

## Chapter 772

# Group-Sequential Superiority by a Margin Tests for Two Proportions (Simulation)

*In this procedure, boundaries are calculated analytically, while simulation is used for the calculation of power (and sample size). A variety of futility boundary options are available.*

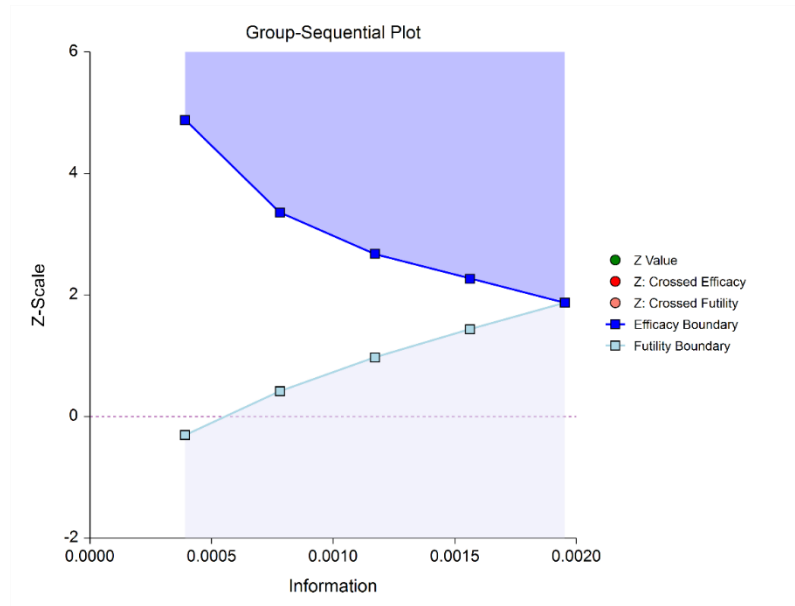
*The corresponding analysis and sample size re-estimation procedure, found in NCSS Analysis and Graphics software, is Group-Sequential Superiority by a Margin Analysis for Two Proportions.*

## Introduction

This procedure can be used to determine power, sample size and/or boundaries for group-sequential superiority by a margin tests comparing the proportions of two groups. The available Z-tests are the common Wald Z-test using the unpooled variance estimate, with or without the continuity correction, and with a superiority margin. Efficacy and/or futility boundaries can be generated. The spacing of the stages can be equal or custom specified. Individual stages may also be skipped. Boundaries can be computed based on popular alpha- and beta-spending functions (O'Brien-Fleming Analog, Pocock Analog, Hwang-Shih-DeCani Gamma family, linear) or custom spending functions, or boundaries may be input directly, if desired. Futility boundaries can be binding or non-binding. Corresponding P-Value boundaries are given for each boundary statistic. Alpha and/or beta spent at each stage is reported. Plots of boundaries are also produced.

This procedure is used as the planning tool for determining sample size and initial boundaries. Stage data, as it is obtained, can be evaluated using the companion procedure *Group-Sequential Superiority by a Margin Analysis for Two Proportions*. The companion procedure also gives the option for sample-size re-estimation and updated boundaries for current-stage information. In that procedure, simulation can be used to evaluate boundary-crossing probabilities given the current stage results.

An example of a group-sequential boundary plot produced in this procedure is shown below.



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## Outline of a Group-Sequential Study

There are three basic phases of a group-sequential (interim analysis) study:

- Design
- Group-Sequential Analysis
- Reporting

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### Design Phase – Determine the Number of Subjects

To begin the group-sequential testing process, an initial calculation should be made to determine the sample size and target information if the final stage is reached (maximum information). The sample size calculation requires the specification of the following:

- Alpha
- Power
- Test Direction
- Types of boundaries (efficacy, binding futility, non-binding futility)
- Maximum number of stages
- Proportion of maximum information at each stage
- Spending functions
- Assumed proportions
- Superiority margin

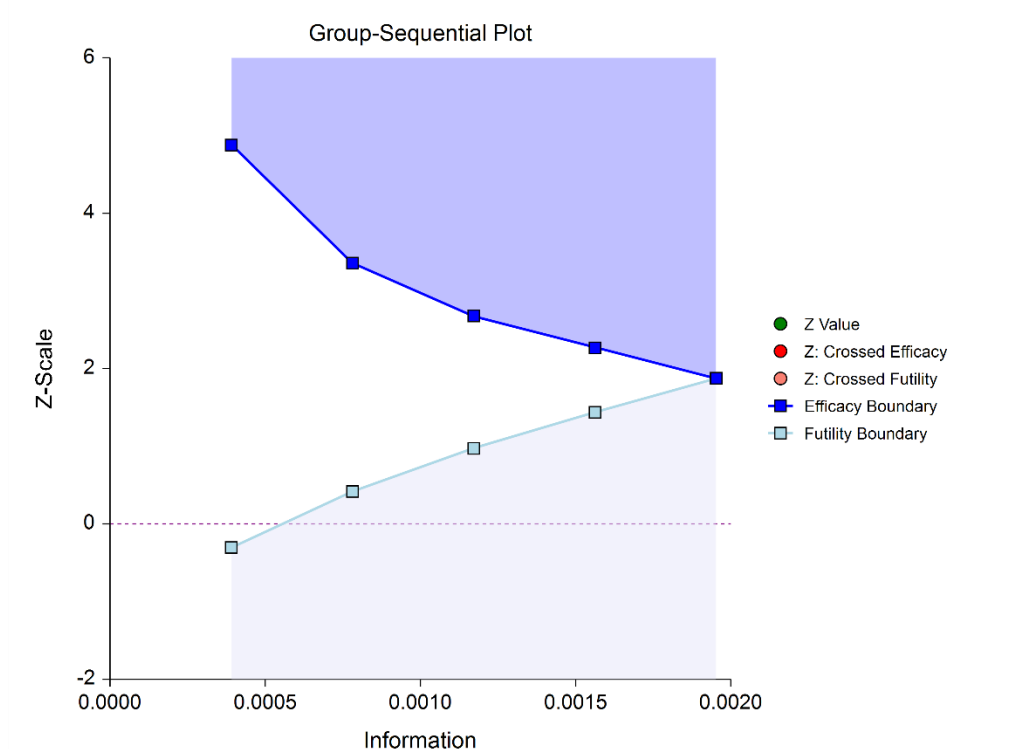
The design phase calculation is performed in this procedure. **PASS** software permits the user to easily try a range of proportion differences, as these values are typically not known in advance.

The resulting sample size of the sample size calculation also permits the calculation of the maximum information, which is the total information of the study if the final stage is reached (for calculation details, see the Information section later in this chapter).

Based on the maximum information, the target information and target sample size of each stage may be calculated. In particular, this permits the user to have a target sample size for the first stage.

Although it is likely to change over the course of the group-sequential analysis, a design group-sequential boundary plot can be a useful visual representation of the design:

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## Group-Sequential Analysis Phase

A group sequential analysis consists of a series of stages where a decision to stop or continue is made at each stage. This analysis can be performed using the companion (analysis) procedure to this sample size procedure in **NCSS**.

### First Interim Stage

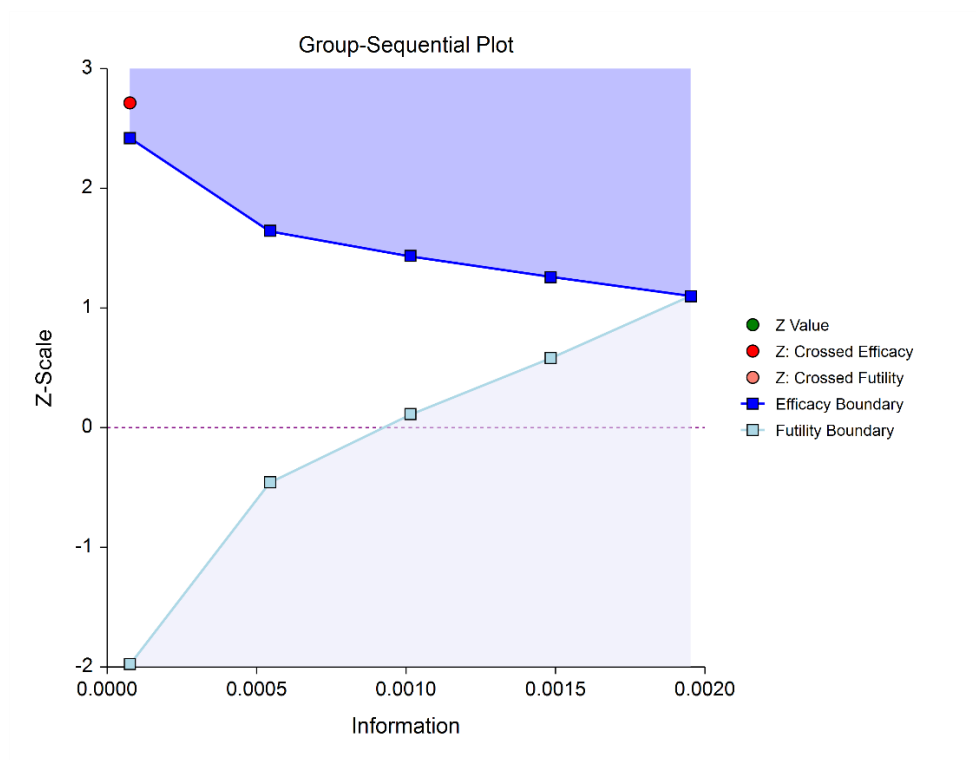
The design phase gives the target number of subjects for the first stage. The study begins, and response data is collected for subjects, moving toward the first-stage target number of subjects, until a decision to perform an analysis on the existing data is made. The analysis at this point is called the first stage.

Unless the number of subjects at the first stage matches the design target for the first stage, the calculated information at the first stage will not exactly match the design information for the first stage. Generally, the calculated information will not differ too greatly from the design information, but regardless, spending function group-sequential analysis is well-suited to make appropriate adjustments for any differences.

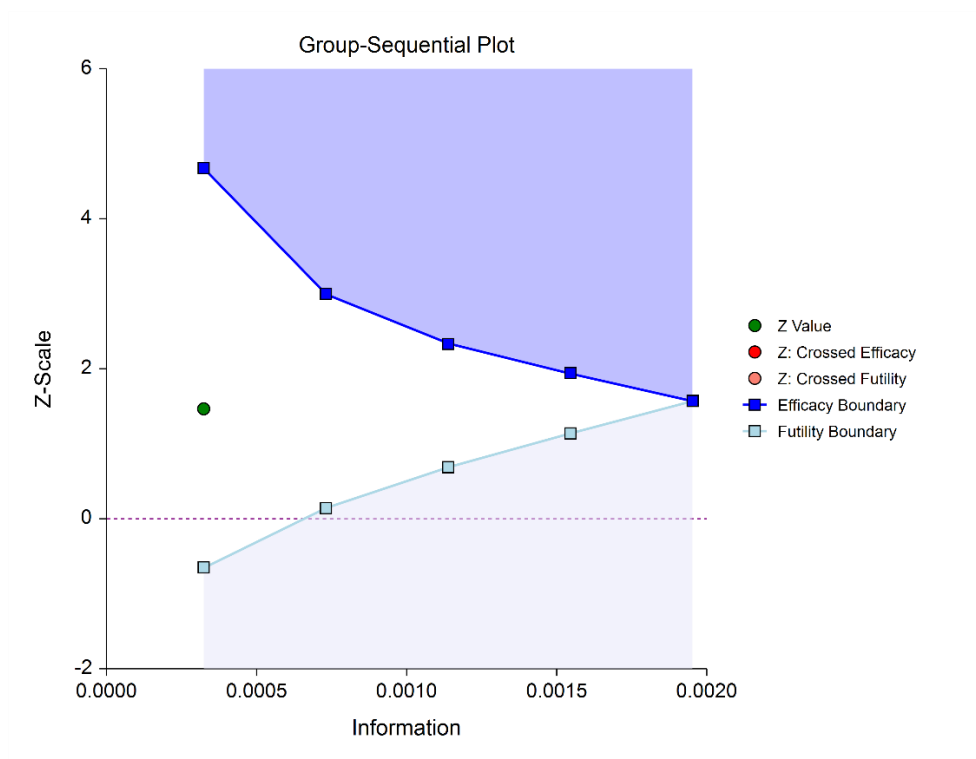
The first stage information is divided by the maximum information to obtain the stage one information proportion (or information fraction). This information proportion is used in conjunction with the spending function(s) to determine the alpha and/or beta spent at that stage. In turn, stage one boundaries, corresponding to the information proportion, are calculated.

A z-statistic is calculated from the raw proportion difference. The stage one z-statistic is compared to each of the stage one boundaries. Typically, if one of the boundaries is crossed, the study is stopped (non-binding futility boundaries may be an exception).

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If none of the boundaries are crossed the study continues to the next stage.



If none of the boundaries are crossed it may also be useful to examine the conditional power or stopping probabilities of future stages, using the **NCSS** procedure. Conditional power and stopping probabilities are based on the user-specified supposed true difference.

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## Second and other interim stages (if reached)

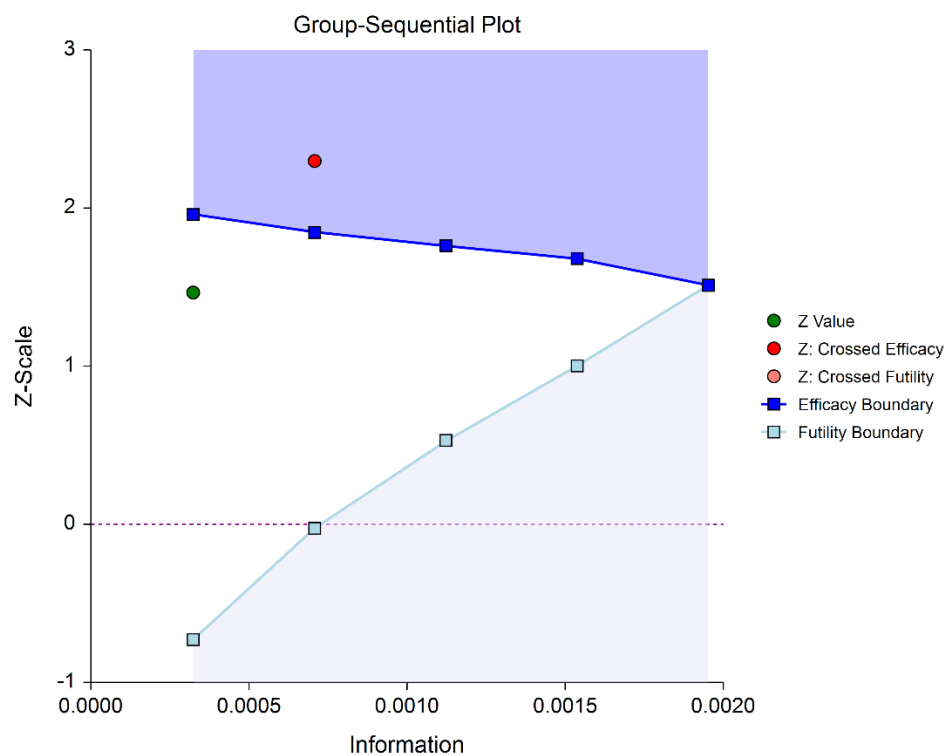
Since the first stage information proportion is not equal to the design information proportion, a designation must be made at this point as to the target information of the second stage. Two options are available in the **NCSS** procedure.

One option is to target the information proportion of the original design. For example, if the original design proportions of a four-stage design are 0.25, 0.50, 0.75, 1.0, and the stage one observed proportion is 0.22, the researcher might still opt to target 0.50 for the second stage, even though that now requires an additional information accumulation of 0.28 (proportion). The third and fourth stage targets would also remain 0.75 and 1.0.

A second option is to adjust the target information proportionally to the remaining proportions. For this option, if the design proportions are 0.25, 0.50, 0.75, 1.0, and 0.22 is observed, the remaining 0.78 is distributed proportionally to the remaining stages. In this example, the remaining target proportions become 0.48, 0.74, 1.0.

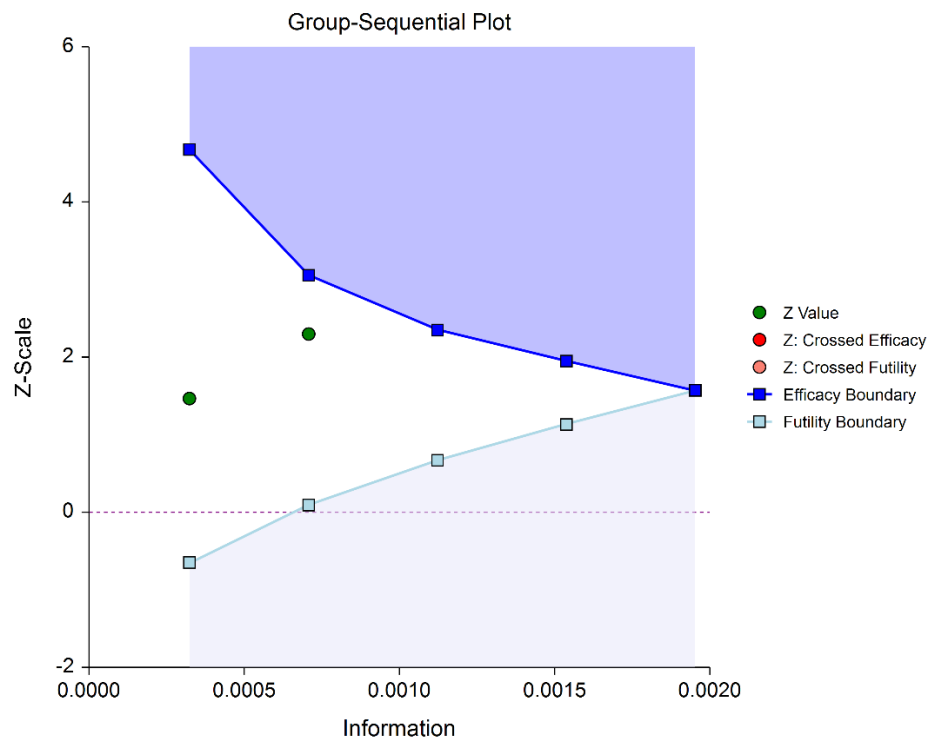
For either option, once the target information is determined for the next stage, revised target sample sizes are given (in the **NCSS** procedure), and the study continues until the decision is made to perform the next interim analysis on the cumulative response data. In the same manner as the first stage, the current stage information proportion is used with the spending function to determine alpha and/or beta spent at the current stage. The current stage boundaries are then computed. The z-statistic is calculated and compared to the boundaries, and a decision is made to stop or continue.

If a boundary is crossed, the study is typically stopped.



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If none of the boundaries are crossed the study continues to the next stage.



Once again, if no boundary is crossed, conditional power and stopping probabilities may be considered based on a choice of a supposed true difference.

The study continues from stage to stage until the study is stopped for the crossing of a boundary, or until the final stage is reached.

### Final Stage (if reached)

The final stage (if reached) is similar to all the interim stages, with a couple of exceptions. For all interim analyses the decision is made whether to stop for the crossing of a boundary, or to continue to the next stage. At the final stage, only the decision of efficacy or futility can be made.

Another intricacy of the final stage that does not apply to the interim stages is the calculation of the maximum information. At the final stage, the current information must become the maximum information, since the spending functions require that the proportion of information at the final look must be 1.0. If the current information at the final stage is less than the design maximum information, the scenario is sometimes described as *under-running*. Similarly, if the current information at the final stage is greater than the design maximum information, the result may be termed *over-running*.

For both under-running and over-running, the mechanism for adjustment is the same, and is described in the Technical Details section, under Information and Total Information.

Aside from these two exceptions, the final stage analysis is made in the same way that interim analyses were made. The remaining alpha and beta to be spent are used to calculate the final stage boundaries. If the test is a one-sided test, then the final stage boundary is a single value. The final stage z-statistic is computed from the sample proportions of the complete data from each group. The z-statistic is compared to the boundary and a decision of efficacy or futility is made.

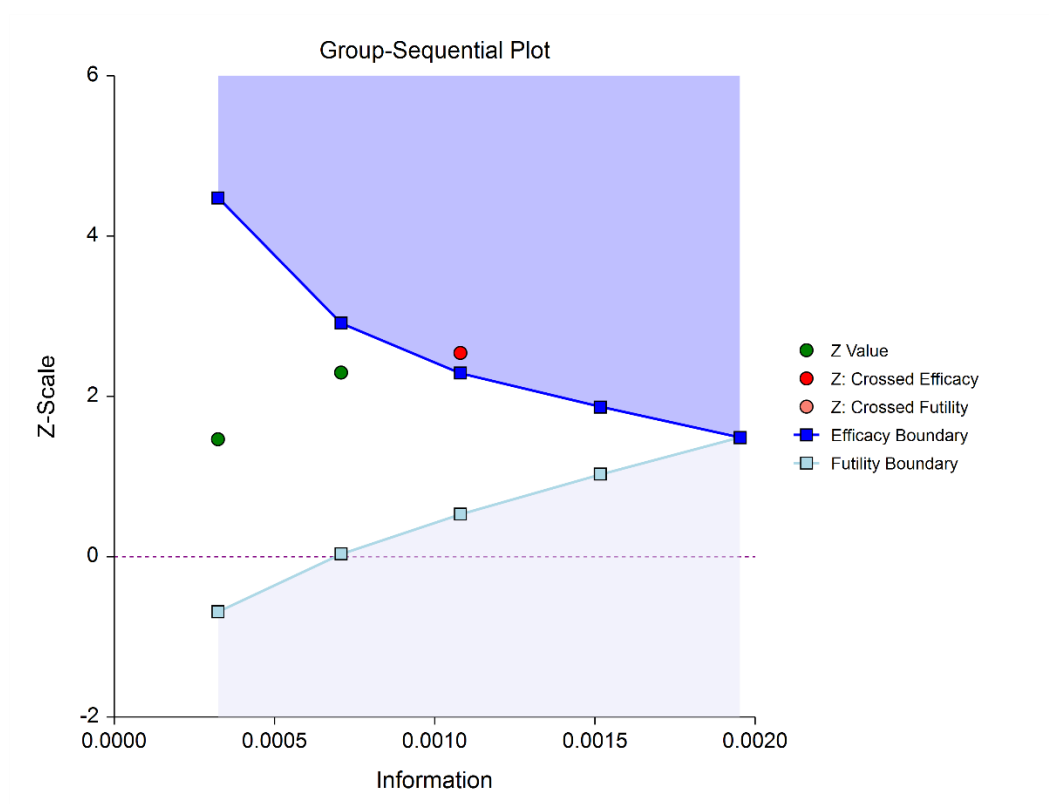
## Reporting Phase

Once a group-sequential boundary is crossed and the decision is made to stop, there remains the need to properly summarize and communicate the study results. Some or all of the following may be reported:

- Boundary plot showing the crossed boundary
- Adjusted confidence interval and estimate of the proportion difference
- Sample size used

### Boundary plot showing the crossed boundary

The boundary plot gives an appropriate visual summary of the process leading to the reported decision of the study.



### Adjusted confidence interval and estimate of the proportion difference

Due to the bias that is introduced in the group-sequential analysis process, the raw data confidence interval of the difference in proportions should not be used. An adjusted confidence interval should be used instead.

### Sample size used

The sample size at the point the study was stopped should be reported in addition to the sample size that would have been used had the final stage been reached.

## Technical Details

Many articles and texts have been written about group sequential analysis. Details of many of the relevant topics are discussed below, but this is not intended to be a comprehensive review of group-sequential methods. One of the more influential works in the area of group-sequential analysis is Jennison and Turnbull (2000).

### Null and Alternative Hypotheses

For superiority by a margin tests of two proportions, the appropriate null and alternative hypotheses depend on whether higher proportions are better or higher proportions are worse.

#### Case 1: Low Proportions Good

In this case, lower proportions are better. The hypotheses are arranged so that rejecting the null hypothesis implies that the treatment proportion is less than the reference proportion by at least the margin of superiority. The value of  $\delta$  at which power is calculated must be less than  $-|M_S|$ . The null and alternative hypotheses with  $\delta_0 = -|M_S|$  are

$$\begin{array}{ll} H_0: P_1 \geq P_2 - |M_S| & \text{versus} \quad H_1: P_1 < P_2 - |M_S| \\ H_0: P_1 - P_2 \geq -|M_S| & \text{versus} \quad H_1: P_1 - P_2 < -|M_S| \\ H_0: \delta \geq -|M_S| & \text{versus} \quad H_1: \delta < -|M_S| \end{array}$$

#### Case 2: High Proportions Good

In this case, higher proportions are better. The hypotheses are arranged so that rejecting the null hypothesis implies that the treatment proportion is greater than the reference proportion by at least the margin of superiority. The value of  $\delta$  at which power is calculated must be greater than  $|M_S|$ . The null and alternative hypotheses with  $\delta_0 = |M_S|$  are

$$\begin{array}{ll} H_0: P_1 \leq P_2 + |M_S| & \text{versus} \quad H_1: P_1 > P_2 + |M_S| \\ H_0: P_1 - P_2 \leq |M_S| & \text{versus} \quad H_1: P_1 - P_2 > |M_S| \\ H_0: \delta \leq |M_S| & \text{versus} \quad H_1: \delta > |M_S| \end{array}$$

### Stages in Group-Sequential Testing

The potential to obtain the benefit from a group-sequential design and analysis occurs when the response data are collected over a period of weeks, months, or years rather than all at once. A typical example is the case where patients are enrolled in a study as they become available, as in many types of clinical trials.

A group-sequential testing stage is a point in the accumulation of the data where an interim analysis occurs, either by design or by necessity. At each stage, a test statistic is computed with all the accumulated data, and it is determined whether a boundary (efficacy or futility) is crossed. When an efficacy (or futility) boundary is crossed, the study is usually concluded, and inference is made. If the final stage is reached, the group-sequential design forces a decision of efficacy or futility at this stage.

For the discussions below, a non-specific interim analysis stage is referenced as  $k$ , and the final stage is  $K$ .



## Test Statistic

The z-statistic for any stage  $k$  is obtained from all the accumulated data up to and including that stage, using the unpooled variance estimate, and with or without the continuity correction.

### Z Test (Unpooled)

This test statistic was first proposed by Karl Pearson in 1900. Although this test can be expressed as a Chi-Square statistic, it is expressed here as a  $z$  so that it can be used for one-sided hypothesis testing.

The formula for the test statistic is, when lower proportions are better:

$$z_k = \frac{\hat{p}_{1k} - \hat{p}_{2k} - (-|SM|)}{\hat{\sigma}_{D_k}} = \frac{\hat{p}_{1k} - \hat{p}_{2k} + |SM|}{\hat{\sigma}_{D_k}}$$

and, when higher proportions are better:

$$z_k = \frac{\hat{p}_{1k} - \hat{p}_{2k} - |SM|}{\hat{\sigma}_{D_k}}$$

with

$$\hat{\sigma}_{D_k} = \sqrt{\frac{\hat{p}_{1k}(1 - \hat{p}_{1k})}{n_{1k}} + \frac{\hat{p}_{2k}(1 - \hat{p}_{2k})}{n_{2k}}}$$

### Continuity Correction

Frank Yates is credited with proposing a correction to the Pearson Chi-Square test for the lack of continuity in the binomial distribution. However, the correction was in common use when he proposed it in 1922.

The continuity corrected z-test is, when lower proportions are better:

$$z_k = \frac{(\hat{p}_{1k} - \hat{p}_{2k}) + \frac{F}{2} \left( \frac{1}{n_{1k}} + \frac{1}{n_{2k}} \right) + |SM|}{\hat{\sigma}_{D_k}}$$

and, when higher proportions are better:

$$z_k = \frac{(\hat{p}_{1k} - \hat{p}_{2k}) + \frac{F}{2} \left( \frac{1}{n_{1k}} + \frac{1}{n_{2k}} \right) - |SM|}{\hat{\sigma}_{D_k}}$$

where  $F$  is -1 for upper-tailed, 1 for lower-tailed.

## Group-Sequential Design Phase

In most group-sequential studies there is a design or planning phase prior to beginning response collection. In this phase, researchers specify the anticipated number and spacing of stages, the types of boundaries that will be used, the desired alpha and power levels, the spending functions, the anticipated proportions, and an estimate of the true difference in proportions.

Based on these input parameters, an initial set of boundaries is produced, an estimate of the total number of needed subjects is determined, and the anticipated total information at the final stage is calculated. This procedure can be used to make these planning phase sample size estimation calculations.

## Information and Total Information

In the group-sequential design phase, the information at any stage  $k$  may be calculated from the specified proportions and the sample sizes, as

$$I_k = \frac{1}{\sigma_{D_k}^2}$$

where

$$\sigma_{D_k} = \sqrt{\frac{P_{1k}(1 - P_{1k})}{n_{1k}} + \frac{P_{2k}(1 - P_{2k})}{n_{2k}}}$$

The planning  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  are used for  $P_{1k}$  and  $P_{2k}$ , since realized values are not available before data is collected. When the analysis is carried out, the sample estimates  $\hat{p}_{1k}$  and  $\hat{p}_{2k}$  will be used in place of  $P_{1k}$  and  $P_{2k}$ . The final stage ( $K$ ) or total (design) information is calculated from the specified proportions and the final sample sizes, as

$$I_K^* = \frac{1}{\sigma_{D_K}^2}$$

The proportion of the total information (or information fraction) at any stage is

$$prop_k = \frac{I_k}{I_K^*}$$

The information fractions are used in conjunction with the spending function(s) to define the alpha and/or beta to be spent at each stage.

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To properly use the spending function at the final stage, it is required that  $prop_K = 1$ . However, if the final stage is reached, we see that

$$I_K = \frac{1}{\sigma_{D_K}^2} \neq I_K^* = \frac{1}{\sigma_{D_K}^2}$$

so that

$$prop_K = \frac{I_K}{I_K^*} \neq 1$$

$\sigma_{D_K}^2$  is based on  $n_{1K}$  and  $n_{2K}$ .

When  $I_K > I_K^*$ , it is called over-running. When  $I_K < I_K^*$ , it is called under-running. In either case, the spending function is adjusted to accommodate the inequality, by redefining

$$I_K^* = I_K$$

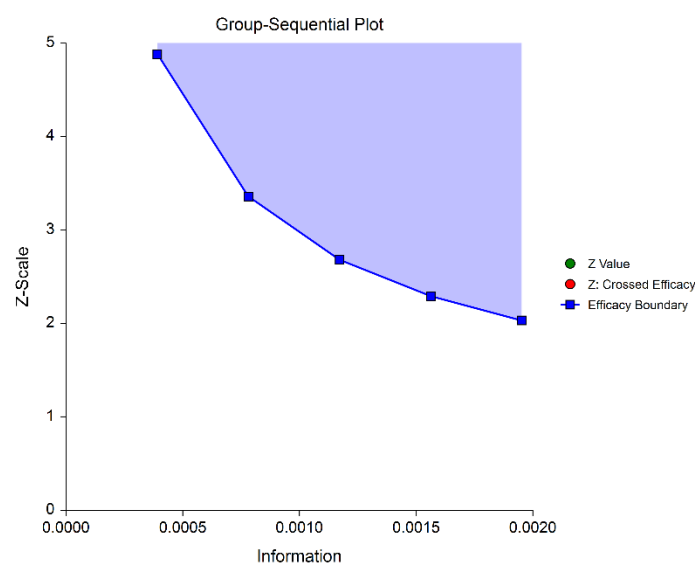
See the discussion in Wassmer and Brannath (2016), pages 78-79, or Jennison and Turnbull (2000), pages 153-154, 162.

## Types of Boundaries

A variety of boundary designs are available to reflect the needs of the study design.

### Efficacy Only (One-Sided)

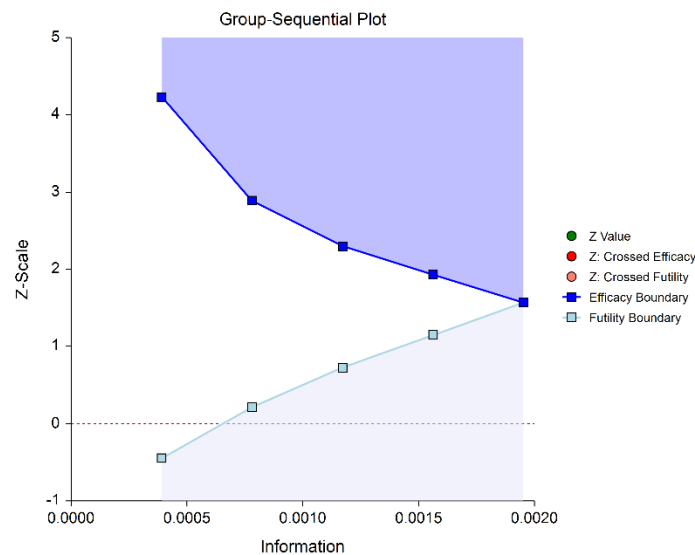
The simplest group-sequential test involves a single set of stage boundaries with early stopping for efficacy.



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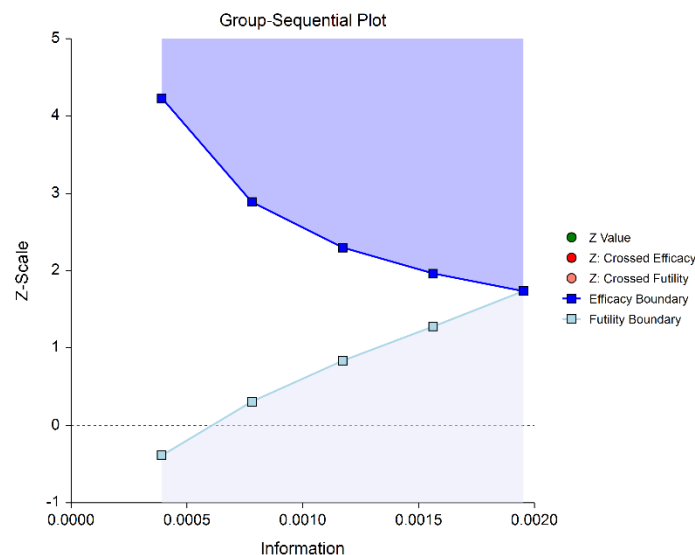
## Efficacy and Binding Futility (One-Sided)

This design allows early stopping for either efficacy or futility. For binding futility designs, the Type I error protection ( $\alpha$ ) is only maintained if the study is strictly required to stop if either boundary is crossed.



## Efficacy and Non-Binding Futility (One-Sided)

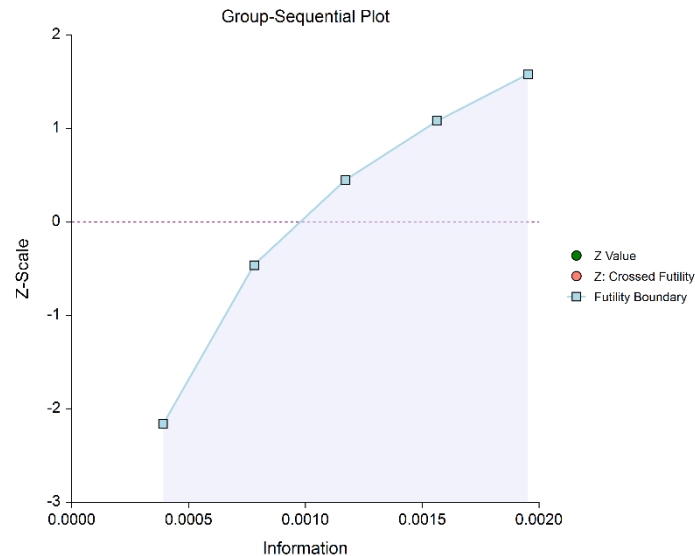
This design also allows early stopping for either efficacy or futility. For non-binding futility designs, the Type I error protection ( $\alpha$ ) is maintained, regardless of whether the study continues after crossing a futility boundary. However, the effect is to make the test conservative ( $\alpha$  is lower than the stated  $\alpha$  and power is lower than the stated power).



## Group-Sequential Superiority by a Margin Tests for Two Proportions (Simulation)

## Futility Only (One-Sided)

In this design, the interim analyses are used only for futility. Please be aware that, due to computational complexity, these boundaries may take several minutes to compute, particularly when some stages are skipped.



## Boundary Calculations

The foundation of the spending function approach used in this procedure is given in Lan & DeMets (1983). This procedure implements the methods given in Reboussin, DeMets, Kim, & Lan (1992) to calculate the boundaries and stopping probabilities of the various group sequential designs. Some adjustments are made to these methods to facilitate the calculation of futility boundaries.

## Binding vs. Non-Binding Futility Boundaries

Futility boundaries are used to facilitate the early stopping of studies when early evidence leans to lack of efficacy. When binding futility boundaries are to be used, the calculation of the futility and efficacy boundaries assumes that the study will be strictly stopped at any stage where a futility or efficacy boundary is crossed. If strict adherence is not maintained, then the Type I and Type II error probabilities associated with the boundaries are no longer valid. One (perhaps undesirable) effect of using binding futility boundaries is that the resulting final stage boundary may be lower than the boundary given in the corresponding fixed-sample design.

When non-binding futility boundaries are calculated, the efficacy boundaries are first calculated ignoring futility boundaries completely. This is done so that alpha may be maintained whether or not a study continues after crossing a futility boundary. One (perhaps undesirable) effect of using non-binding futility boundaries is that the overall group-sequential test becomes conservative (alpha is lower than the stated alpha and power is lower than the stated power).

## Spending Functions

Spending functions are used to distribute portions of alpha (or beta) to the stages according to the proportion of accumulated information at each look.

### Spending Function Characteristics

- Spending functions give a value of zero when the proportion of accumulated information is zero.

$$\alpha(0) = 0 \text{ (for alpha-spending)}$$

$$\beta(0) = 0 \text{ (for beta-spending)}$$

- Spending functions are increasing functions.
- Spending functions give a value of alpha (or beta) when the proportion of accumulated information is one.

$$\alpha(1) = \alpha \text{ (for alpha-spending)}$$

$$\beta(1) = \beta \text{ (for beta-spending)}$$

Using spending functions in group-sequential analyses is very flexible in that neither the information proportions nor the number of stages need be specified in advance to maintain Type I and Type II error protection.

## Group-Sequential Superiority by a Margin Tests for Two Proportions (Simulation)

## Spending Functions Available in this Procedure

The following spending functions are shown as alpha-spending functions. The corresponding beta-spending function is given by replacing  $\alpha$  with  $\beta$ .

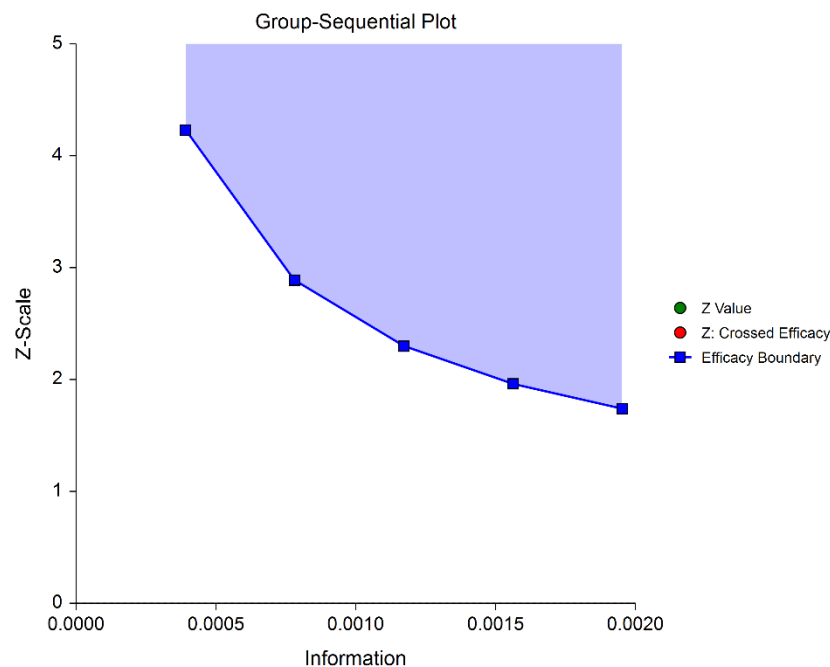
## O'Brien-Fleming Analog

The O'Brien Fleming Analog (Lan & DeMets, 1983) roughly mimics the O'Brien-Fleming (non-spending function) design, with the key attribute that only a small proportion of alpha is spent early. Its popularity comes from it proportioning enough alpha to the final stage that the final stage boundary is not too different from the fixed-sample (non-group-sequential) boundary.

$$\alpha(0) = 0$$

$$\alpha(p_k) = 2 - 2\Phi\left(\frac{Z_{1-\alpha/2}}{\sqrt{p_k}}\right)$$

$$\alpha(1) = \alpha$$



## Group-Sequential Superiority by a Margin Tests for Two Proportions (Simulation)

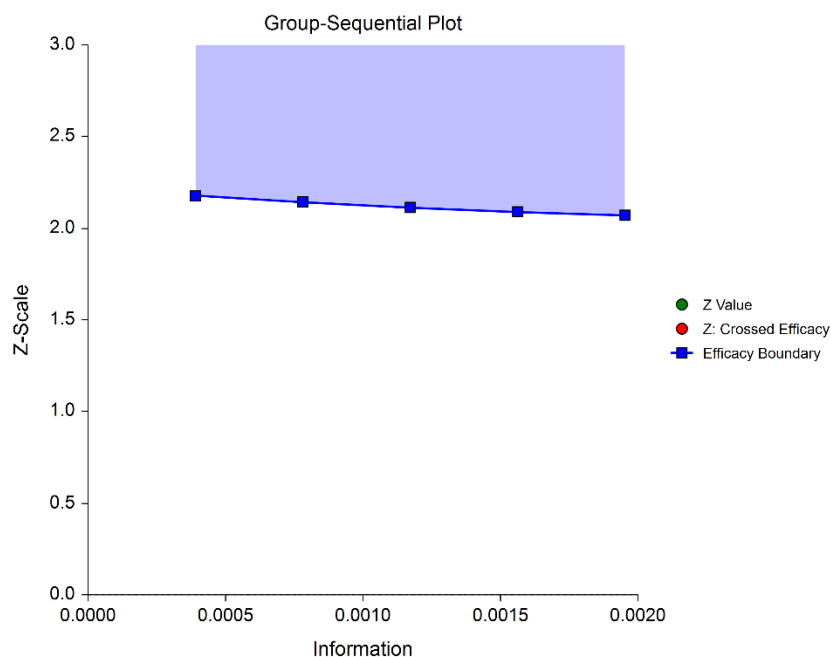
**Pocock Analog**

The Pocock Analog (Lan & DeMets, 1983) roughly mimics the Pocock (non-spending function) design, with the key attribute that alpha is spent roughly equally across all stages.

$$\alpha(0) = 0$$

$$\alpha(p_k) = \alpha \ln(1 + (e - 1)p_k)$$

$$\alpha(1) = \alpha$$





## Group-Sequential Superiority by a Margin Tests for Two Proportions (Simulation)

**Power Family**

The power family of spending functions has a  $\rho$  parameter that gives flexibility in the spending function shape.

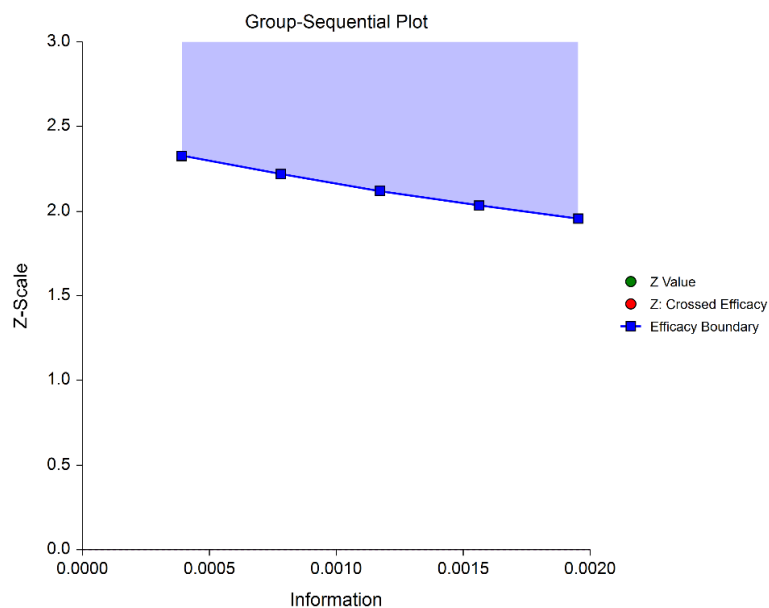
$$\alpha(0) = 0$$

$$\alpha(p_k) = p_k^\rho, \quad \rho > 0$$

$$\alpha(1) = \alpha$$

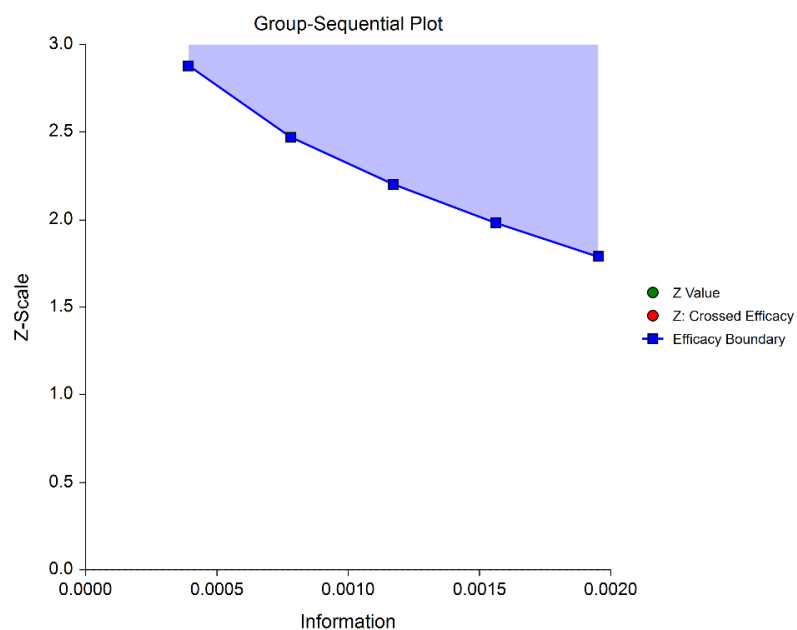
A power family spending function with a  $\rho$  of 1 is similar to a Pocock design, while a power family spending function with a  $\rho$  of 3 is more similar to an O'Brien-Fleming design.

$$\rho = 1$$

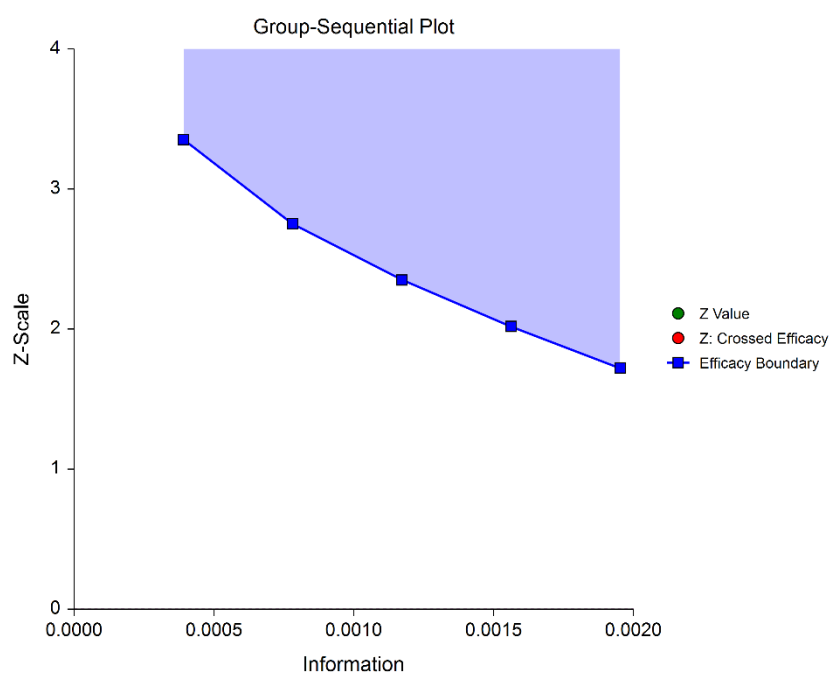


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$$\rho = 2$$



$$\rho = 3$$



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## Hwang-Shih-DeCani (Gamma Family)

The Hwang-Shih-DeCani gamma family of spending function has a  $\gamma$  parameter that allows for a variety of spending functions.

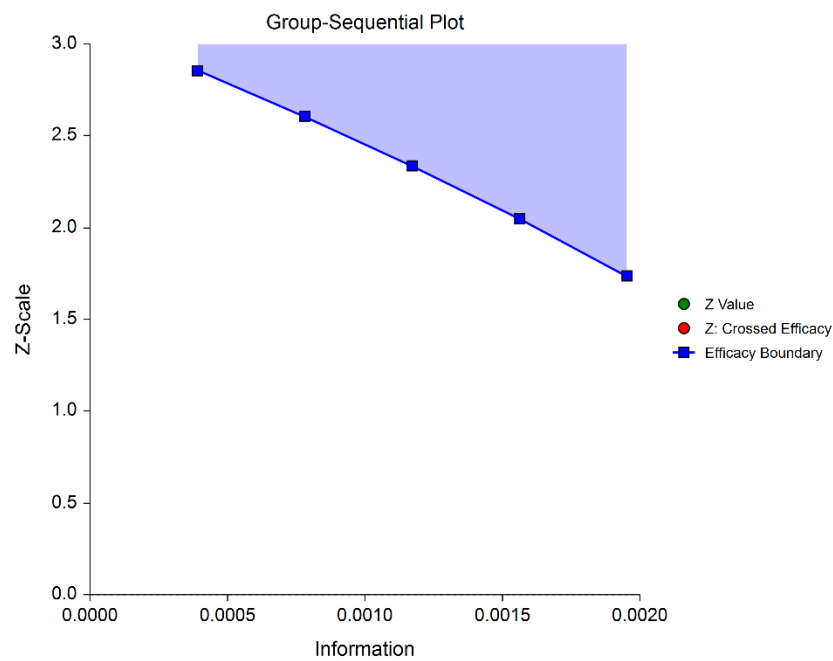
$$\alpha(0) = 0$$

$$\alpha(p_k) = \alpha \left( \frac{1 - e^{-\gamma p_k}}{1 - e^{-\gamma}} \right), \quad \gamma \neq 0$$

$$\alpha(p_k) = \alpha p_k, \quad \gamma = 0$$

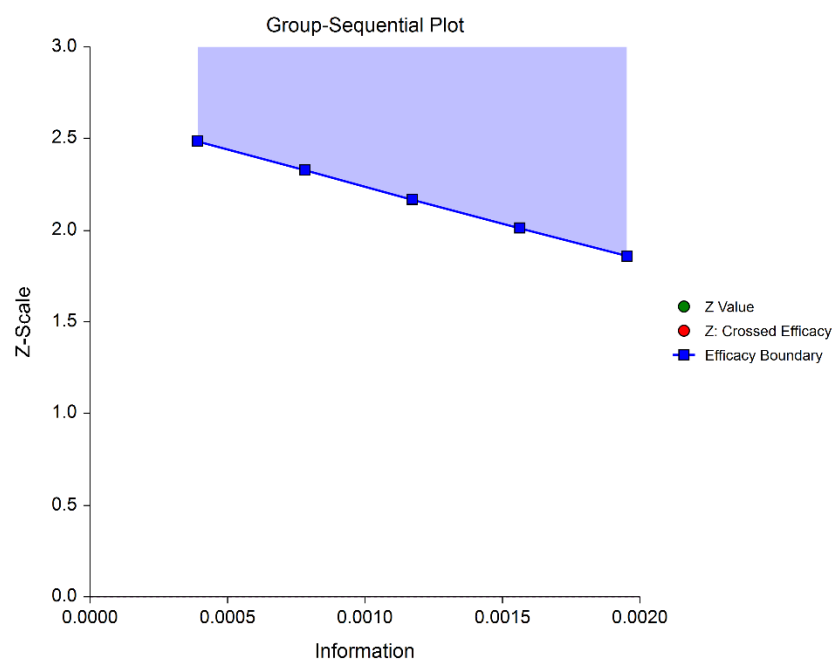
$$\alpha(1) = \alpha$$

$$\gamma = -3$$

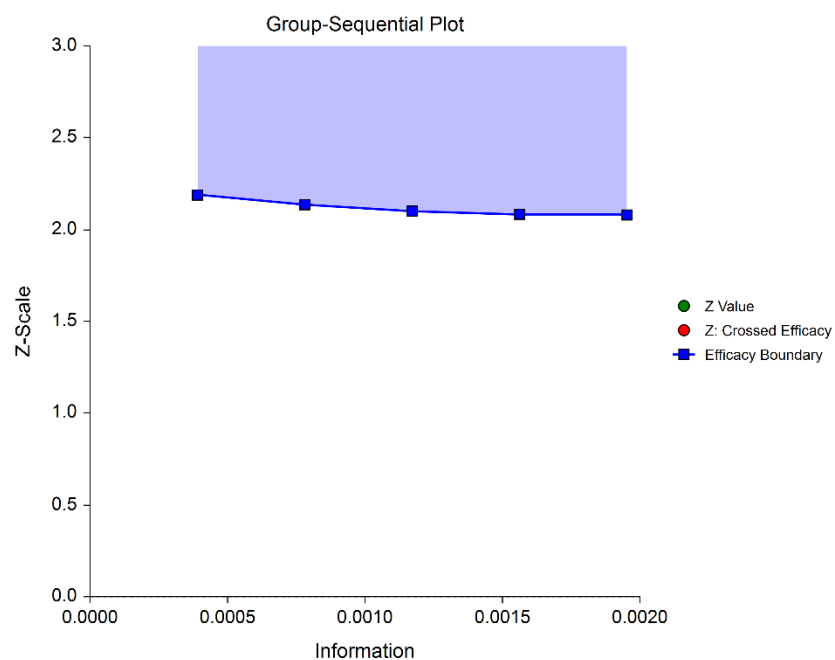


## Group-Sequential Superiority by a Margin Tests for Two Proportions (Simulation)

$$\gamma = -1$$

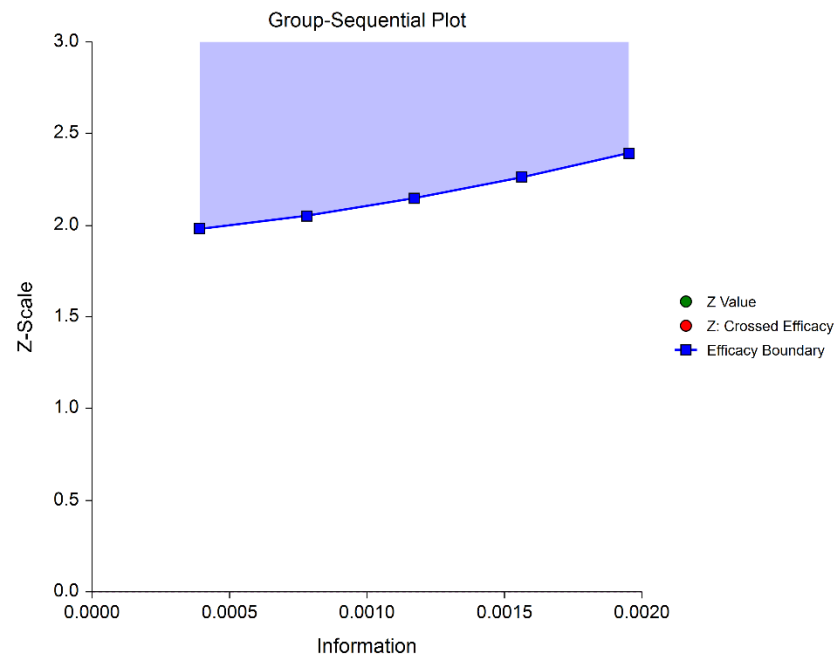


$$\gamma = 1$$



## Group-Sequential Superiority by a Margin Tests for Two Proportions (Simulation)

$$\gamma = 3$$



## Using Simulation to obtain Boundary Crossing Probabilities

In addition to providing an overall estimate of power, it can be useful to researchers to know the probability of crossing each of the group-sequential boundaries, given a specified assumed value for the proportions. The following steps are used to estimate these probabilities using simulation:

1. Determine the target (cumulative) sample sizes for each stage, including the final stage. Fractional sample sizes are rounded up to the next integer.
2. For each simulation, obtain a simulated data set with the final stage sample sizes. Simulated values are generated from Bernoulli distributions with user-specified proportions.
3. Determine whether simulation Z-values are 'held out' after crossing a boundary, or whether simulation Z-values are 'left in' (compared to boundaries at all future stages, regardless of whether a boundary was crossed at a previous stage).
  - a. If simulation Z-values are 'held out' after crossing a boundary, it is determined for each simulation which boundary was crossed first (except in the case of non-binding futility boundaries).
  - b. If simulation Z-values are 'left in' after crossing a boundary, it is determined for each simulation all the boundaries where the Z-value is across the boundary.
4. The proportion of simulations crossing each boundary provides an estimate of the probability of crossing each boundary, given the specified assumed proportions.

## Group-Sequential Superiority by a Margin Tests for Two Proportions (Simulation)

5. Overall power and alpha calculations are also based on the specification of 'held out' or 'left in'.
  - a. When Hold Out is selected, power and alpha are calculated as the sum of all efficacy boundary proportions.
  - b. When Leave In is selected, power and alpha are calculated as the efficacy boundary proportion of the final stage.

**Non-binding Futility Boundaries**

When non-binding futility boundaries are used, the study may continue when a futility boundary is crossed. The simulation proportions will have a slightly different interpretation when this is the case.

## Example 1 – Sample Size and Initial Boundaries for a Group-Sequential Test

A childbirth study is to be conducted to determine whether a new approach during labor results in a proportion of C-sections that is lower than that of the standard techniques by at least 0.05. Thus, the desired margin of superiority is 0.05. The response for each patient is C-section or no C-section. A one-sided test with alpha equal to 0.025 is used. The Z-Test will use unpooled variance estimation with no continuity correction.

The new approach is assigned to Group 1, and the standard is assigned to Group 2, so that the null and alternative hypotheses are

$$H_0: P_1 - P_2 = -0.05 \quad (H_0: P_{New} = P_{Std} - 0.05)$$

versus

$$H_a: P_1 - P_2 < -0.05 \quad (H_a: P_{New} < P_{Std} - 0.05)$$

The design calls for five equally spaced stages if the final stage is reached. A power of 0.90 is needed. The assumed caesarian proportion for the standard approach is 0.31. Researchers wish to examine the sample sizes needed for new approach proportions of 0.18, 0.20, and 0.22. Both efficacy and non-binding futility boundaries are intended. The efficacy (alpha-spending) spending function used is the O'Brien-Fleming analog. The Hwang-Shih-DeCani (Gamma) beta-spending function with gamma parameter 1.5 is used for futility.

### Setup

If the procedure window is not already open, use the PASS Home window to open it. The parameters for this example are listed below and are stored in the **Example 1** settings file. To load these settings to the procedure window, click **Open Example Settings File** in the Help Center or File menu.

#### Design Tab

Solve For .....	<b>Sample Size</b>
Power.....	<b>0.90</b>
Alpha.....	<b>0.025</b>
Group Allocation .....	<b>Equal (N1 = N2)</b>
P1 .....	<b>0.18 0.20 0.22</b>
P2 .....	<b>0.31</b>
SM (Superiority Margin) .....	<b>0.05</b>
Maximum Number of Stages (K).....	<b>5</b>
Info. Proportion at each Stage .....	<b>Equally incremented</b>
Continuity Correction .....	<b>No</b>
Zero Count Adjustment Method .....	<b>None</b>
Boundaries Used .....	<b>Efficacy with Futility</b>
Hypothesis Direction .....	<b>Ha: P1 - P2 &lt; - SM  (Lower proportions are better)</b>
Boundary Specification .....	<b>Spending Function Calculation</b>
Alpha Spending Function.....	<b>O'Brien-Fleming Analog</b>
Skipped Efficacy Stages .....	<b>&lt;Empty&gt;</b>

## Group-Sequential Superiority by a Margin Tests for Two Proportions (Simulation)

Design Beta ..... **0.10**  
 Beta Spending Function..... **Hwang-Shih-DeCani ( $\gamma$ )**  
 $\gamma$  ..... **1.5**  
 Skipped Futility Stages ..... **<Empty>**  
 Binding or Non-Binding Futility..... **Non-Binding**

## Options Tab

---

Number of Simulations..... **10000**  
 Random Seed..... **86415631** (for Reproducibility)  
 After Boundary Crossing..... **Hold out**

## Boundary Reports Tab

---

All Reports ..... **Checked**

## Boundary Plots Tab

---

Z-Statistic vs Information ..... **Checked**  
 Z-Statistic vs Stage ..... **Checked**  
 Z-Statistic vs N..... **Checked**

## Summary Reports Tab

---

All Reports ..... **Checked**

## Summary Plots Tab

---

All plots ..... **Checked** (only 2D will be used)



## Output

Click the Calculate button to perform the calculations and generate the following output. Due to simulation time, this run will take a few minutes. The simulation results will differ slightly for each separate run.

### Run Summary Report – Scenario 1

This report can be used to confirm that the input was processed as intended.

#### Run Summary Report - Scenario 1

Item	Value
Solve For	Sample Size
Maximum Number of Stages (Design)	5
Current Stage	0
Alternative Hypothesis	$P1 - P2 < - SM $
Superiority Margin (SM)	0.05
Alpha Spending Function	O'Brien-Fleming Analog
Beta Spending Function	Hwang-Shih-DeCani ( $\gamma = 1.5$ )
Futility Boundaries	Non-Binding
Target Alpha	0.025
Alpha (from simulations)	0.0266
P1	0.18
P2	0.31
N1 (if final stage reached)	605
N2 (if final stage reached)	605
Target Power	0.9
Power (from simulations)	0.9028
Maximum Information	1673.5823

### Z-Value Boundaries

This section gives the planning stage Z-statistic boundaries, numerically. These values are reflected in the group-sequential boundary plot.

#### Z-Value Boundaries

Maximum Information: 1673.5823  
 Alternative Hypothesis:  $P1 - P2 < -|SM|$   
 Futility Boundaries: Non-Binding

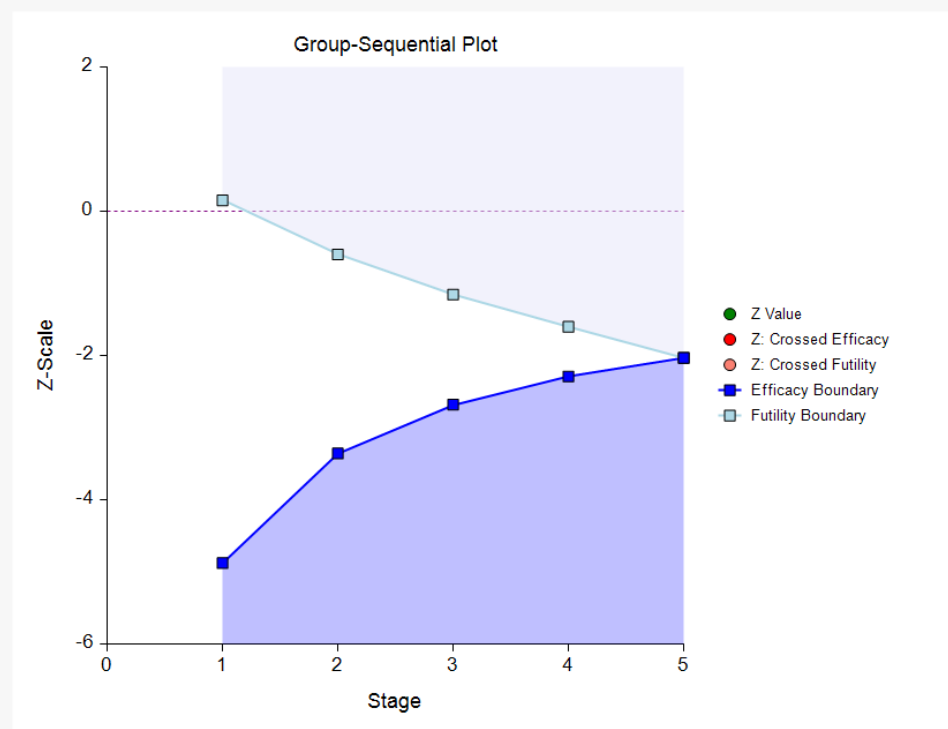
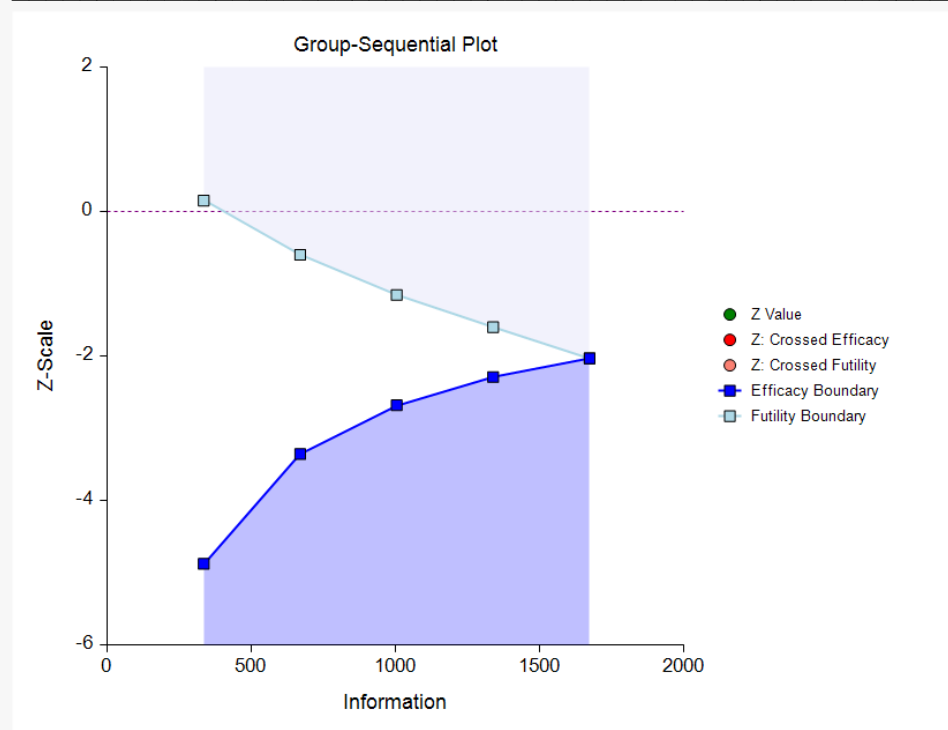
Stage	Boundaries		Information Proportion
	Efficacy	Futility	
1	-4.8769	0.1534	0.2
2	-3.3569	-0.5982	0.4
3	-2.6803	-1.1542	0.6
4	-2.2898	-1.6011	0.8
5	-2.0310	-2.0310	1.0

## Group-Sequential Superiority by a Margin Tests for Two Proportions (Simulation)

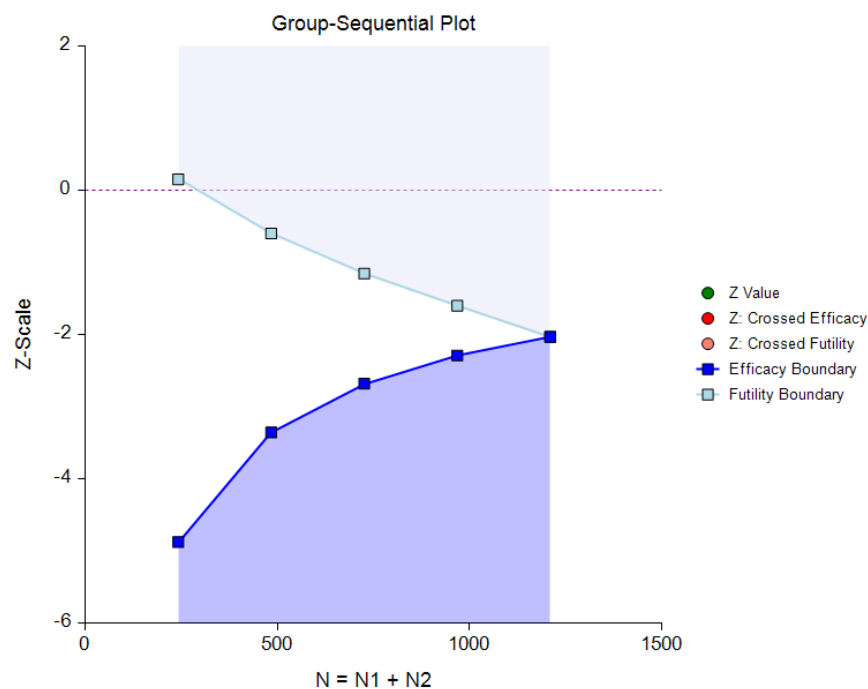
## Boundary Plot(s)

This plot shows the efficacy and futility Z-statistic planning boundaries. It is anticipated that these boundaries will adjust to the actual information proportions as the data for each stage is realized.

Boundary Plot(s)



## Group-Sequential Superiority by a Margin Tests for Two Proportions (Simulation)



## P-Value Boundaries

This section reflects the conversion of the Z-value boundaries to the corresponding P-value boundaries.

## P-Value Boundaries

Maximum Information: 1673.5823  
 Alternative Hypothesis:  $P_1 - P_2 < -|SM|$   
 Futility Boundaries: Non-Binding  
 P-value boundaries are one-sided values.

Stage	Boundaries		Information Proportion
	Efficacy	Futility	
1	0.00000	0.56095	0.2
2	0.00039	0.27484	0.4
3	0.00368	0.12421	0.6
4	0.01102	0.05468	0.8
5	0.02113	0.02113	1.0

## Group-Sequential Superiority by a Margin Tests for Two Proportions (Simulation)

## Information Report

This section gives the target information for each stage, as well as the sample sizes and proportions used to calculate those informations.

## Information Report

Maximum Information: 1673.5823  
 Alternative Hypothesis:  $P1 - P2 < -|SM|$   
 Alpha: 0.025

Stage	Target Information Proportion	Target Information	Target Sample Size		P1	P2
			N1	N2		
1	0.2	334.7165	121	121	0.18	0.31
2	0.4	669.4329	242	242	0.18	0.31
3	0.6	1004.1494	363	363	0.18	0.31
4	0.8	1338.8658	484	484	0.18	0.31
5	1.0	1673.5823	605	605	0.18	0.31

## Alpha Spending

This section shows how alpha is anticipated to be spent across the stages.

## Alpha Spending

Target Final Stage Alpha: 0.025  
 Spending Function: O'Brien-Fleming Analog

Stage	Information Proportion	Alpha Spent this Stage	Cumulative Alpha Spent	Nominal (Boundary) Alpha	Percentage Alpha Spent this Stage	Cumulative Percentage Alpha Spent
1 *	0.2	0.0000	0.0000	0.000001	0.0	0.0
2 *	0.4	0.0004	0.0004	0.000394	1.6	1.6
3 *	0.6	0.0034	0.0038	0.003678	13.7	15.2
4 *	0.8	0.0084	0.0122	0.011017	33.6	48.8
5 *	1.0	0.0128	0.0250	0.021128	51.2	100.0

\* projected

## Group-Sequential Superiority by a Margin Tests for Two Proportions (Simulation)

## Beta Spending for Futility

This section shows how beta is anticipated to be spent across the stages.

**Beta Spending for Futility**

Target Cumulative Beta at Final Stage: 0.1  
 Spending Function for Futility: Hwang-Shih-DeCani ( $\gamma = 1.5$ )

Stage	Information Proportion	Beta Spent this Stage	Cumulative Beta Spent	Nominal (Boundary) Beta	Percentage Beta Spent this Stage	Cumulative Percentage Beta Spent
1 *	0.2	0.0334	0.0334	0.560952	33.4	33.4
2 *	0.4	0.0247	0.0581	0.274840	24.7	58.1
3 *	0.6	0.0183	0.0764	0.124207	18.3	76.4
4 *	0.8	0.0136	0.0900	0.054676	13.6	90.0
5 *	1.0	0.0100	0.1000	0.021128	10.0	100.0

\* projected

Boundary Probabilities for  $\delta = -0.13$ 

Using simulation based on the specified proportions, this section gives the estimated probabilities of crossing each of the boundaries. Values given here will vary for each simulation.

**Boundary Probabilities for  $\delta = -0.13$** 

Number of Simulations: 10000  
 Random Seed: 86415631 (User-Entered)  
 Futility Boundaries: Non-Binding  
 After Efficacy Boundary Crossing: Hold Out  
 After Non-Binding Futility Boundary Crossing: Leave In  
 Alternative Hypothesis:  $P1 - P2 < -|SM|$   
 Superiority Margin (SM): 0.05  
 P1: 0.18  
 P2: 0.31  
 $\delta$ : -0.13

Stage	N1	N2	Efficacy		Futility	
			Boundary	Probability	Boundary	Probability
1	*121	*121	-4.8769	0.0006	0.1534	0.0613
2	*242	*242	-3.3569	0.1046	-0.5982	0.0695
3	*363	*363	-2.6803	0.3432	-1.1542	0.0841
4	*484	*484	-2.2898	0.2947	-1.6011	0.0871
5	*605	*605	-2.0310	0.1597	-2.0310	0.1031

\* Simulation sample size (Non-integer sample sizes were rounded to the next highest integer.)

Average N1: 448.0267  
 Average N2: 448.0267

## Group-Sequential Superiority by a Margin Tests for Two Proportions (Simulation)

Boundary Probabilities for  $\delta = -|SM|$  (Alpha)

This section estimates the probabilities of crossing each boundary if the difference for each stage is assumed to be the superiority margin.

**Boundary Probabilities for  $\delta = -|SM|$  (Alpha)**

Number of Simulations:	10000
Random Seed:	86415631 (User-Entered)
Futility Boundaries:	Non-Binding
After Efficacy Boundary Crossing:	Hold Out
After Non-Binding Futility Boundary Crossing:	Leave In
Alternative Hypothesis:	$P1 - P2 < - SM $
Superiority Margin (SM):	0.05
P1:	$0.31 -  SM  = 0.31 - 0.05 = 0.26$
P2:	0.31
$\delta$ :	$- SM  = -0.05$

Stage	N1	N2	Efficacy		Futility	
			Boundary	Probability	Boundary	Probability
1	*121	*121	-4.8769	0.0000	0.1534	0.4354
2	*242	*242	-3.3569	0.0002	-0.5982	0.7324
3	*363	*363	-2.6803	0.0047	-1.1542	0.8800
4	*484	*484	-2.2898	0.0090	-1.6011	0.9431
5	*605	*605	-2.0310	0.0127	-2.0310	0.9776

\* Simulation sample size (Non-integer sample sizes were rounded to the next highest integer.)

Average N1: 602.701

Average N2: 602.701

## Scenario 2

All of the same boundary reports are given for Scenario 2, corresponding to a P1 value of 0.20.

## Scenario 3

All of the same boundary reports are given for Scenario 3, corresponding to a P1 value of 0.22.

## Group-Sequential Superiority by a Margin Tests for Two Proportions (Simulation)

## Power and Sample Size Summary

## Power and Sample Size Summary

Solve For:	Sample Size
Maximum Number of Stages:	5
Alternative Hypothesis:	$P_1 - P_2 < - SM $
Alpha Spending Function:	O'Brien-Fleming Analog
Beta Spending Function:	Hwang-Shih-DeCanì ( $\gamma = 1.5$ )
Number of Simulations:	10000
Random Seed:	86415631 (User-Entered)

Target Power	Sim Power	N1	N2	N	P1	P2	SM	Target Alpha	Sim Alpha
0.9	0.9028	605	605	1210	0.18	0.31	0.05	0.025	0.0266
0.9	0.9018	1122	1122	2244	0.20	0.31	0.05	0.025	0.0255
0.9	0.9004	2571	2571	5142	0.22	0.31	0.05	0.025	0.0250

Target Power	The desired power value (or values) entered in the procedure.
Sim Power	The proportion of simulation z-values that cross an efficacy boundary. Because "After Boundary Crossing" is set to "Hold out," it is the sum of the individual boundary crossing proportions.
N1 and N2	The anticipated number of individuals in each group if the final stage is reached.
N	The total sample size if the final stage is reached. $N = N_1 + N_2$ .
P1	The assumed proportion of population 1 for power calculation simulations.
P2	The assumed proportion of population 2 for power calculation simulations. $P_2 \pm  SM $ is the assumed proportion of population 1 for alpha calculation simulations.
SM	The superiority margin.
Target Alpha	The alpha used in the computation of the boundaries. The desired overall probability of a Type 1 error.
Sim Alpha	The proportion of null simulation z-values that cross an efficacy boundary. Because "After Boundary Crossing" is set to "Hold out," it is the sum of the individual boundary crossing proportions.

## Summary Statements

A parallel, two-group, group-sequential design with a maximum of 5 stages (where lower proportions are considered better) will be used to test whether the Group 1 (treatment) proportion is superior to the Group 2 (control) proportion by a margin, with a superiority margin of 0.05 ( $H_0: P_1 - P_2 \geq -0.05$  versus  $H_1: P_1 - P_2 < -0.05$ ). The comparison will be made at each stage using a two-sample Z-test, with efficacy and futility boundary values calculated from the designated spending functions. The target cumulative Type I error rate ( $\alpha$ ) at the final stage is 0.025. To detect a Group 1 proportion of 0.18 and a Group 2 proportion of 0.31 (difference of -0.13), with 90% power, the number of needed subjects at the final stage will be 605 in Group 1 and 605 in Group 2.

## References

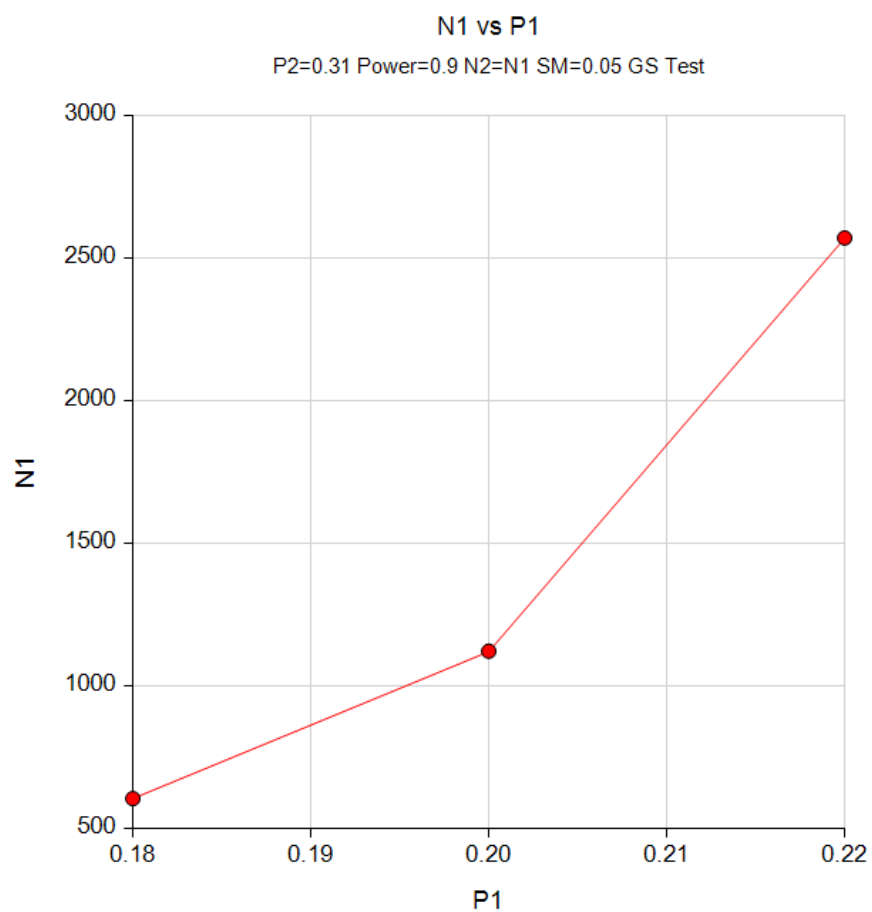
- Jennison, C. and Turnbull, B.W. 2000. Group Sequential Methods with Applications to Clinical Trials. Chapman and Hall/CRC. Boca Raton.
- Lan, K.K.G. and DeMets, D.L. 1983. 'Discrete sequential boundaries for clinical trials.' Biometrika, 70, pages 659-663.
- Reboussin, D.M., DeMets, D.L., Kim, K., and Lan, K.K.G. 1992. 'Programs for computing group sequential boundaries using the Lan-DeMets Method.' Technical Report 60, Department of Biostatistics, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

This report shows the values of each of the parameters, one scenario per row. The values may vary slightly due to the variation in simulations. The details for each of the rows of this report are given in the earlier boundary reports.

The values from this table are exhibited in the plot below.

## Plots Section for Power and Sample Size Summary

### Plots





## Example 2 – Skipping Stage Boundaries

Suppose that the scenario is exactly as in Example 1, except that the first two futility boundaries are to be skipped.

### Setup

If the procedure window is not already open, use the PASS Home window to open it. The parameters for this example are listed below and are stored in the **Example 2** settings file. To load these settings to the procedure window, click **Open Example Settings File** in the Help Center or File menu.

#### Design Tab

Solve For .....	<b>Sample Size</b>
Power.....	<b>0.90</b>
Alpha.....	<b>0.025</b>
Group Allocation .....	<b>Equal (N1 = N2)</b>
P1 .....	<b>0.18 0.20 0.22</b>
P2 .....	<b>0.31</b>
SM (Superiority Margin) .....	<b>0.05</b>
Maximum Number of Stages (K).....	<b>5</b>
Info. Proportion at each Stage .....	<b>Equally incremented</b>
Continuity Correction .....	<b>No</b>
Zero Count Adjustment Method .....	<b>None</b>
Boundaries Used .....	<b>Efficacy with Futility</b>
Hypothesis Direction.....	<b>Ha: P1 - P2 &lt; - SM  (Lower proportions are better)</b>
Boundary Specification .....	<b>Spending Function Calculation</b>
Alpha Spending Function.....	<b>O'Brien-Fleming Analog</b>
Skipped Efficacy Stages .....	<b>&lt;Empty&gt;</b>
Design Beta .....	<b>0.10</b>
Beta Spending Function.....	<b>Hwang-Shih-DeCani (<math>\gamma</math>)</b>
$\gamma$ .....	<b>1.5</b>
<b>Skipped Futility Stages</b> .....	<b>1 2</b>
Binding or Non-Binding Futility.....	<b>Non-Binding</b>

#### Options Tab

Number of Simulations.....	<b>100</b>
Random Seed.....	<b>Random</b>
After Boundary Crossing.....	<b>Hold out</b>

#### Boundary Reports Tab

All Reports .....	<b>Checked</b>
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#### Boundary Plots Tab

Z-Statistic vs Information .....	<b>Checked</b>
Z-Statistic vs Stage.....	<b>Checked</b>
Z-Statistic vs N.....	<b>Checked</b>

## Group-Sequential Superiority by a Margin Tests for Two Proportions (Simulation)

## Summary Reports Tab

All Reports ..... **Checked**

## Summary Plots Tab

All plots ..... **Checked** (only 2D will be used)

## Output

Click the Calculate button to perform the calculations and generate the following output. The simulation results will differ slightly for each separate run.

### Run Summary Report

## Run Summary Report - Scenario 1

Item	Value
Solve For	Sample Size
Maximum Number of Stages (Design)	5
Skipped Futility Stage(s)	1 2
Current Stage	0
Alternative Hypothesis	$P1 - P2 < - SM $
Superiority Margin (SM)	0.05
Alpha Spending Function	O'Brien-Fleming Analog
Beta Spending Function	Hwang-Shih-DeCani ( $\gamma = 1.5$ )
Futility Boundaries	Non-Binding
Target Alpha	0.0250
Alpha (from simulations)	0.0247
P1	0.18
P2	0.31
N1 (if final stage reached)	609
N2 (if final stage reached)	609
Target Power	0.9
Power (from simulations)	0.9078
Maximum Information	1684.6473

## Group-Sequential Superiority by a Margin Tests for Two Proportions (Simulation)

## Z-Value Boundaries

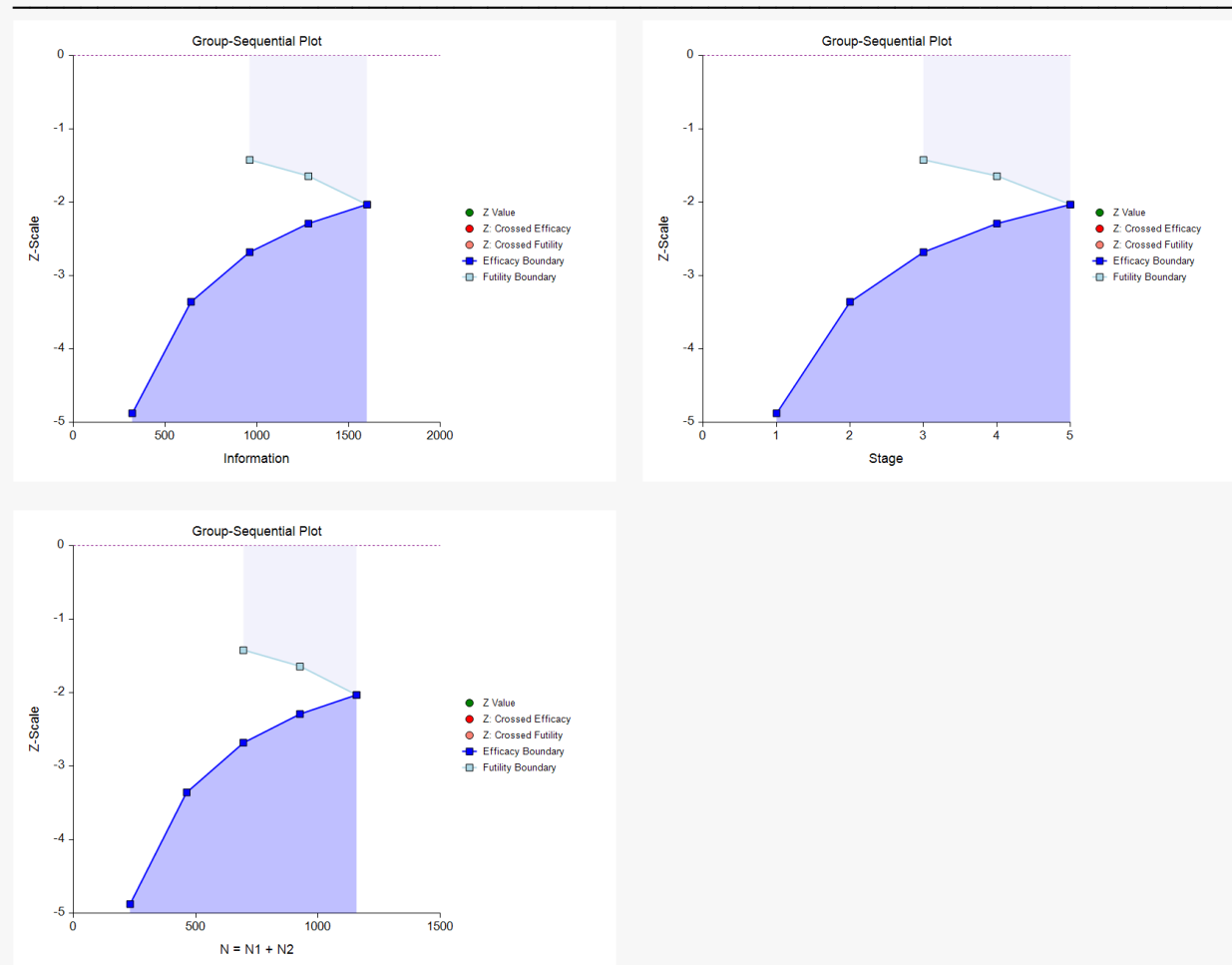
## Z-Value Boundaries

Maximum Information: 1684.6473  
 Alternative Hypothesis:  $P_1 - P_2 < -|SM|$   
 Futility Boundaries: Non-Binding

Stage	Boundaries		Information Proportion
	Efficacy	Futility	
1	-4.8769		0.2
2	-3.3569		0.4
3	-2.6803	-1.4232	0.6
4	-2.2898	-1.6443	0.8
5	-2.0310	-2.0310	1.0

## Boundary Plot(s)

## Boundary Plot(s)



## Group-Sequential Superiority by a Margin Tests for Two Proportions (Simulation)

## P-Value Boundaries

## P-Value Boundaries

Maximum Information: 1684.6473  
 Alternative Hypothesis:  $P_1 - P_2 < -|SM|$   
 Futility Boundaries: Non-Binding  
 P-value boundaries are one-sided values.

Stage	Boundaries		Information Proportion
	Efficacy	Futility	
1	0.00000		0.2
2	0.00039		0.4
3	0.00368	0.07733	0.6
4	0.01102	0.05006	0.8
5	0.02113	0.02113	1.0

## Information Report

## Information Report

Maximum Information: 1684.6473  
 Alternative Hypothesis:  $P_1 - P_2 < -|SM|$   
 Alpha: 0.025

Stage	Target Information Proportion	Target Information	Target Sample Size		P1	P2
			N1	N2		
1	0.2	336.9295	121.8	121.8	0.18	0.31
2	0.4	673.8589	243.6	243.6	0.18	0.31
3	0.6	1010.7884	365.4	365.4	0.18	0.31
4	0.8	1347.7178	487.2	487.2	0.18	0.31
5	1.0	1684.6473	609.0	609.00	0.18	0.31

## Alpha Spending

## Alpha Spending

Target Final Stage Alpha: 0.025  
 Spending Function: O'Brien-Fleming Analog

Stage	Information Proportion	Alpha Spent this Stage	Cumulative Alpha Spent	Nominal (Boundary) Alpha	Percentage Alpha Spent this Stage	Cumulative Percentage Alpha Spent
1 *	0.2	0.0000	0.0000	0.000001	0.0	0.0
2 *	0.4	0.0004	0.0004	0.000394	1.6	1.6
3 *	0.6	0.0034	0.0038	0.003678	13.7	15.2
4 *	0.8	0.0084	0.0122	0.011017	33.6	48.8
5 *	1.0	0.0128	0.0250	0.021128	51.2	100.0

\* projected

## Group-Sequential Superiority by a Margin Tests for Two Proportions (Simulation)

## Beta Spending for Futility

## Beta Spending for Futility

Target Cumulative Beta at Final Stage: 0.1  
 Spending Function for Futility: Hwang-Shih-DeCani ( $\gamma = 1.5$ )

Stage	Information Proportion	Beta Spent this Stage	Cumulative Beta Spent	Nominal (Boundary) Beta	Percentage Beta Spent this Stage	Cumulative Percentage Beta Spent
1 *	0.2	0.0000	0.0000	1.000000	0.0	0.0
2 *	0.4	0.0000	0.0000	1.000000	0.0	0.0
3 *	0.6	0.0764	0.0764	0.077334	76.4	76.4
4 *	0.8	0.0136	0.0900	0.050056	13.6	90.0
5 *	1.0	0.0100	0.1000	0.021128	10.0	100.0

\* projected

Boundary Probabilities for  $\delta = -0.13$ Boundary Probabilities for  $\delta = -0.13$ 

Number of Simulations: 10000  
 Futility Boundaries: Non-Binding  
 After Efficacy Boundary Crossing: Hold Out  
 After Non-Binding Futility Boundary Crossing: Leave In  
 Alternative Hypothesis:  $P1 - P2 < -|SM|$   
 Superiority Margin (SM): 0.05  
 P1: 0.18  
 P2: 0.31  
 $\delta$ : -0.13

Stage	N1	N2	Efficacy		Futility	
			Boundary	Probability	Boundary	Probability
1	*121.8	*121.8	-4.8769	0.0005		0.0000
2	*243.6	*243.6	-3.3569	0.1088		0.0000
3	*365.4	*365.4	-2.6803	0.3489	-1.4232	0.1221
4	*487.2	*487.2	-2.2898	0.2974	-1.6443	0.0951
5	*609.0	*609.0	-2.0310	0.1522	-2.0310	0.0994

\* Simulation sample size (Non-integer sample sizes were rounded to the next highest integer.)

Average N1: 447.78552

Average N2: 447.78552

## Group-Sequential Superiority by a Margin Tests for Two Proportions (Simulation)

Boundary Probabilities for  $\delta = -|SM|$  (Alpha)Boundary Probabilities for  $\delta = -|SM|$  (Alpha)

Number of Simulations:	10000
Futility Boundaries:	Non-Binding
After Efficacy Boundary Crossing:	Hold Out
After Non-Binding Futility Boundary Crossing:	Leave In
Alternative Hypothesis:	$P1 - P2 < - SM $
Superiority Margin (SM):	0.05
P1:	$0.31 -  SM  = 0.31 - 0.05 = 0.26$
P2:	0.31
$\delta$ :	$- SM  = -0.05$

Stage	N1	N2	Efficacy		Futility	
			Boundary	Probability	Boundary	Probability
1	*121.8	*121.8	-4.8769	0.0000		0.0000
2	*243.6	*243.6	-3.3569	0.0004		0.0000
3	*365.4	*365.4	-2.6803	0.0036	-1.4232	0.9253
4	*487.2	*487.2	-2.2898	0.0080	-1.6443	0.9503
5	*609.0	*609.0	-2.0310	0.0127	-2.0310	0.9791

\* Simulation sample size (Non-integer sample sizes were rounded to the next highest integer.)

Average N1: 607.00248  
Average N2: 607.00248

## Scenario 2

All of the same boundary reports are given for Scenario 2, corresponding to a P1 value of 0.20.

## Scenario 3

All of the same boundary reports are given for Scenario 3, corresponding to a P1 value of 0.22.

## Power and Sample Size Summary

## Power and Sample Size Summary

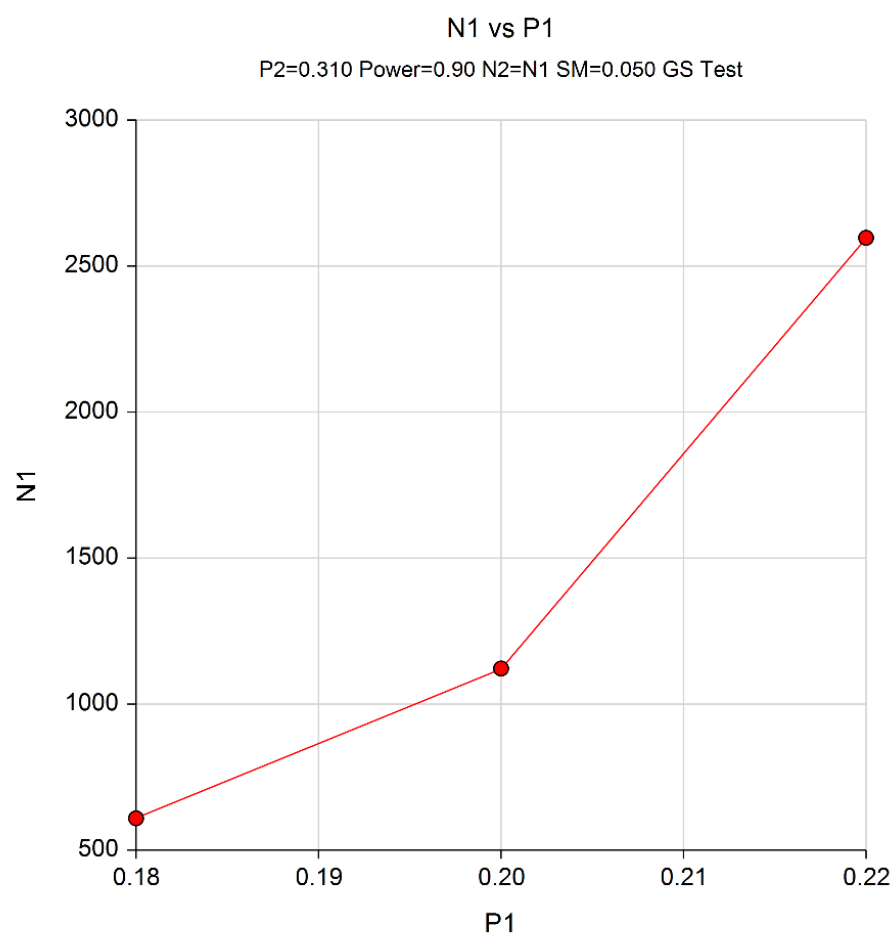
Solve For:	Sample Size
Maximum Number of Stages:	5
Skipped Futility Stage(s):	1 2
Alternative Hypothesis:	$P1 - P2 < - SM $
Alpha Spending Function:	O'Brien-Fleming Analog
Beta Spending Function:	Hwang-Shih-DeCani ( $\gamma = 1.5$ )
Number of Simulations:	10000

Target Power	Sim Power	N1	N2	N	P1	P2	SM	Target Alpha	Sim Alpha
0.9	0.90780	609	609	1218	0.18	0.31	0.05	0.025	0.0247
0.9	0.90120	1122	1122	2244	0.20	0.31	0.05	0.025	0.0264
0.9	0.90380	2597	2597	5194	0.22	0.31	0.05	0.025	0.0259

This report shows no change in overall sample size.

## Plots Section for Power and Sample Size Summary

## Plots



## Example 3 – Finding Power

Suppose that the scenario is similar to the setup of Example 1, except that now we will solve for power for various sample sizes of 100, 200, 300, 400, and 500 per group.

### Setup

If the procedure window is not already open, use the PASS Home window to open it. The parameters for this example are listed below and are stored in the **Example 3** settings file. To load these settings to the procedure window, click **Open Example Settings File** in the Help Center or File menu.

#### Design Tab

Solve For .....	<b>Power</b>
Alpha.....	<b>0.025</b>
Group Allocation .....	<b>Equal (N1 = N2)</b>
Sample Size Per Group .....	<b>100 200 300 400 500</b>
P1 .....	<b>0.18 0.20 0.22</b>
P2 .....	<b>0.31</b>
SM (Superiority Margin) .....	<b>0.05</b>
Maximum Number of Stages (K).....	<b>5</b>
Info. Proportion at each Stage .....	<b>Equally incremented</b>
Continuity Correction .....	<b>No</b>
Zero Count Adjustment Method .....	<b>None</b>
Boundaries Used .....	<b>Efficacy with Futility</b>
Hypothesis Direction.....	<b>Ha: P1 - P2 &lt; - SM  (Lower proportions are better)</b>
Boundary Specification .....	<b>Spending Function Calculation</b>
Alpha Spending Function.....	<b>O'Brien-Fleming Analog</b>
Skipped Efficacy Stages .....	<b>&lt;Empty&gt;</b>
Design Beta .....	<b>0.10</b>
Beta Spending Function.....	<b>Hwang-Shih-DeCani (<math>\gamma</math>)</b>
$\gamma$ .....	<b>1.5</b>
Skipped Futility Stages .....	<b>&lt;Empty&gt;</b>
Binding or Non-Binding Futility.....	<b>Non-Binding</b>

#### Options Tab

Number of Simulations.....	<b>10000</b>
Random Seed.....	<b>Random</b>
After Boundary Crossing.....	<b>Hold out</b>

#### Boundary Reports Tab

All Reports .....	<b>Checked</b>
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#### Boundary Plots Tab

Z-Statistic vs Information .....	<b>Checked</b>
Z-Statistic vs Stage.....	<b>Checked</b>
Z-Statistic vs N.....	<b>Checked</b>



## Group-Sequential Superiority by a Margin Tests for Two Proportions (Simulation)

## Summary Reports Tab

All Reports ..... **Checked**

## Summary Plots Tab

All plots ..... **Checked**

## Output

Click the Calculate button to perform the calculations and generate the following output. The simulation results will differ slightly for each separate run.

## Scenario Reports

All of the scenario reports for each of the 15 scenarios are generated in the output, but they are not shown here.

## Power and Sample Size Summary

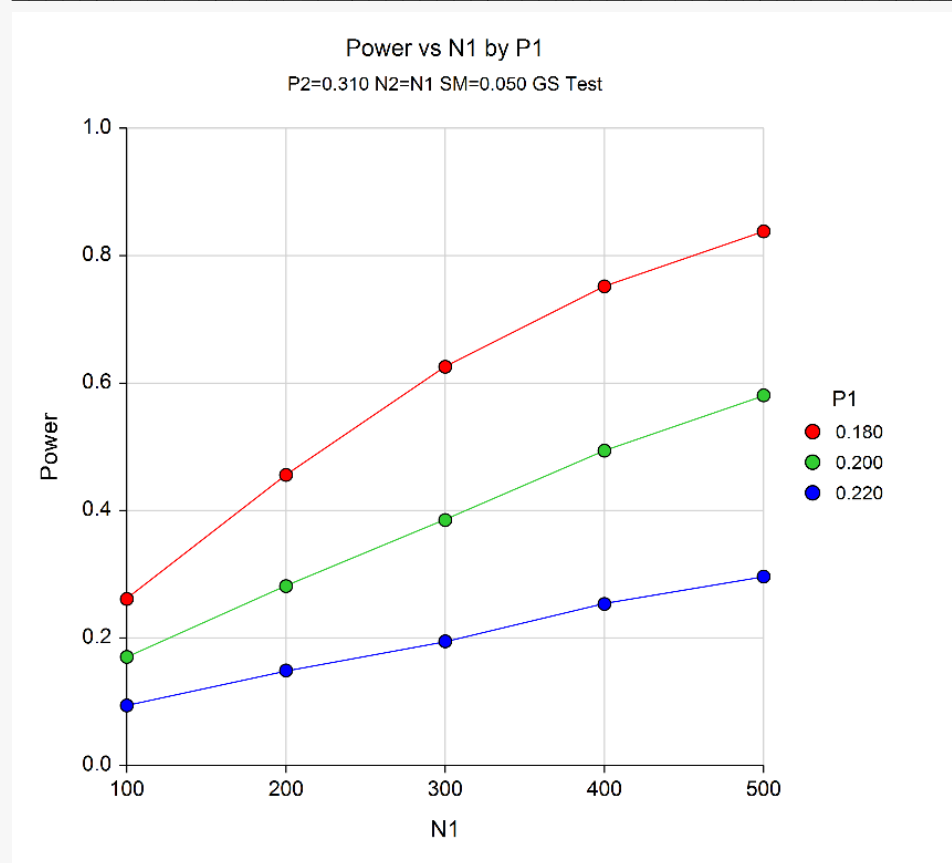
### Power and Sample Size Summary

Solve For: **Power**  
 Maximum Number of Stages: 5  
 Alternative Hypothesis:  $P1 - P2 < -|SM|$   
 Alpha Spending Function: O'Brien-Fleming Analog  
 Beta Spending Function: Hwang-Shih-DeCani ( $\gamma = 1.5$ )  
 Number of Simulations: 10000

Sim Power	N1	N2	N	P1	P2	SM	Target Alpha	Sim Alpha
0.2611	100	100	200	0.18	0.31	0.05	0.025	0.0267
0.4558	200	200	400	0.18	0.31	0.05	0.025	0.0250
0.6255	300	300	600	0.18	0.31	0.05	0.025	0.0271
0.7517	400	400	800	0.18	0.31	0.05	0.025	0.0260
0.8380	500	500	1000	0.18	0.31	0.05	0.025	0.0260
0.1702	100	100	200	0.20	0.31	0.05	0.025	0.0265
0.2813	200	200	400	0.20	0.31	0.05	0.025	0.0239
0.3850	300	300	600	0.20	0.31	0.05	0.025	0.0248
0.4939	400	400	800	0.20	0.31	0.05	0.025	0.0259
0.5807	500	500	1000	0.20	0.31	0.05	0.025	0.0269
0.0940	100	100	200	0.22	0.31	0.05	0.025	0.0272
0.1489	200	200	400	0.22	0.31	0.05	0.025	0.0252
0.1947	300	300	600	0.22	0.31	0.05	0.025	0.0290
0.2533	400	400	800	0.22	0.31	0.05	0.025	0.0279
0.2963	500	500	1000	0.22	0.31	0.05	0.025	0.0233

## Plots Section for Power and Sample Size Summary

## Plots



The power curve plot shows the effect of sample size and proportion difference on the power for each scenario.

## Example 4 – Finding Power with Binding Futility Boundaries

Following the setup of Example 3, we wish to see the effect on power of changing from non-binding futility boundaries to binding futility boundaries.

### Setup

If the procedure window is not already open, use the PASS Home window to open it. The parameters for this example are listed below and are stored in the **Example 4** settings file. To load these settings to the procedure window, click **Open Example Settings File** in the Help Center or File menu.

#### Design Tab

Solve For .....	<b>Power</b>
Alpha.....	<b>0.025</b>
Group Allocation .....	<b>Equal (N1 = N2)</b>
Sample Size Per Group .....	<b>100 200 300 400 500</b>
P1 .....	<b>0.18 0.20 0.22</b>
P2 .....	<b>0.31</b>
SM (Superiority Margin) .....	<b>0.05</b>
Maximum Number of Stages (K).....	<b>5</b>
Info. Proportion at each Stage .....	<b>Equally incremented</b>
Continuity Correction .....	<b>No</b>
Zero Count Adjustment Method .....	<b>None</b>
Boundaries Used .....	<b>Efficacy with Futility</b>
Hypothesis Direction .....	<b>Ha: P1 - P2 &lt; - SM  (Lower proportions are better)</b>
Boundary Specification .....	<b>Spending Function Calculation</b>
Alpha Spending Function.....	<b>O'Brien-Fleming Analog</b>
Skipped Efficacy Stages .....	<b>&lt;Empty&gt;</b>
Design Beta .....	<b>0.10</b>
Beta Spending Function.....	<b>Hwang-Shih-DeCani (<math>\gamma</math>)</b>
$\gamma$ .....	<b>1.5</b>
Skipped Futility Stages .....	<b>&lt;Empty&gt;</b>
<b>Binding or Non-Binding Futility.....</b>	<b>Binding</b>

#### Options Tab

Number of Simulations.....	<b>10000</b>
Random Seed.....	<b>Random</b>
After Boundary Crossing.....	<b>Hold out</b>

#### Boundary Reports Tab

All Reports .....	<b>Checked</b>
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## Group-Sequential Superiority by a Margin Tests for Two Proportions (Simulation)

## Boundary Plots Tab

Z-Statistic vs Information ..... **Checked**Z-Statistic vs Stage ..... **Checked**Z-Statistic vs N ..... **Checked**

## Summary Reports Tab

All Reports ..... **Checked**

## Summary Plots Tab

All plots ..... **Checked**

## Output

Click the Calculate button to perform the calculations and generate the following output. The simulation results will differ slightly for each separate run.

## Scenario Reports

All the scenario reports for each of the 15 scenarios are generated in the output, but they are not shown here.

## Power and Sample Size Summary

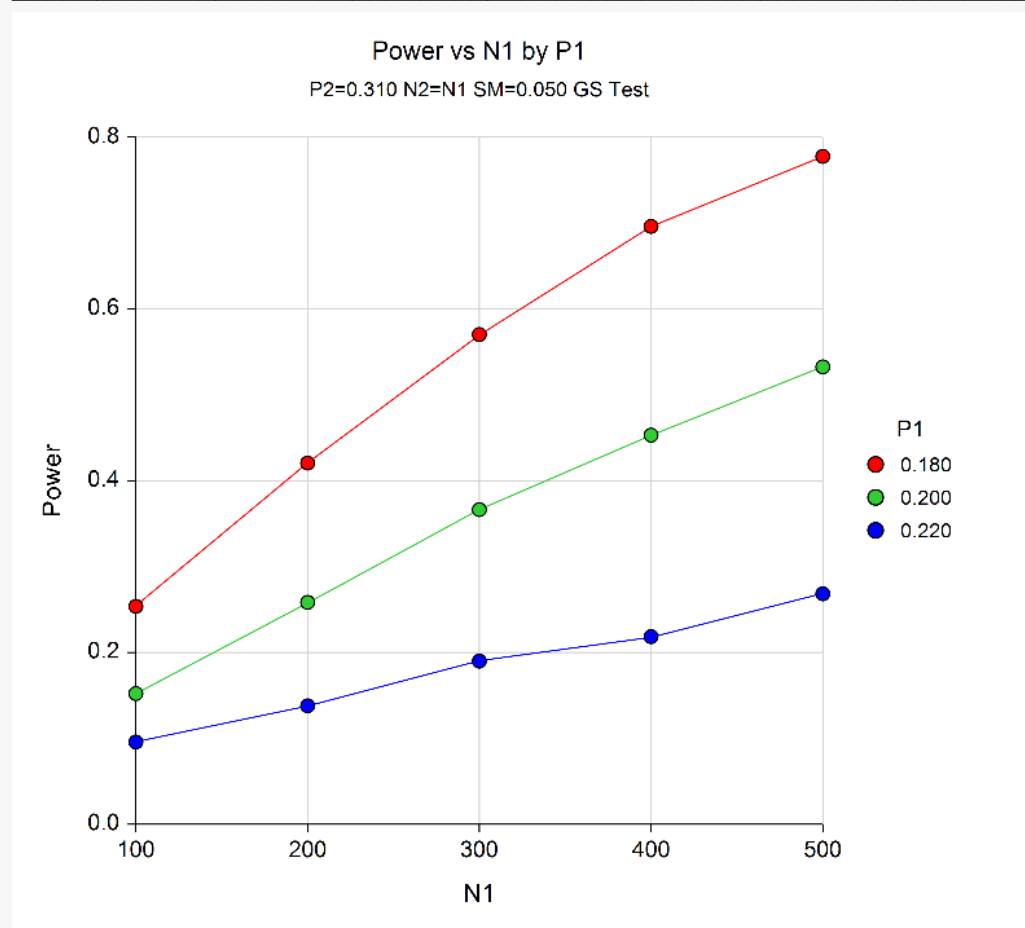
### Power and Sample Size Summary

Solve For: **Power**  
 Maximum Number of Stages: 5  
 Alternative Hypothesis:  $P1 - P2 < -|SM|$   
 Alpha Spending Function: O'Brien-Fleming Analog  
 Beta Spending Function: Hwang-Shih-DeCani ( $\gamma = 1.5$ )  
 Number of Simulations: 10000

Sim Power	N1	N2	N	P1	P2	SM	Target Alpha	Sim Alpha
0.2537	100	100	200	0.18	0.31	0.05	0.025	0.0261
0.4206	200	200	400	0.18	0.31	0.05	0.025	0.0248
0.5703	300	300	600	0.18	0.31	0.05	0.025	0.0264
0.6962	400	400	800	0.18	0.31	0.05	0.025	0.0276
0.7777	500	500	1000	0.18	0.31	0.05	0.025	0.0266
0.1521	100	100	200	0.20	0.31	0.05	0.025	0.0294
0.2584	200	200	400	0.20	0.31	0.05	0.025	0.0264
0.3663	300	300	600	0.20	0.31	0.05	0.025	0.0238
0.4531	400	400	800	0.20	0.31	0.05	0.025	0.0262
0.5326	500	500	1000	0.20	0.31	0.05	0.025	0.0266
0.0957	100	100	200	0.22	0.31	0.05	0.025	0.0277
0.1379	200	200	400	0.22	0.31	0.05	0.025	0.0263
0.1899	300	300	600	0.22	0.31	0.05	0.025	0.0260
0.2184	400	400	800	0.22	0.31	0.05	0.025	0.0264
0.2683	500	500	1000	0.22	0.31	0.05	0.025	0.0248

## Plots Section for Power and Sample Size Summary

## Plots



If the power results are compared to those with non-binding futility boundaries in Example 3, it is seen that the power for binding futility boundaries is several percent lower. Higher numbers of simulations might be used to fine-tune these differences.

## Example 5 – Comparing Numbers of Stages

Following the setup of Example 3, we wish to see the effect on power of changing the number of stages. This requires multiple runs with different numbers of stages. The numbers of stages examined here are 2, 3, 4, 5, 10 and 20. A proportion for Group 1 of 0.31 and a sample size of 500 per group will be considered.

### Setup

If the procedure window is not already open, use the PASS Home window to open it. The parameters for this example are listed below and are stored in the **Example 5** settings file. To load these settings to the procedure window, click **Open Example Settings File** in the Help Center or File menu.

#### Design Tab

Solve For .....	<b>Power</b>
Alpha.....	<b>0.025</b>
Group Allocation .....	<b>Equal (N1 = N2)</b>
Sample Size Per Group .....	<b>500</b>
P1 .....	<b>0.2</b>
P2 .....	<b>0.31</b>
SM (Superiority Margin) .....	<b>0.05</b>
Maximum Number of Stages (K).....	<b>2</b>
Info. Proportion at each Stage .....	<b>Equally incremented</b>
Continuity Correction .....	<b>No</b>
Zero Count Adjustment Method .....	<b>None</b>
Boundaries Used .....	<b>Efficacy with Futility</b>
Hypothesis Direction .....	<b>Ha: P1 - P2 &lt; - SM  (Lower proportions are better)</b>
Boundary Specification .....	<b>Spending Function Calculation</b>
Alpha Spending Function.....	<b>O'Brien-Fleming Analog</b>
Skipped Efficacy Stages .....	<b>&lt;Empty&gt;</b>
Design Beta .....	<b>0.10</b>
Beta Spending Function.....	<b>Hwang-Shih-DeCani (<math>\gamma</math>)</b>
$\gamma$ .....	<b>1.5</b>
Skipped Futility Stages .....	<b>&lt;Empty&gt;</b>
Binding or Non-Binding Futility.....	<b>Non-Binding</b>

#### Options Tab

Number of Simulations.....	<b>100000</b>
Random Seed.....	<b>Random</b>
After Boundary Crossing.....	<b>Hold out</b>

#### Boundary Reports Tab

All Reports .....	<b>Checked</b>
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## Group-Sequential Superiority by a Margin Tests for Two Proportions (Simulation)

## Boundary Plots Tab

Z-Statistic vs Information ..... **Checked**Z-Statistic vs Stage ..... **Checked**Z-Statistic vs N ..... **Checked**

## Summary Reports Tab

All Reports ..... **Checked**

## Summary Plots Tab

All plots ..... **Checked** (only 2D will be used)

## Output

Click the Calculate button to perform the calculations and generate the following output. The simulation results will differ slightly for each separate run.

## Scenario Reports

All the scenario reports for each of the 6 scenarios are generated in the output, but they are not shown here.

## Power and Sample Size Summary

### Power and Sample Size Summary

Solve For: [Power](#)  
 Maximum Number of Stages: 2 3 4 5 10 20 (separate runs)  
 Alternative Hypothesis:  $P1 - P2 < -|SM|$   
 Alpha Spending Function: O'Brien-Fleming Analog  
 Beta Spending Function: Hwang-Shih-DeCani ( $\gamma = 1.5$ )  
 Number of Simulations: 100000

Sim Power	N1	N2	N	P1	P2	SM	Target Alpha	Sim Alpha	Number of Stages
0.58913	300	300	600	0.31	0.31	0.1	0.025	0.0245	2
0.58814	300	300	600	0.31	0.31	0.1	0.025	0.0254	3
0.58384	300	300	600	0.31	0.31	0.1	0.025	0.0256	4
0.58263	300	300	600	0.31	0.31	0.1	0.025	0.0254	5
0.57745	300	300	600	0.31	0.31	0.1	0.025	0.0259	10
0.57421	300	300	600	0.31	0.31	0.1	0.025	0.0258	20

It is seen that the impact of the number of stages on the overall power is very minor.

## Example 6 – Validation Using O’Brien-Fleming Analog Boundaries

Reboussin (1992) presents an example for Binomial distributed data for a design with two-sided O’Brien-Fleming boundaries, 5 stages,  $\alpha = 0.05$ ,  $\beta = 0.10$ ,  $P_1 = 0.1100$ ,  $P_2 = 0.0825$ . They compute a sample size of 2381.78 per group. The upper boundaries are: 4.8769, 3.3569, 2.6803, 2.2898, 2.0310. We noticed a rounding issue with the calculations in Reboussin (1992). The sample size calculation of 2381.78 came from 3-digit rounding:

$$n_K = \frac{2(0.096)(0.904)(3.28)^2}{(0.028)^2} = 2381.78$$

With 4-digit rounding, we get

$$n_K = \frac{2(0.09625)(0.90375)(3.27939)^2}{(0.0275)^2} = 2474.00$$

To compare the result of Reboussin (1992) to that of **PASS**, enter the following.

### Setup

If the procedure window is not already open, use the PASS Home window to open it. The parameters for this example are listed below and are stored in the **Example 6** settings file. To load these settings to the procedure window, click **Open Example Settings File** in the Help Center or File menu.

#### Design Tab

Solve For .....	<b>Sample Size</b>
Power.....	<b>0.90</b>
Alpha.....	<b>0.025</b>
Group Allocation .....	<b>Equal (N1 = N2)</b>
P1 .....	<b>0.06875</b>
P2 .....	<b>0.12375</b> (between 0.11 and 0.1375)
SM (Superiority Margin) .....	<b>0.0275</b>
Maximum Number of Stages (K).....	<b>5</b>
Info. Proportion at each Stage .....	<b>Equally incremented</b>
Continuity Correction .....	<b>No</b>
Zero Count Adjustment Method .....	<b>None</b>
Boundaries Used .....	<b>Efficacy Only</b>
Hypothesis Direction .....	<b>Ha: P1 - P2 &lt; - SM  (Lower proportions are better)</b>
Boundary Specification .....	<b>Spending Function Calculation</b>
Alpha Spending Function.....	<b>O'Brien-Fleming Analog</b>
Skipped Efficacy Stages .....	<b>&lt;Empty&gt;</b>



## Group-Sequential Superiority by a Margin Tests for Two Proportions (Simulation)

## Options Tab

Number of Simulations..... **100000**  
 Random Seed..... **Random**  
 After Boundary Crossing..... **Hold out**

## Boundary Reports Tab

Boundaries using Z Scale..... **Checked**  
 Information Report..... **Checked**  
 Alpha Spending..... **Checked**

## Boundary Plots Tab

Z-Statistic vs N..... **Checked**

## Summary Reports Tab

All Reports..... **Checked**

## Output

Click the Calculate button to perform the calculations and generate the following output. The simulation results will differ slightly for each separate run.

## Run Summary Report

### Run Summary Report

Item	Value
Solve For	Sample Size
Maximum Number of Stages (Design)	5
Current Stage	0
Alternative Hypothesis	$P_1 - P_2 < - SM $
Superiority Margin (SM)	0.0275
Alpha Spending Function	O'Brien-Fleming Analog
Target Alpha	0.0250
Alpha (from simulations)	0.0279
P1	0.06875
P2	0.12375
N1 (if final stage reached)	2422
N2 (if final stage reached)	2422
Target Power	0.9
Power (from simulations)	0.90003
Maximum Information	14043.8871

## Group-Sequential Superiority by a Margin Tests for Two Proportions (Simulation)

## Z-Value Boundaries

## Z-Value Boundaries

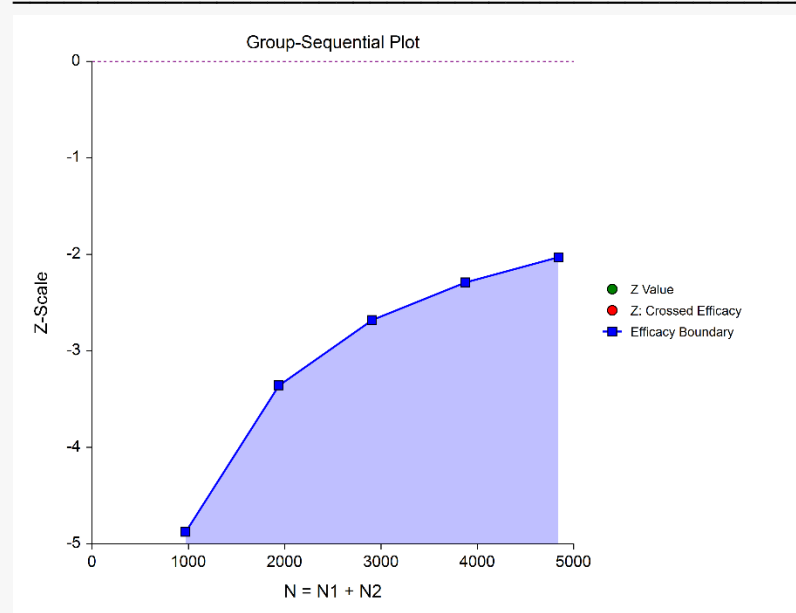
Maximum Information: 14043.8871  
 Alternative Hypothesis:  $P1 - P2 < -|SM|$

Stage	Efficacy Boundary	Information Proportion
1	-4.8769	0.2
2	-3.3569	0.4
3	-2.6803	0.6
4	-2.2898	0.8
5	-2.0310	1.0

The boundary values match those of Reboussin (1992) exactly.

## Boundary Plot(s)

## Boundary Plot(s)



## Group-Sequential Superiority by a Margin Tests for Two Proportions (Simulation)

## Information Report

## Information Report

Maximum Information: 14043.8871  
 Alternative Hypothesis:  $P1 - P2 < -|SM|$   
 Alpha: 0.025

Stage	Target Information Proportion	Target Information	Target Sample Size		P1	P2
			N1	N2		
1	0.2	2808.7774	484.4	484.4	0.0688	0.1238
2	0.4	5617.5549	968.8	968.8	0.0688	0.1238
3	0.6	8426.3323	1453.2	1453.2	0.0688	0.1238
4	0.8	11235.1097	1937.6	1937.6	0.0688	0.1238
5	1.0	14043.8871	2422.0	2422.0	0.0688	0.1238

## Alpha Spending

## Alpha Spending

Target Final Stage Alpha: 0.025  
 Spending Function: O'Brien-Fleming Analog

Stage	Information Proportion	Alpha Spent this Stage	Cumulative Alpha Spent	Nominal (Boundary) Alpha	Percentage Alpha Spent this Stage	Cumulative Percentage Alpha Spent
1 *	0.2	0.0000	0.0000	0.000001	0.0	0.0
2 *	0.4	0.0004	0.0004	0.000394	1.6	1.6
3 *	0.6	0.0034	0.0038	0.003678	13.7	15.2
4 *	0.8	0.0084	0.0122	0.011017	33.6	48.8
5 *	1.0	0.0128	0.0250	0.021128	51.2	100.0

\* projected

## Group-Sequential Superiority by a Margin Tests for Two Proportions (Simulation)

Boundary Probabilities for  $\delta = -0.055$ Boundary Probabilities for  $\delta = -0.055$ 

Number of Simulations:	100000
After Efficacy Boundary Crossing:	Hold Out
Alternative Hypothesis:	$P1 - P2 < - SM $
Superiority Margin (SM):	0.0275
P1:	0.06875
P2:	0.12375
$\delta$ :	-0.055

Stage	N1	N2	Efficacy Boundary	Boundary Probability
1	*484.40	*484.40	-4.8769	0.0003
2	*968.80	*968.80	-3.3569	0.0967
3	*1453.20	*1453.20	-2.6803	0.3416
4	*1937.60	*1937.60	-2.2898	0.3037
5	*2422.00	*2422.00	-2.0310	0.1577

\* Simulation sample size (Non-integer sample sizes were rounded to the next highest integer.)

Average N1: 1802.786636

Average N2: 1802.786636

Boundary Probabilities for  $\delta = -|SM|$  (Alpha)Boundary Probabilities for  $\delta = -|SM|$  (Alpha)

Number of Simulations:	100000
After Efficacy Boundary Crossing:	Hold Out
Alternative Hypothesis:	$P1 - P2 < - SM $
Superiority Margin (SM):	0.0275
P1:	$0.12375 -  SM  = 0.12375 - 0.0275 = 0.09625$
P2:	0.12375
$\delta$ :	$- SM  = -0.0275$

Stage	N1	N2	Efficacy Boundary	Boundary Probability
1	*484.4	*484.4	-4.8769	0.0000
2	*968.8	*968.8	-3.3569	0.0004
3	*1453.2	*1453.2	-2.6803	0.0039
4	*1937.6	*1937.6	-2.2898	0.0094
5	*2422.0	*2422.0	-2.0310	0.0142

\* Simulation sample size (Non-integer sample sizes were rounded to the next highest integer.)

Average N1: 2413.140324

Average N2: 2413.140324

## Power and Sample Size Summary

### Power and Sample Size Summary

Solve For:	Sample Size
Maximum Number of Stages:	5
Alternative Hypothesis:	$P1 - P2 < - SM $
Alpha Spending Function:	O'Brien-Fleming Analog
Number of Simulations:	100000

Target Power	Sim Power	N1	N2	N	P1	P2	SM	Target Alpha	Sim Alpha
0.90	0.90003	2422	2422	4844	0.0688	0.1238	0.0275	0.025	0.0279

The sample sizes of 2422 per group are not too far from the values of 2474 per group, calculated by 4-digit rounding. The proportions used are not identical to those used in Reboussin (1992), as the test there was a test of difference, not a test of superiority by a margin.