⚖ False Equivalence

False equivalence is a logical fallacy in which two distinct entities, situations, or treatments are presented as if they were equivalent, despite relevant differences that undermine the comparison's validity.

⚠ Key Characteristics

- Superficial similarities mask important underlying differences
- Ignores confounding variables or context
- Often used in observational studies without proper adjustment
- Leads to misleading comparisons and flawed conclusions

Example in Clinical Research

- Comparing microsurgical clipping and endovascular treatment of MCA aneurysms as if they were interchangeable, without accounting for aneurysm complexity, morphology, or patient selection bias.

Why It Matters

- Encourages inappropriate treatment decisions
- Undermines evidence-based practice
- Distorts systematic reviews or meta-analyses
- Can be used to support biased or agenda-driven interpretations

Best Practice

- Ensure clinical and methodological comparability between groups
- Use stratification, matching, or multivariate adjustment
- Acknowledge and discuss key differences in study limitations