

Clinical Relevance

Clinical relevance refers to the practical importance of a medical finding, intervention, or observation in real-world clinical settings. It addresses whether the result has a meaningful impact on:

- Patient care
- Clinical decision-making
- Diagnosis or treatment choices
- Health outcomes (e.g., symptom control, survival, quality of life)

Key Characteristics

- Improves or influences patient outcomes
- Has implications for day-to-day clinical practice
- Goes beyond statistical significance
- Relevant to real-world settings, not only research conditions

Clinical vs. Statistical Significance

Term	Meaning
Statistical Significance	Indicates a result is unlikely due to chance (e.g., $p < 0.05$)
Clinical Relevance	Indicates a result is meaningful for patient care

Example: A treatment reduces hospital stay by 1 hour with $p < 0.001$ → statistically significant, but not necessarily clinically relevant.

Example in Neurosurgery

- A new surgical technique that reduces complication rates by 20% → **clinically relevant**
- A biomarker that predicts tumor subtype with 90% accuracy but does not alter treatment → **not clinically relevant**

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