

## TEACHING STATISTICS TO MEDICAL DOCTORS VIA THE WORLD WIDE WEB

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Over the last decade medical doctors have become more and more aware of their need for basic knowledge of statistics. Medical journals have had a significant increase in the number of articles involving statistical methods, and basic knowledge of statistics is necessary to fully understand less articles. Besides, it has become more common among medical doctors to acknowledge the need for statistics in own research and evaluation studies.

The use of computer technology has changed statistical education, research and practical use of statistics over the last years. The technology also has opened the door to more extensive use of statistical software. The development of the World Wide Web has made it possible to teach statistics via the network, also by using statistical software.

To meet the demand of the medical doctors for basic knowledge of statistics, together with a need for more knowledge of statistical software, we have made a WWW course in *Introduction to Statistics Medical Doctors*. The course covers eight topics and there is a 12 weeks study period.

To be a student one must have the availability of a PC, with Windows 95, and access to the WWW. The students simply access a WWW web page containing the course material and use the WWW for interface for returning their answers to homework. The course material, with an extensive number of examples and exercise work related to the eight topics, can be accessed sequentially via WWW when the preceding topic is finished. Statistical analysis of the examples in the distributed material as well as the homework needs use of statistical software. The statistical computations are made locally on the PCs.

There is an extensive amount of homework, since the students have to send in answers to the exercises related to all topics. Incoming questions from the students and outgoing answers from the teachers go via WWW. During the 12 weeks study period there is extensive support from the teachers to the students.

The presentation will summarise our experience from this project.