

THE NEW TREND IN CLINICAL RESEARCH IN NEUROSCIENCES: THE MULTIDIMENSIONAL APPROACH INSTEAD OF TESTING INDIVIDUAL ENDPOINTS

Johannes C. Vester

idv Data Analysis and Study Planning, Krailling (Germany)

Multidimensional analysis opens a completely new direction for clinical and statistical thought in neurosciences, which is perhaps much closer to the complicated reality of certain kinds of pathological events than the previous, "one-criterion paradigm" of clinical trials. It is thus fortunate that new data analysis procedures are now available that are appropriate for the multidimensional concept. These procedures are robust with respect to every data situation and highly efficient with multiple target criteria. Furthermore, these procedures produce easily interpretable results (global test as well as global treatment effect). Examples from the literature and current study designs in neurosciences are discussed and their implications related to future developments