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Analysis of methods commonly used in biomedicine for treatment versus control comparison of very small samples

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Highlights

- Unstandardized comparison of samples smaller than ten is not uncommon in biomedical research.
- The sample comparison error depends strongly on the sample size, comparison method and the intensity of the studied effect, whereas the influence of the event distribution is negligible.
- The recommended minimal sample size is 9 and the t -test with $p = 5\%$ as the comparison method.
- Use of smaller sizes and the method of their comparison should be justified by the objective of the experiment.
- A broad consensus among biomedical research community and a firm requirement regarding the minimal acceptable biomedical sample size is needed.

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