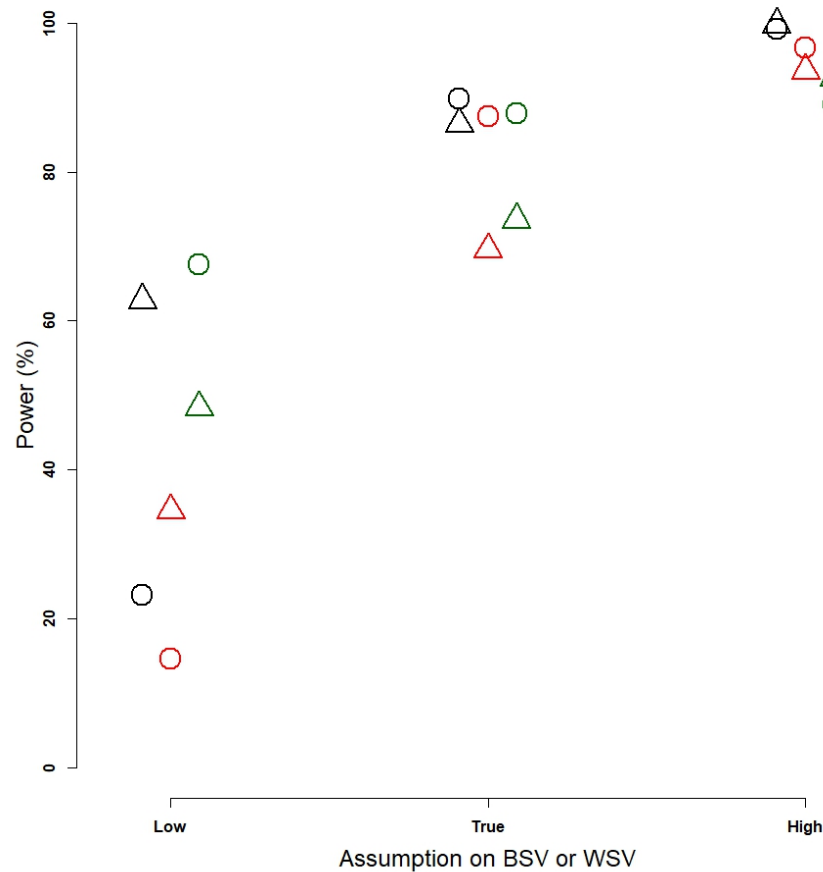
# Under $H_1$ (Bioequivalence)



# Under $H_1$ (Bioequivalence)



# Under $H_1$ (Bioequivalence)



- **TSS** led to similar or lower  $N_{tot}$  than **OS**
- **TSS** power were lower than **OS**
- **TSA** led to higher  $N_{tot}$  when assumed variability **low**, lower  $N_{tot}$  when assumed variability **high**
- **TSA** power was higher than **OS** when assumed variability **low**, was slightly smaller than **OS** when assumed variability **high**



# Conclusion

1. MBBE is feasible for parallel and cross-over designs
  - When variability is large compare to N, TOST could be problematic and BOT should be used
  - NLMEM-TOST based on asymptotic SE leads to an increased type I error, especially for sparse design
  - Three approaches were studied to get better SE: Bootstrap, posterior distribution and Gallant correction
    - Bootstrap too computationally intensive and not always enough correction
    - Full posterior distribution the best approach
      - Presently using Stan
      - Should be implemented in saemix/ Monolix (FDA Grant 2 year 2)
2. MBBE is feasible for two-stage designs (sequential or adaptive)
  - Preserved type I error in most cases (only rich design studied), pb of TOST for very small studies
  - **Two-stage sequential approach** of limited benefit when variability too low (loss of power), gain on number of individuals if variability too high
  - **Two-stage adaptive approach** can increase sample size if variability too low (increase of power), and reduce sample size when variability too low with only slight loss of power
  - Further extensions/evaluations of adaptive two-stage are needed for sparse design

# Perspectives

- Perform analyses and simulations from real examples
  - FDA ophthalmic drug data set, Novartis, Roche, Servier data sets
  - Study influence of design, and of assumed model?
- Implement full posterior distribution in saem
- Extend two-stage designs with no asymptotic SE

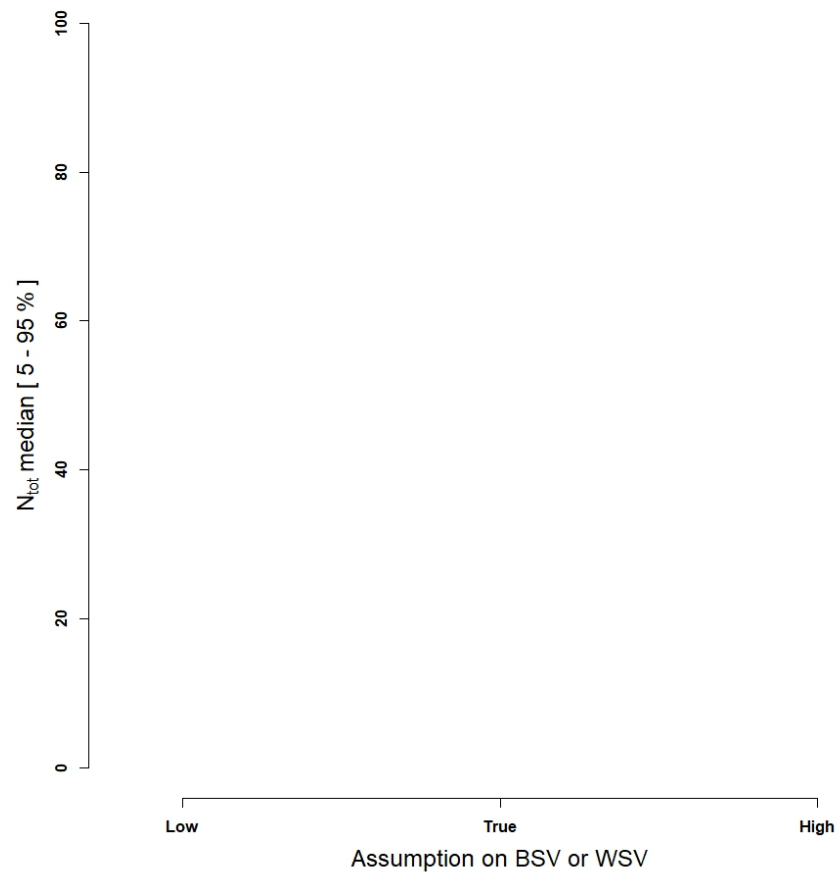
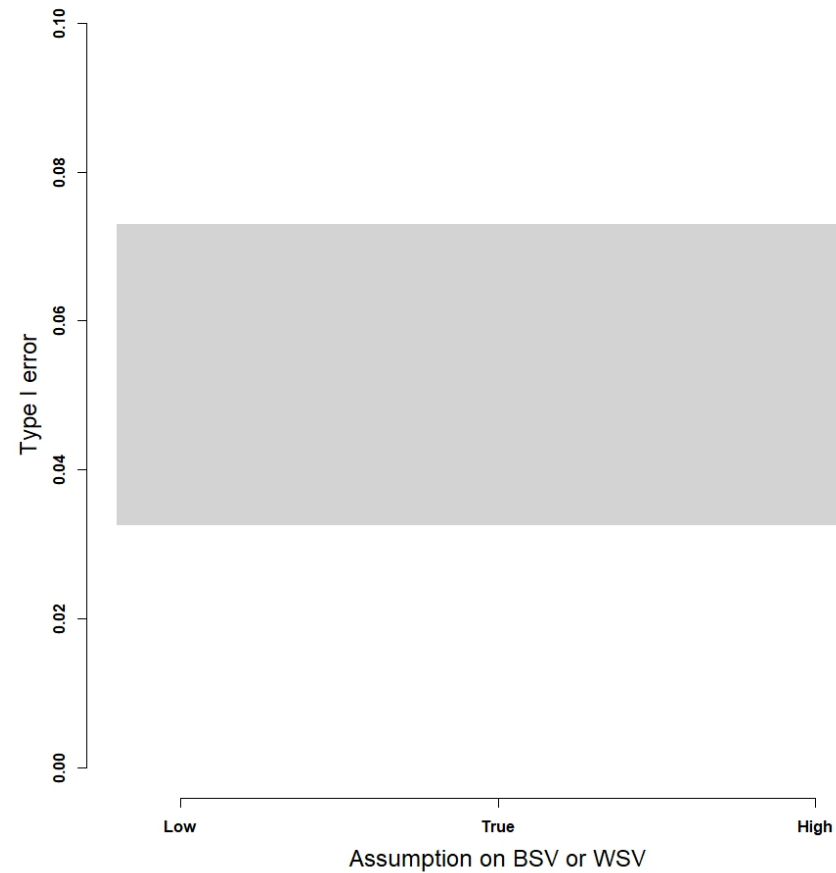
## FDA Grant 2 ( 2 years)

- INSERM: France Mentre, Julie Bertrand, *Florence Loingeville, Thu Thuy Nguyen*
- RUB: Holger Dette, *Kathrin Möllenhoff*
- Novartis: Frank Bretz, Didier Renard, Bjoern Bornkamp
- Roche: Francois Mercier
- Servier: Marylore Chenel

# Backup slides

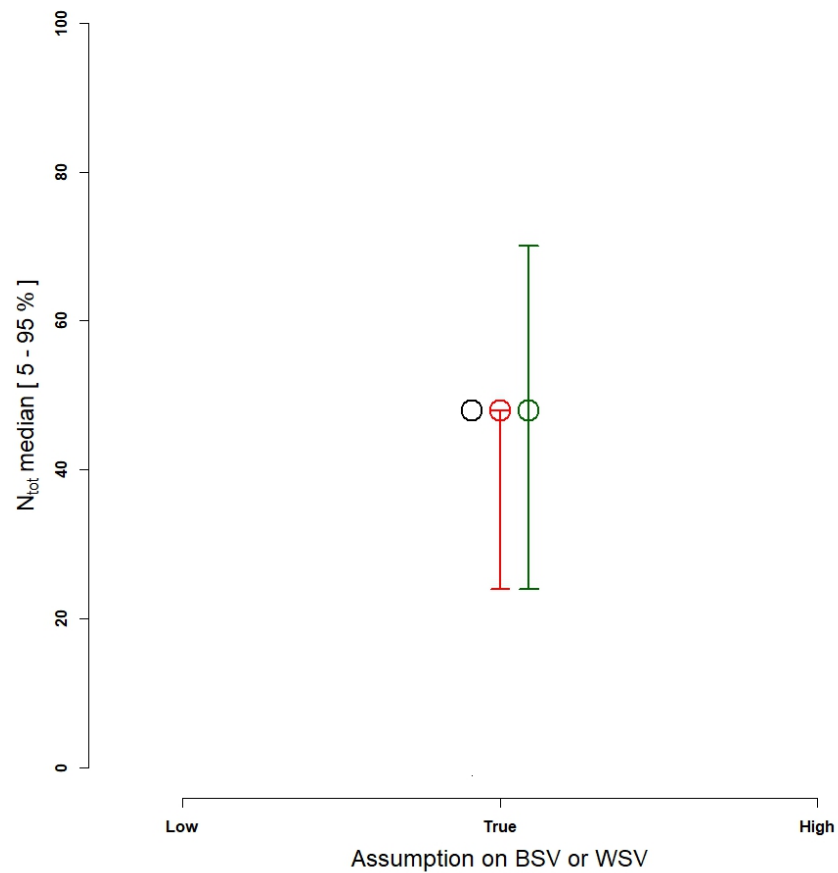
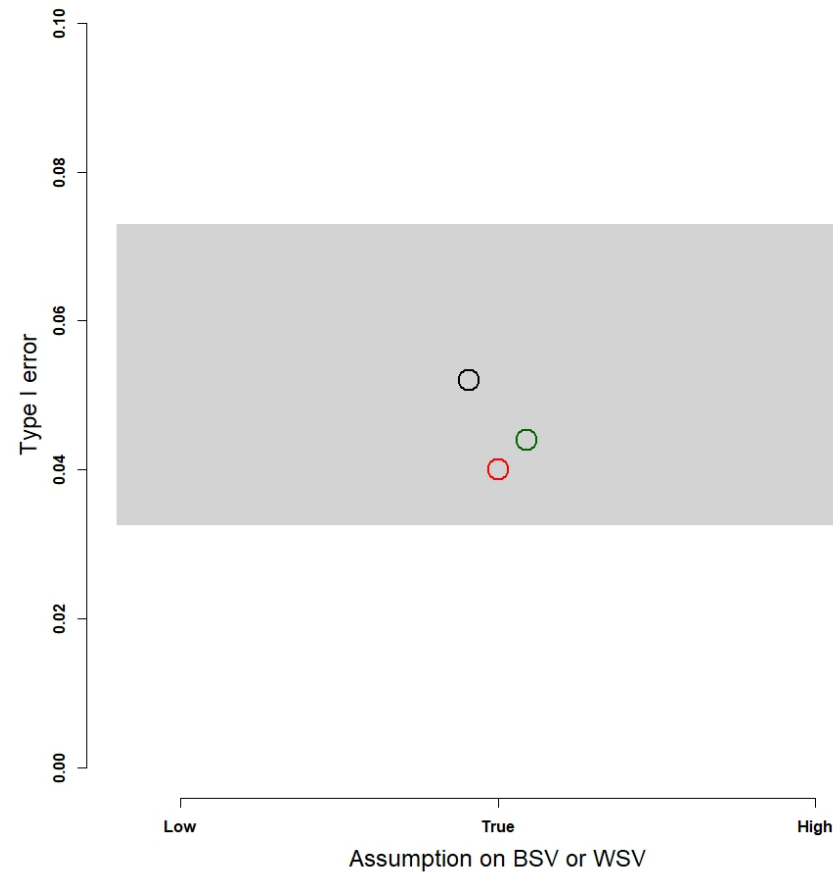
- Results of two-stage study designs under  $H_0$

# Under $H_0$ (No bioequivalence)



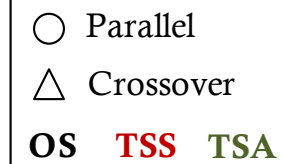
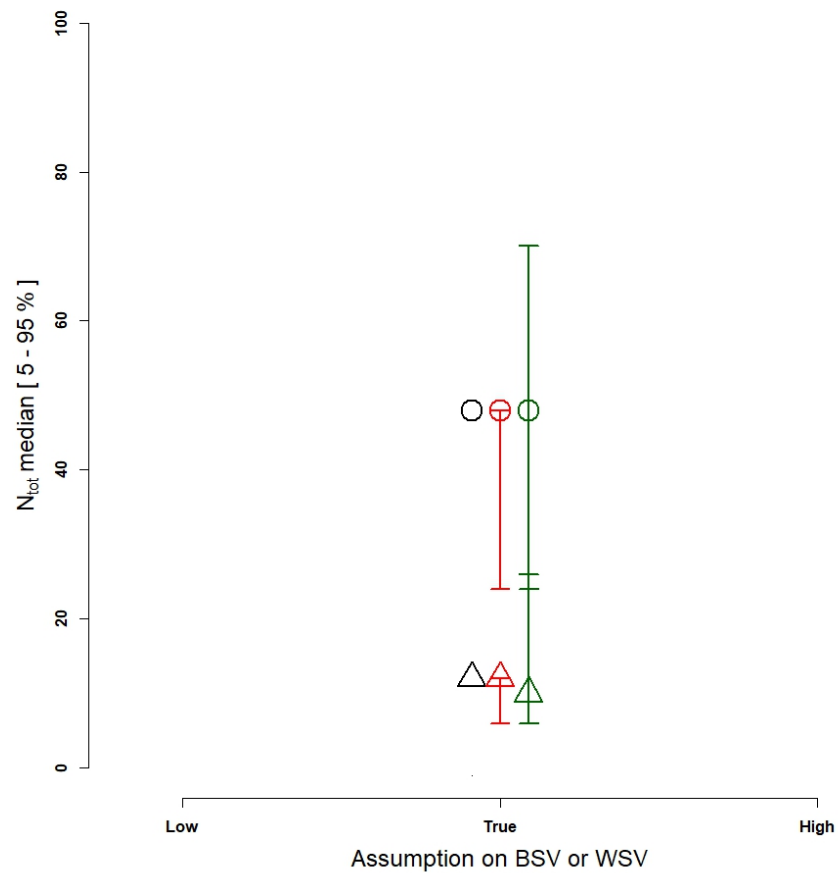
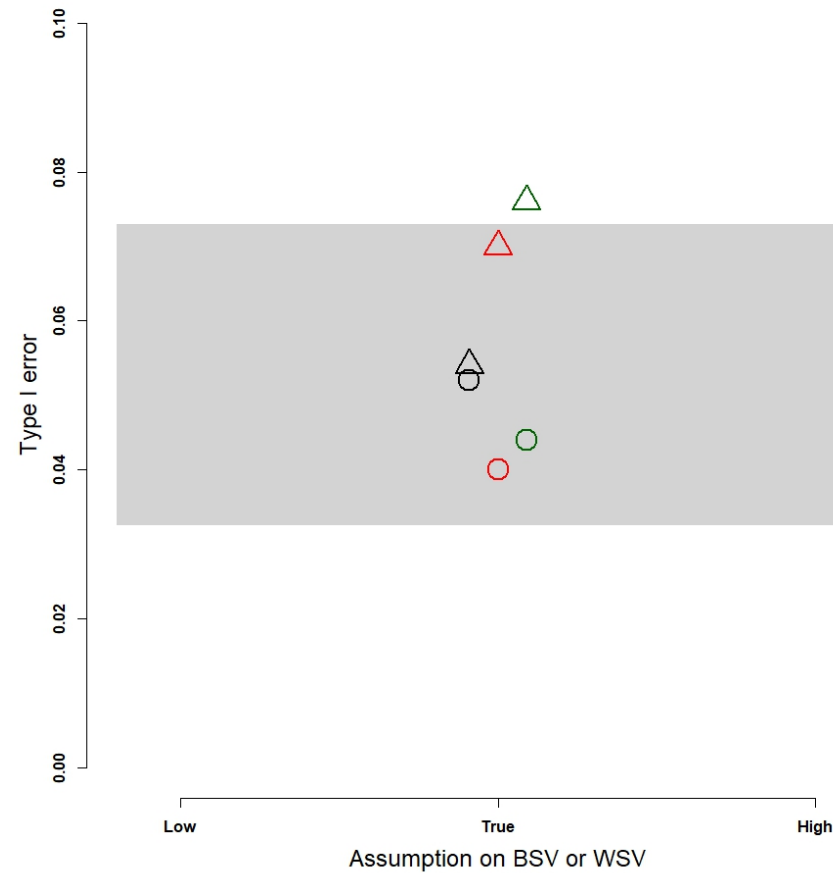
- Parallel
- △ Crossover
- OS** **TSS** **TSA**

# Under $H_0$ (No bioequivalence)

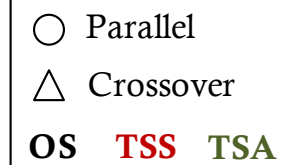
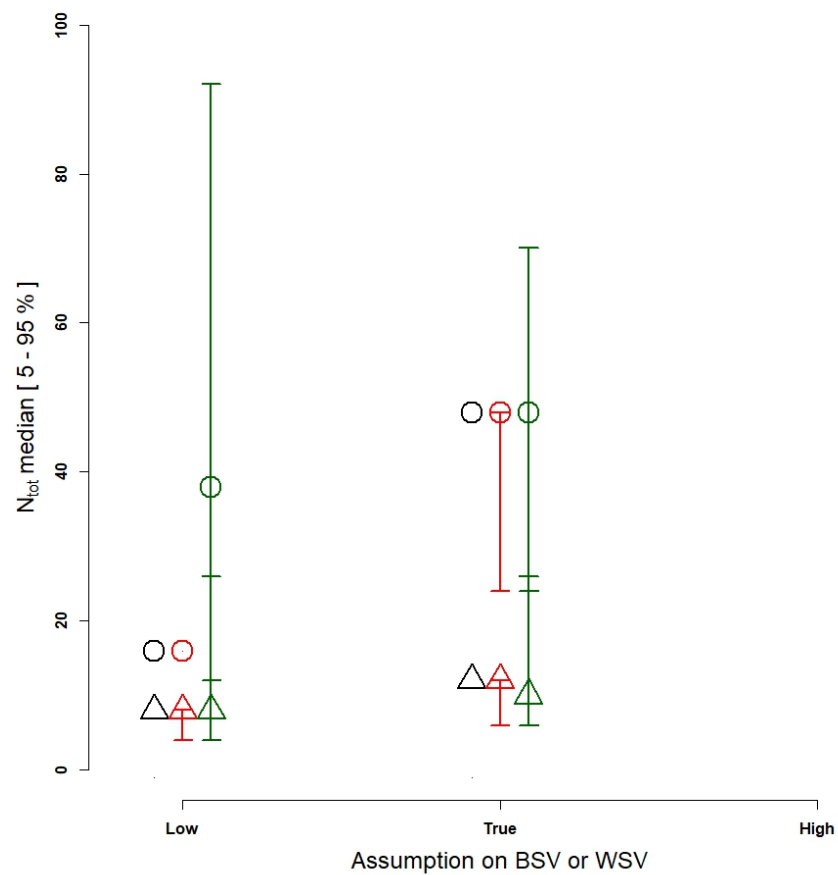
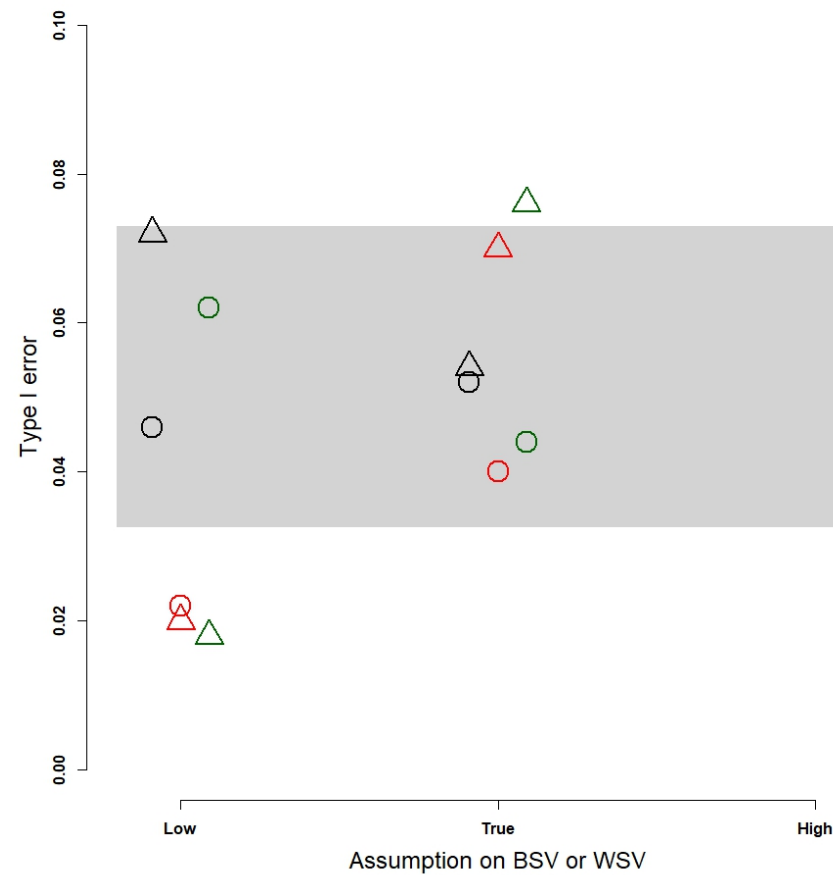


- Parallel
- △ Crossover
- OS** **TSS** **TSA**

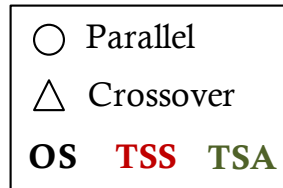
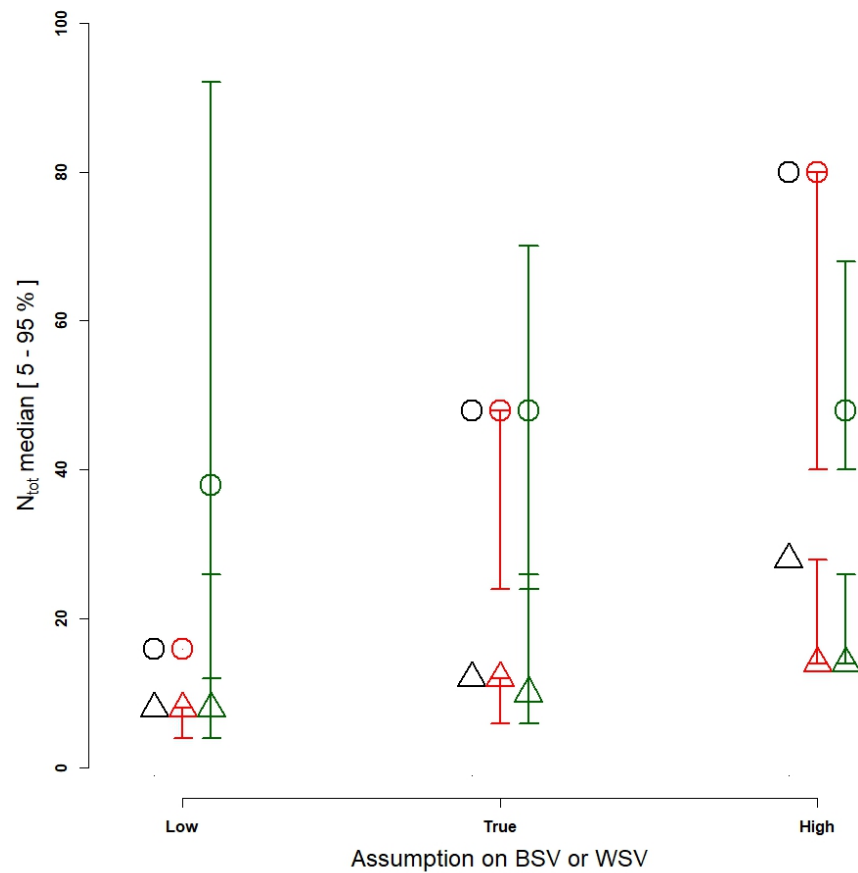
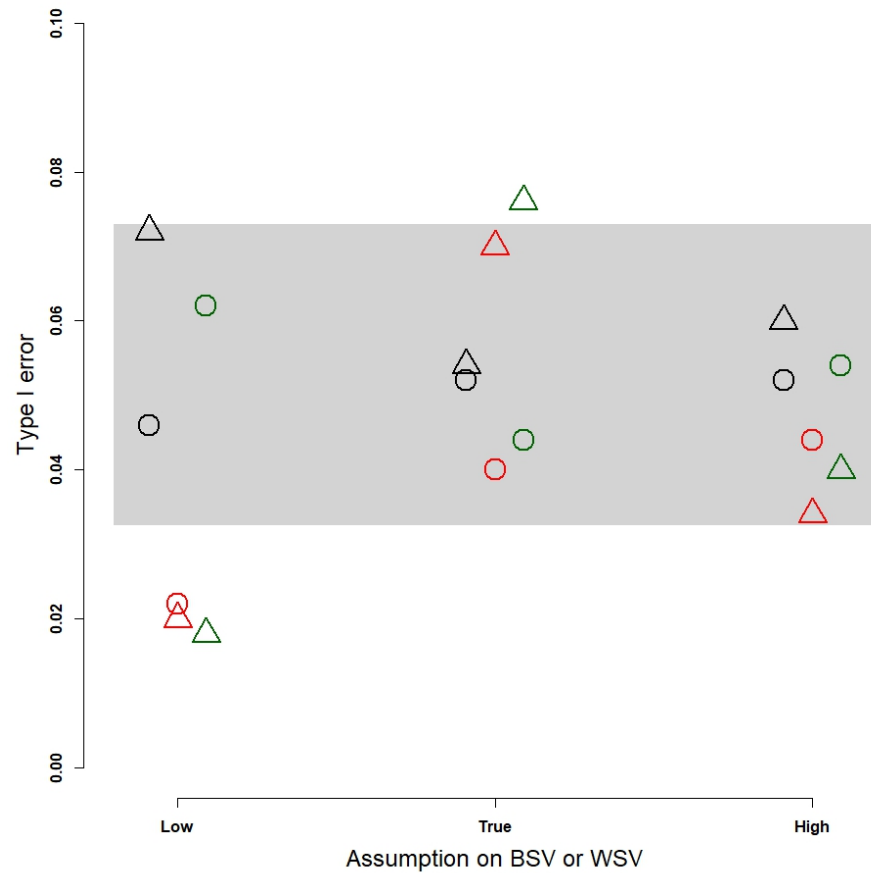
# Under $H_0$ (No bioequivalence)



# Under $H_0$ (No bioequivalence)

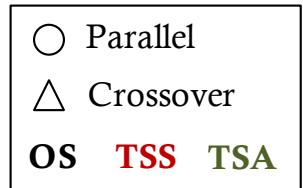
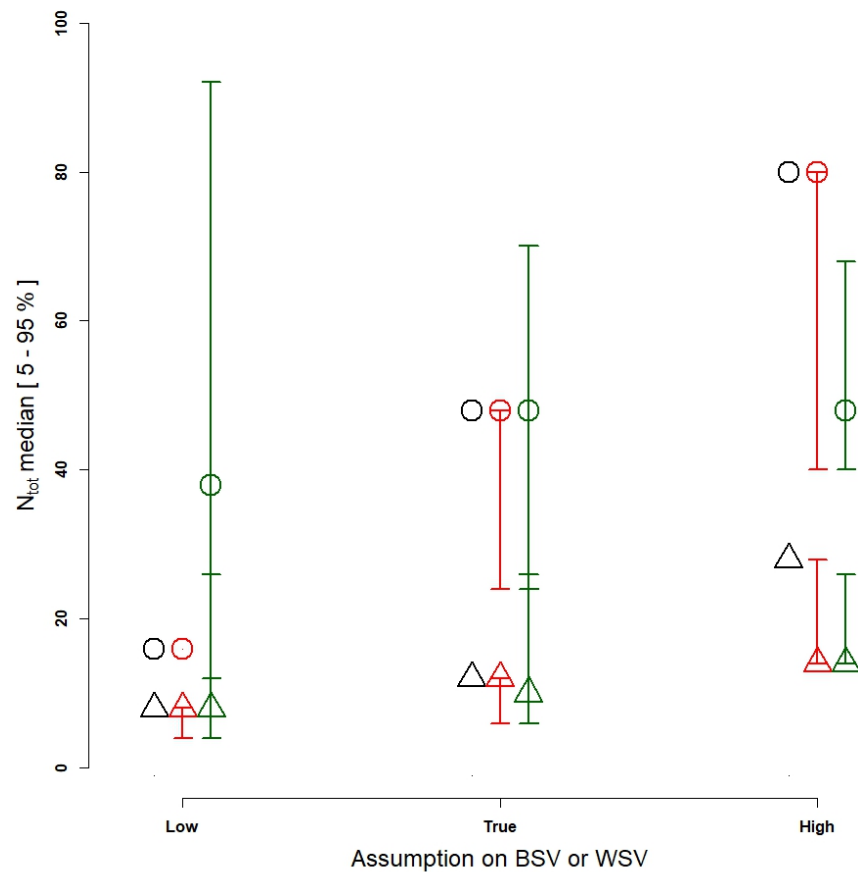
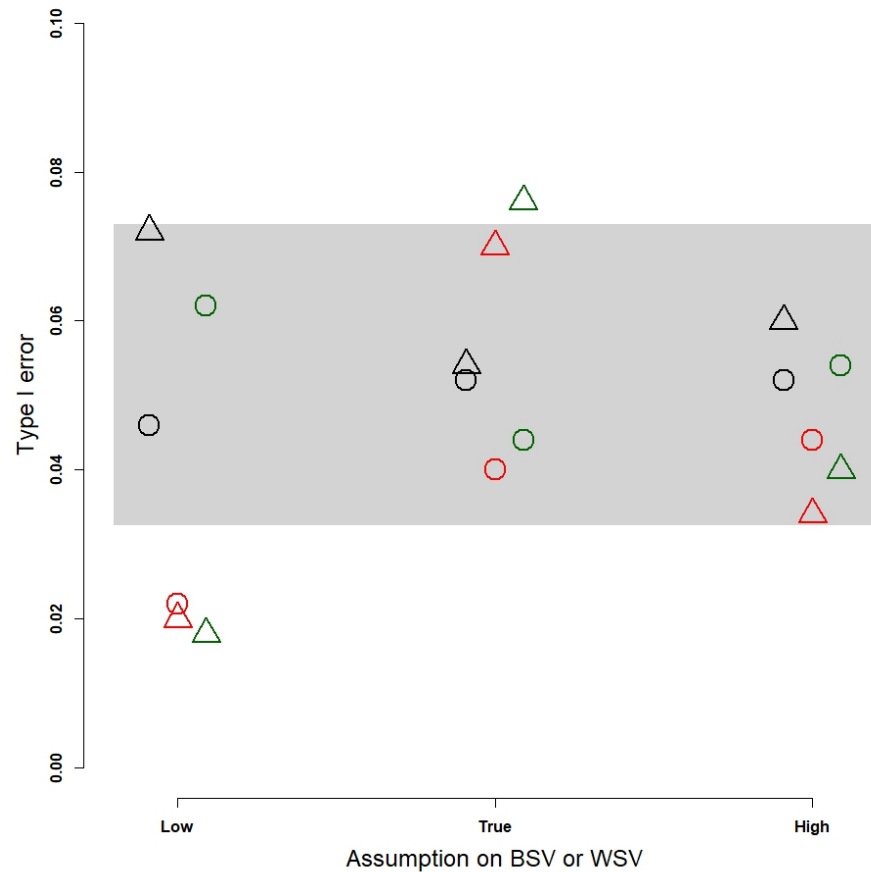


# Under $H_0$ (No bioequivalence)





# Under $H_0$ (No bioequivalence)



- **TSS** led to similar or lower  $N_{tot}$  than **OS**
- **TSA** led to higher  $N_{tot}$  when assumed variability **low**, lower  $N_{tot}$  when assumed variability **high**
- In most cases, **TSS** and **TSA** type I error estimates were within the  $95\%PI = [0.0326 - 0.0729]$ 
  - Pb of TOST for low variability and low sample size in some TSS and TSA results