

Biostatistics statement

The statistical methods of this study were reviewed by Doctor Robert Cheng, Centenary Institute, University of Sydney, NSW, Australia.

Statistical analysis was performed using GraphPad Prism. Categorical values were analysed using Chi squared (X^2) and quantitative continuous results were compared using the Mann-Whitney U test. Relationships between quantitative variables were assessed using Spearman correlation analysis. Multiple comparisons were made using One-way ANOVA, Kruskal-Wallis test and Dunn's multiple comparison test. The threshold for statistical significance is $p < 0.05$.