

# GATE: 'EBP with pictures'

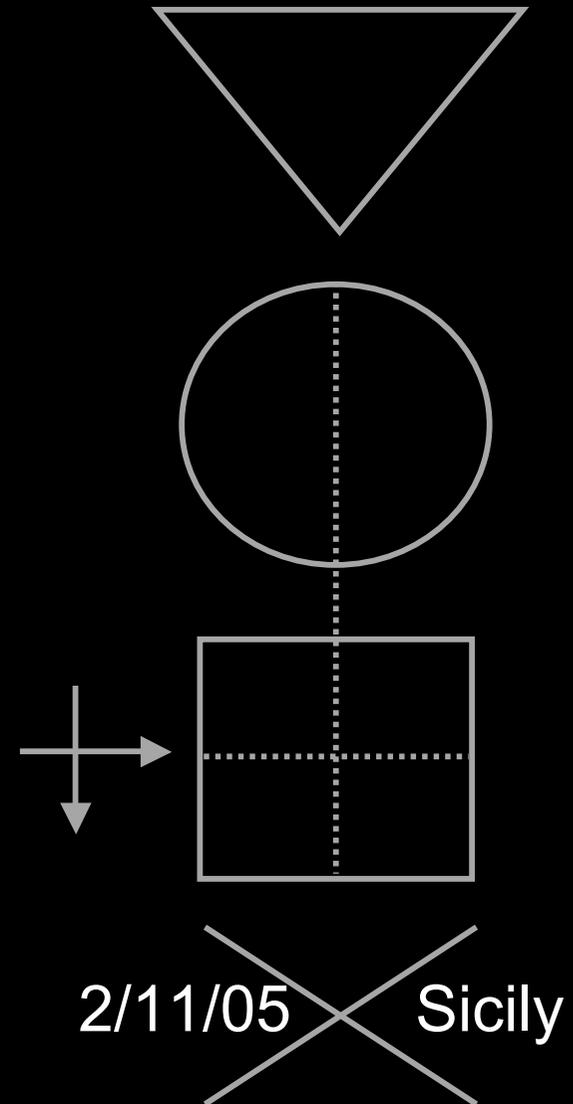


Rod Jackson

EPIQ group

University of Auckland, NZ

[www.epiq.co.nz](http://www.epiq.co.nz)



# GATE: 'EBP with pictures'

## Graphic Approach to Teaching EBP

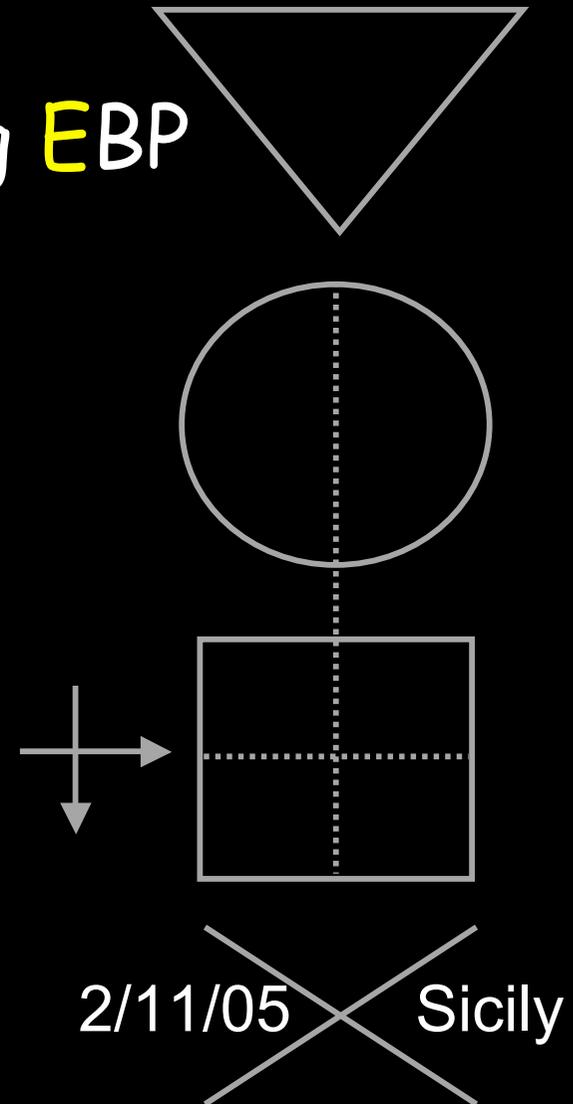


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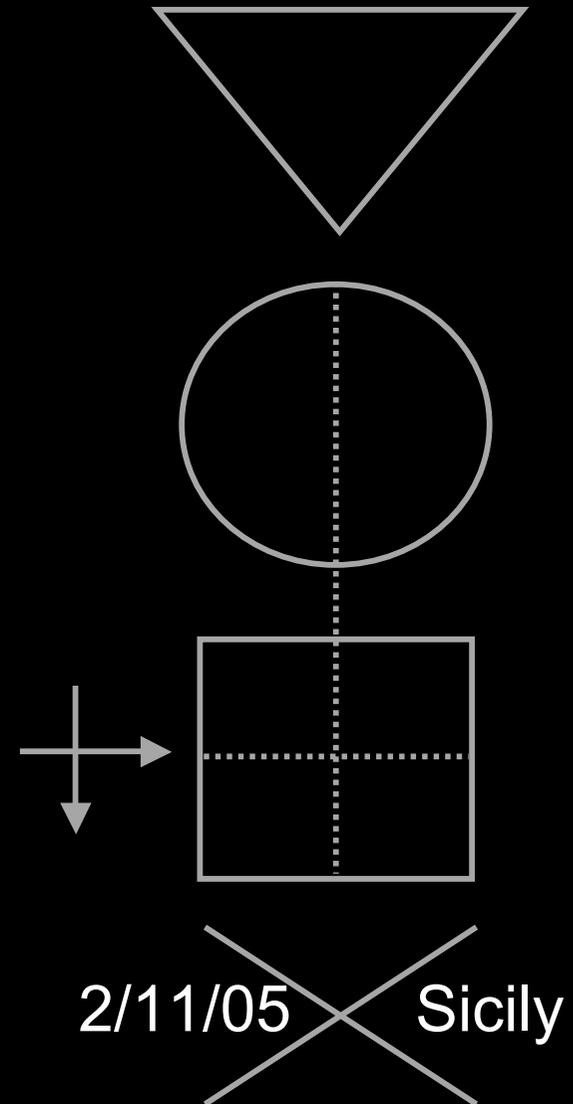


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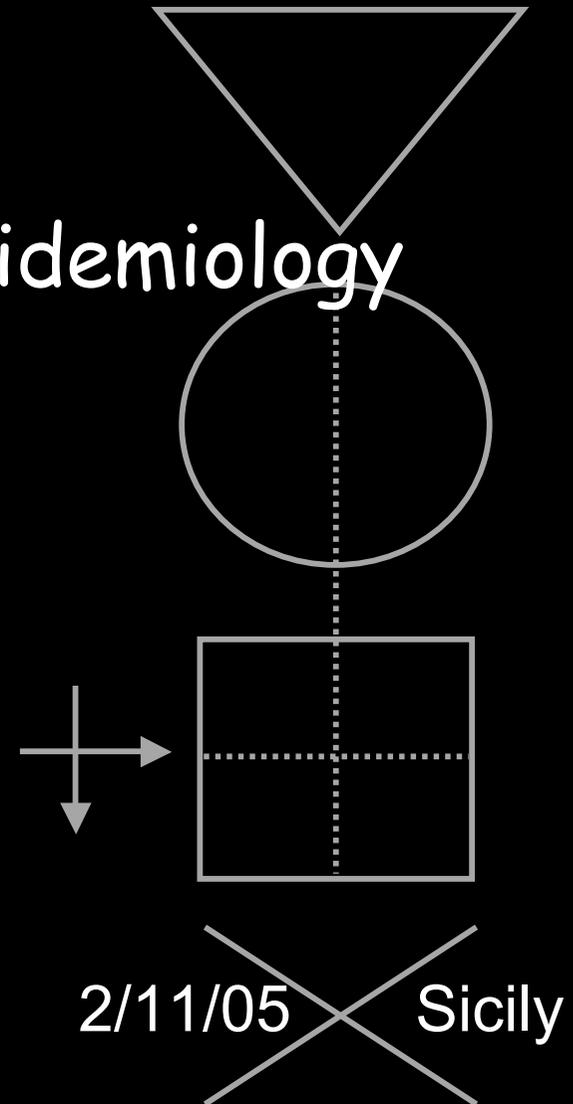
## Graphic Appraisal Tool for Epidemiology



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# GATE: 'EBP with pictures'

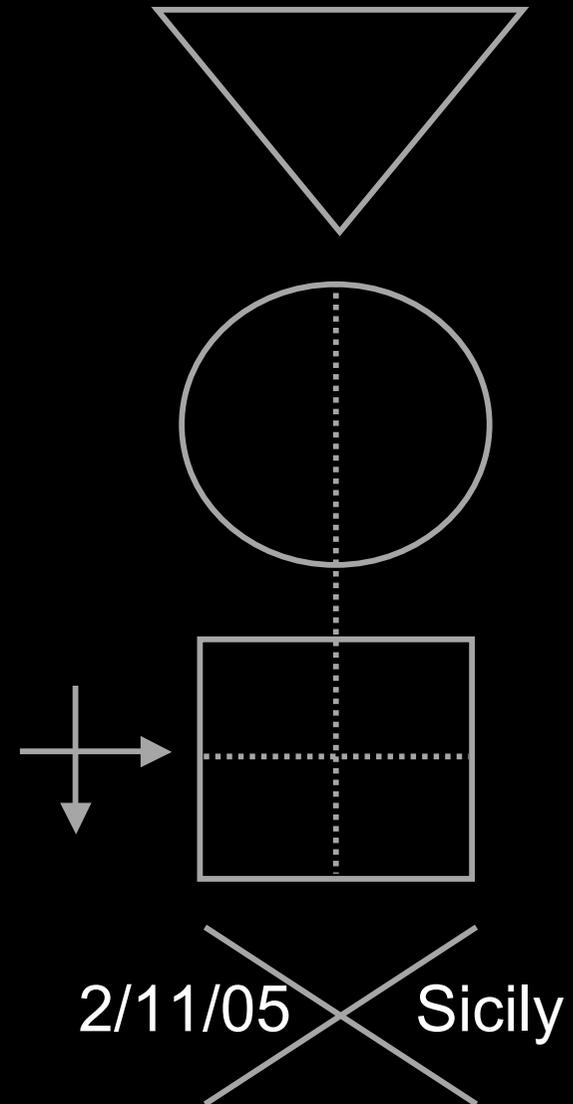


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# GATE: 'EBP with pictures'

Graphic Architectural Tool for Epidemiology

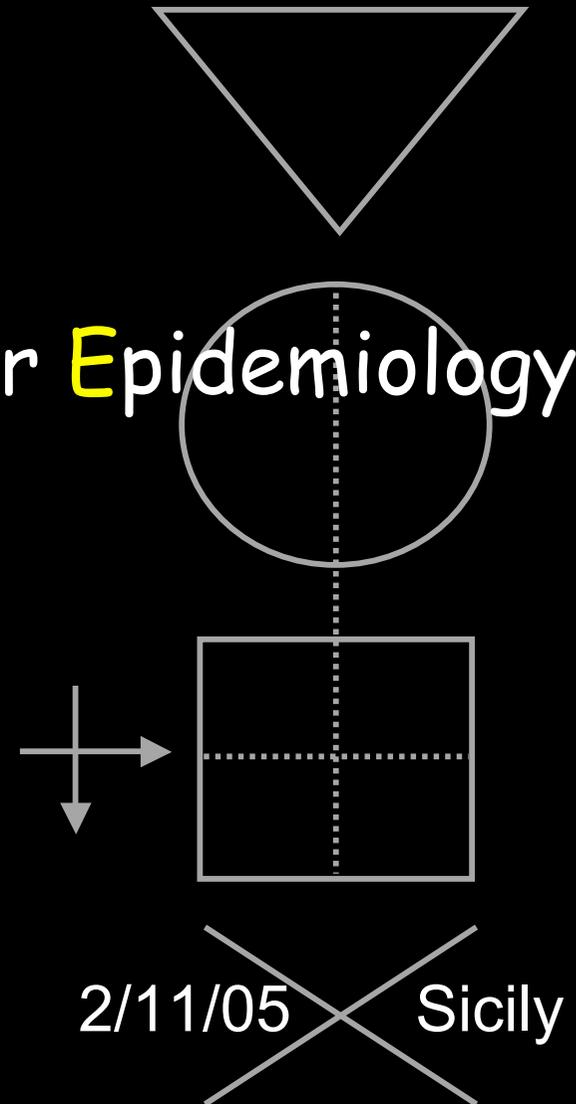


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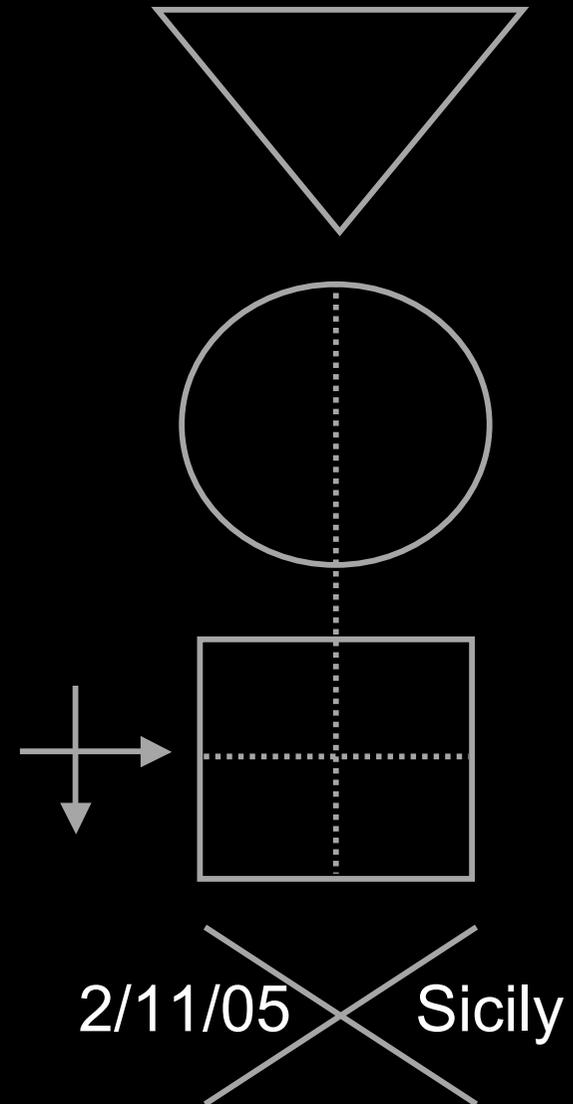


Rod Jackson

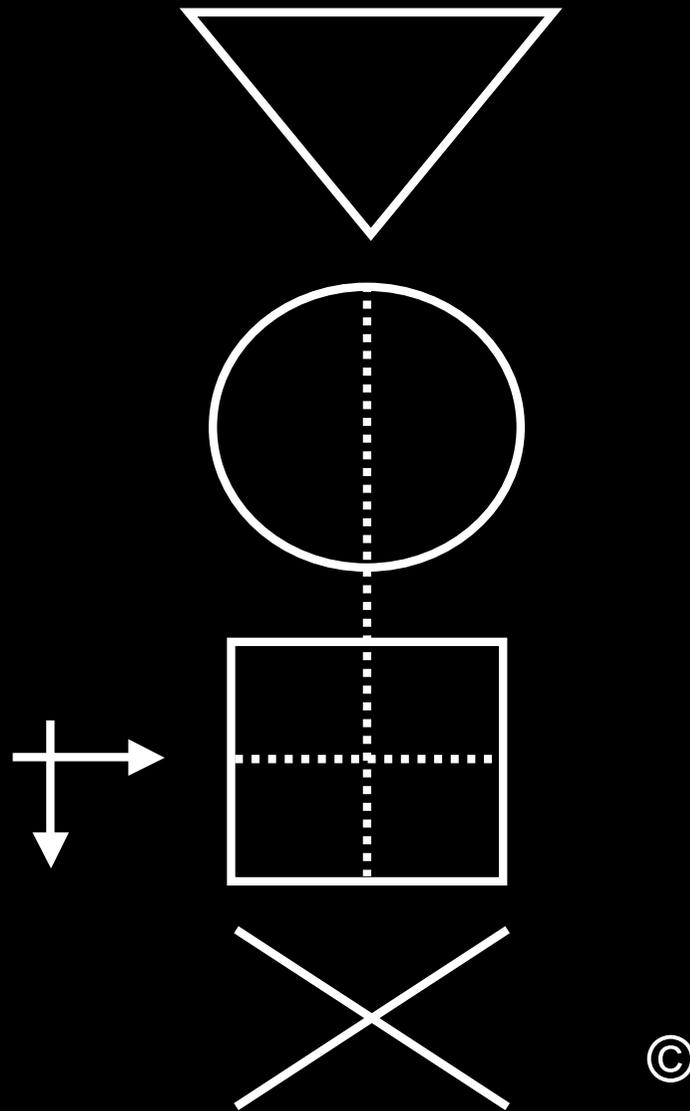
EPIQ group

University of Auckland, NZ

[www.epiq.co.nz](http://www.epiq.co.nz)

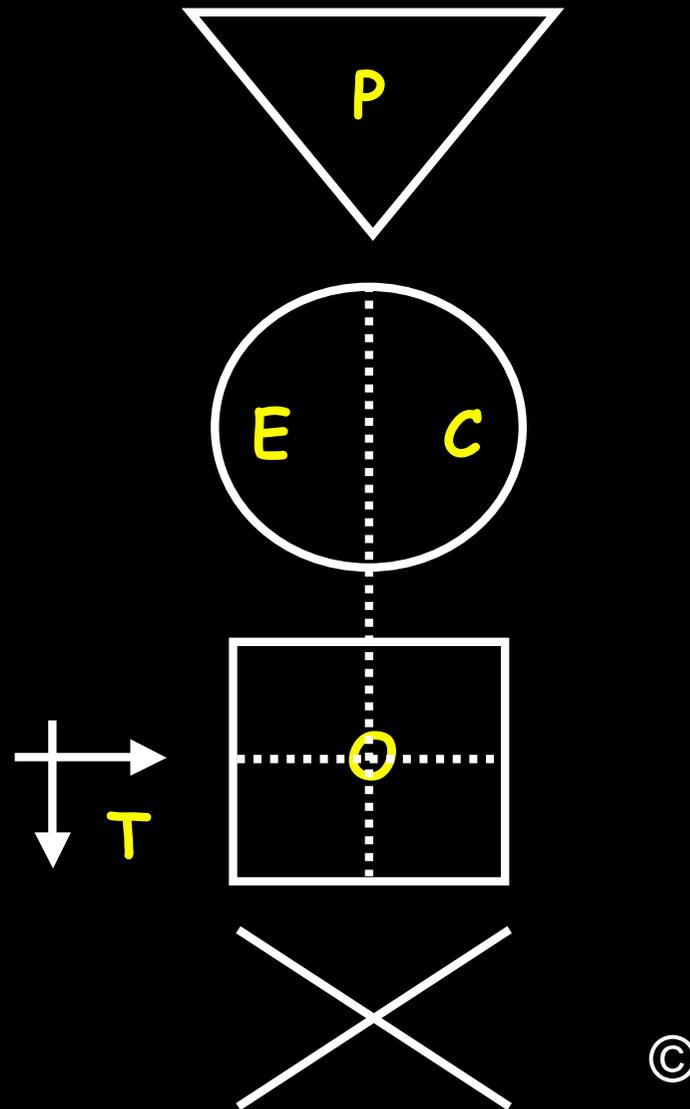


# GATE Frame



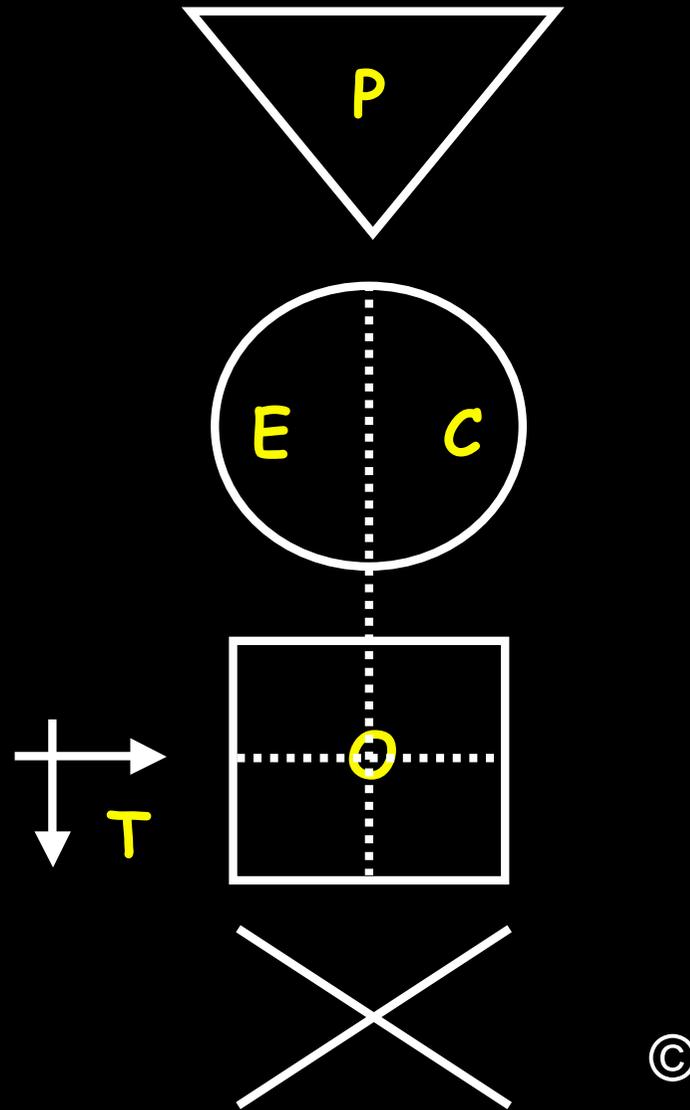
GATE: Graphic Appraisal Tool for Epidemiology ©

# GATE Frame: PECOT (design)



# GATE Frame: PECOT (design)

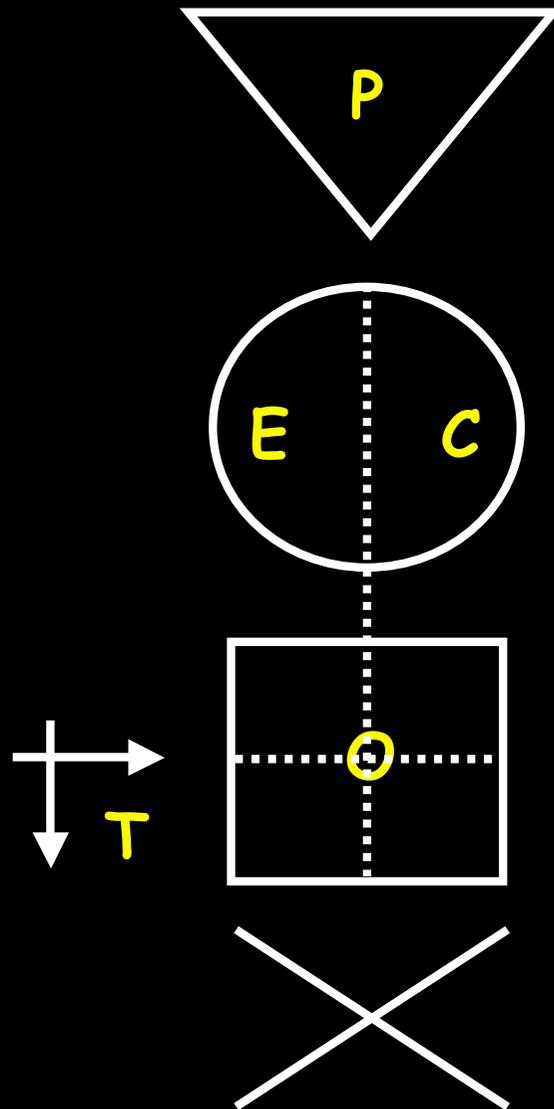
- Population



# GATE Frame: PECOT (design)

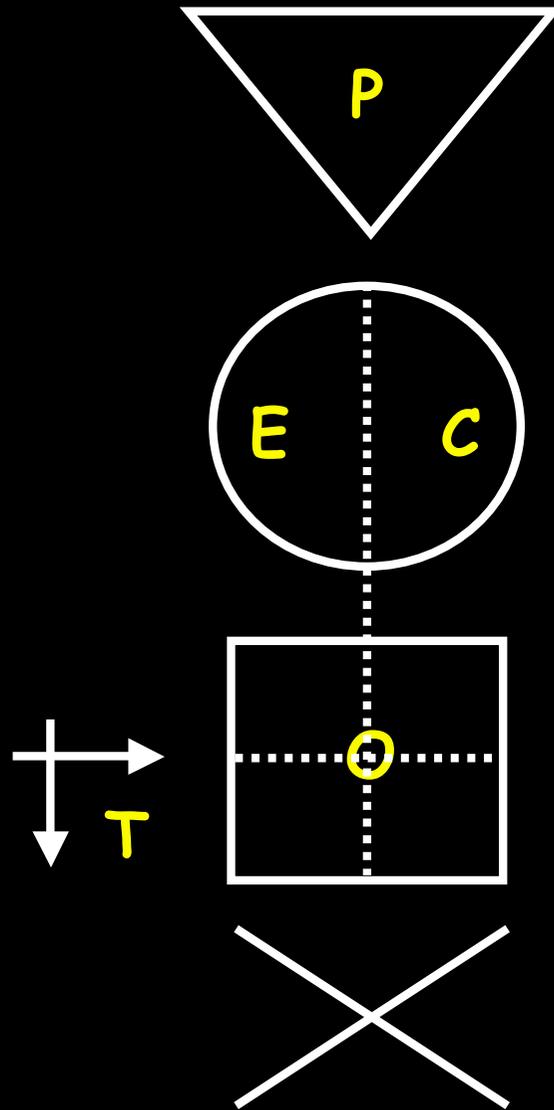
- **P**opulation

- **E**xposure  
(Intervention)



# GATE Frame: PECOT (design)

- **P**opulation
- **E**xposure  
(Intervention)
- **C**omparison



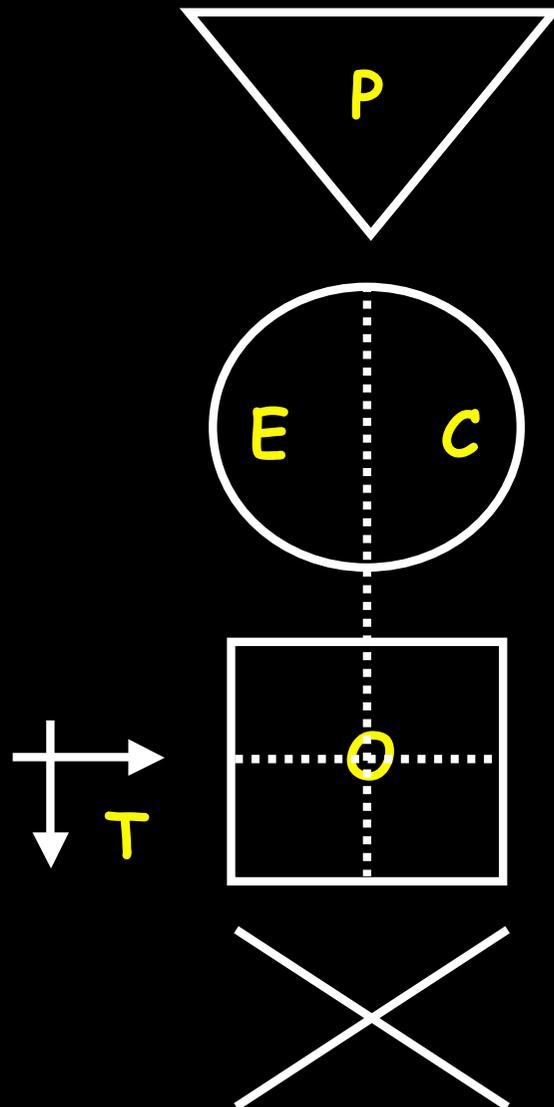
# GATE Frame: PECOT (design)

- **P**opulation

- **E**xposure  
(Intervention)

- **C**omparison

- **O**utcome



# GATE Frame: PECOT (design)

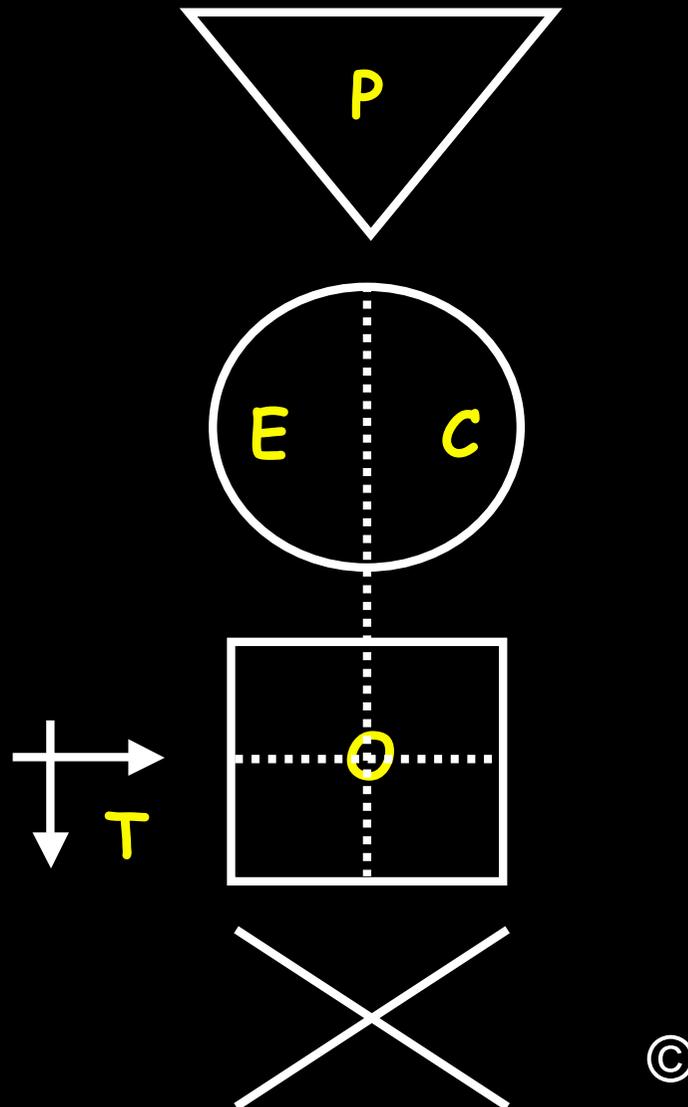
- **P**opulation

- **E**xposure  
(Intervention)

- **C**omparison

- **O**utcome

- **T**ime



# GATE Frame: PECOT (design)

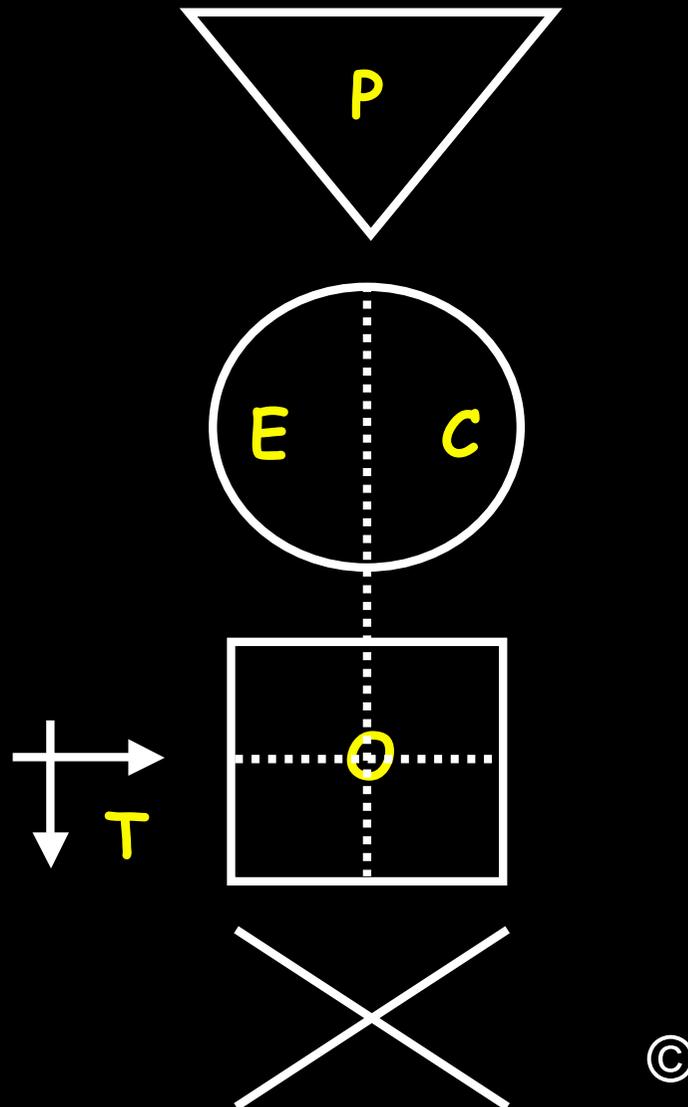
- **P**opulation

- **E**xposure  
(Intervention)

- **C**omparison

- **O**utcome

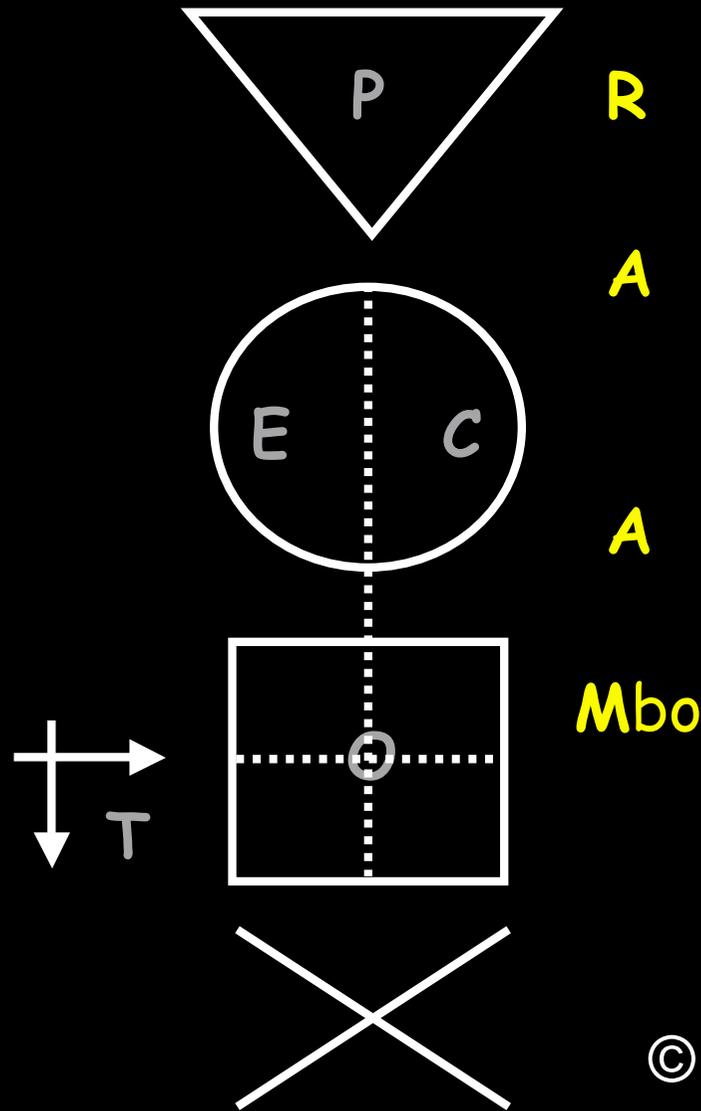
- **T**ime



'hang the study on the GATE frame'

# GATE Frame: RAAMbo (study appraisal)

- Population
- Exposure
- Comparison
- Outcome
- Time



# GATE Frame: RAAMbo (study appraisal)

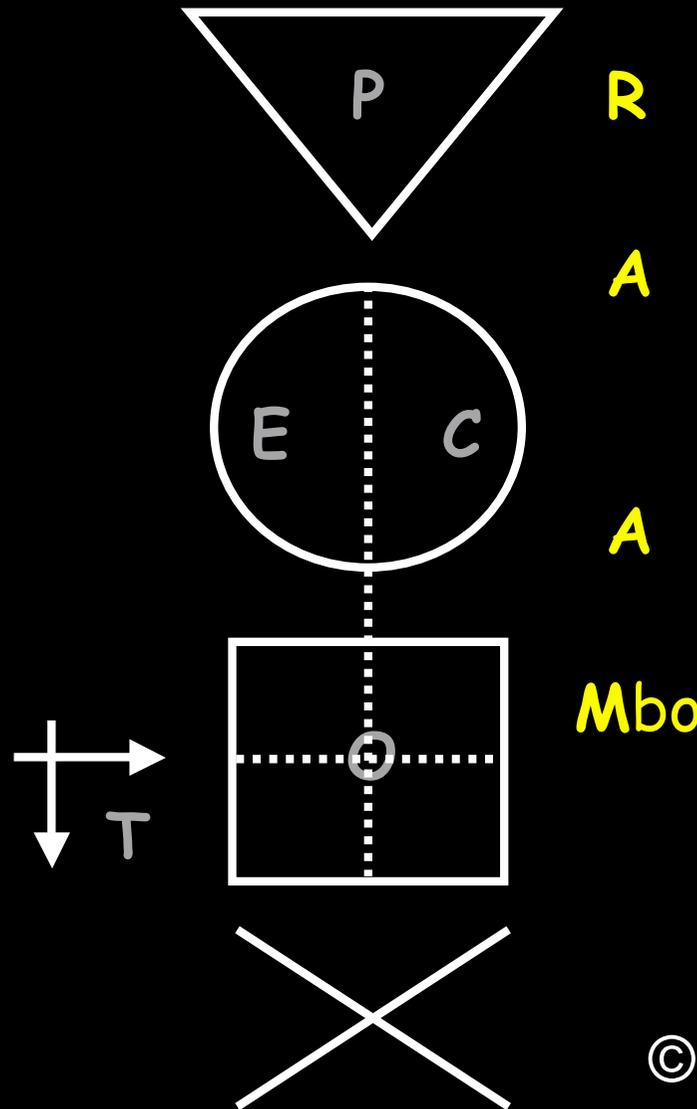
- Population

- Exposure

- Comparison

- Outcome

- Time



- Representative?

# GATE Frame: RAAMbo (study appraisal)

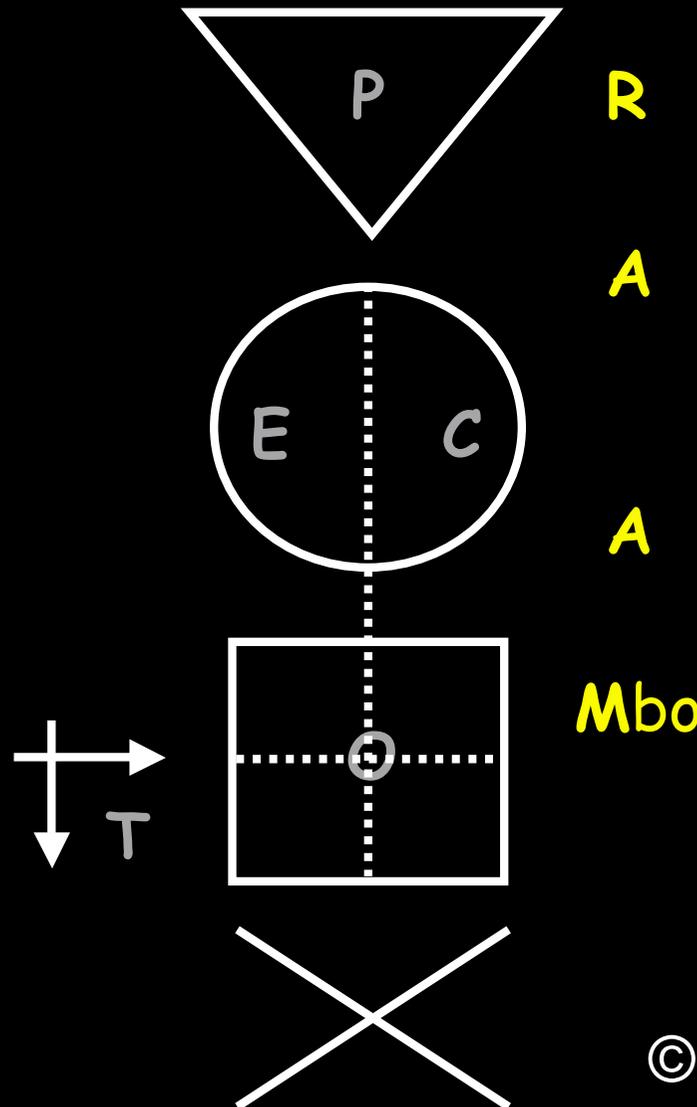
- Population

- Exposure

- Comparison

- Outcome

- Time



R

- **R**epresentative?

A

- **A**llocated or **A**adjusted?

A

Mbo

©

# GATE Frame: RAAMbo (study appraisal)

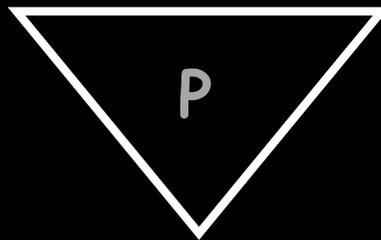
- Population

- Exposure

- Comparison

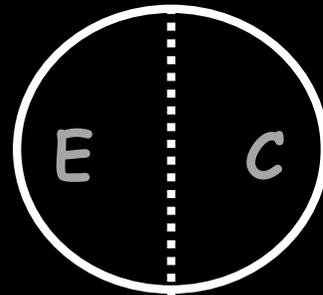
- Outcome

- Time



R

- **R**epresentative?

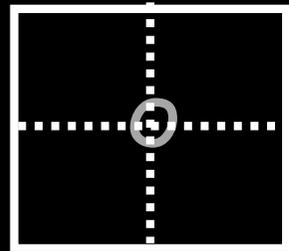


A

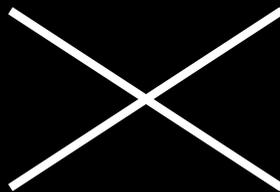
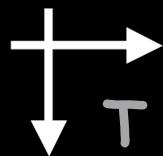
- **A**llocated or **A**adjusted?

A

- **A**ccounted for?



Mbo



©

# GATE Frame: RAAMbo (study appraisal)

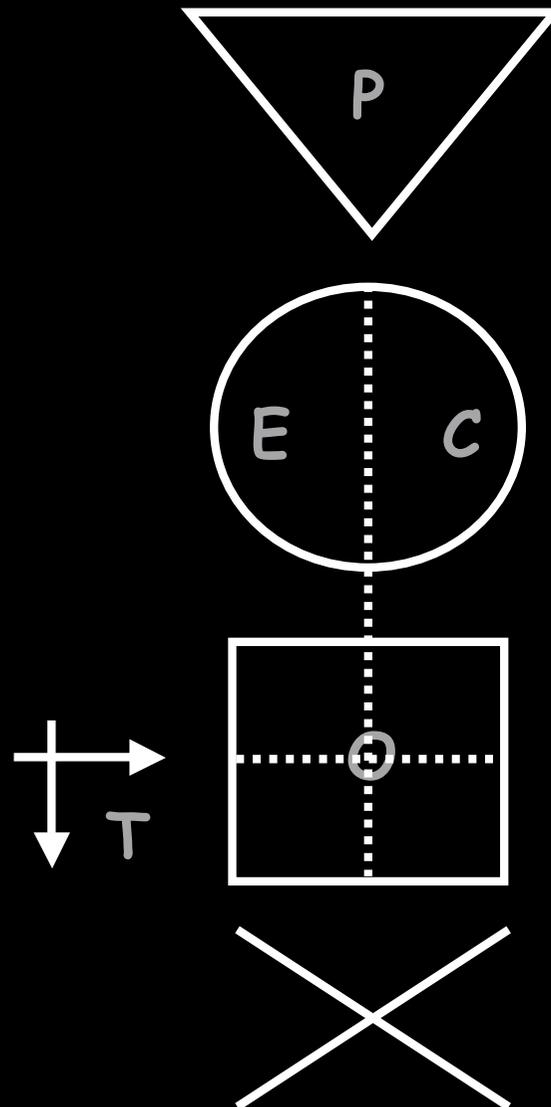
- Population

- Exposure

- Comparison

- Outcome

- Time



**R** • **R**epresentative?

**A** • **A**llocated or  
**A**adjusted?

**A** • **A**ccounted for?

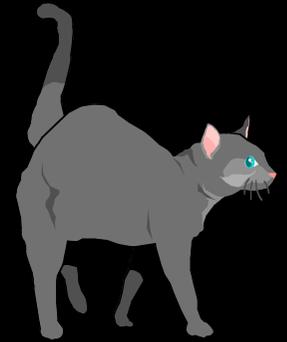
**Mbo** • **M**easured?

- **b**lind or

- **o**bjective?

©

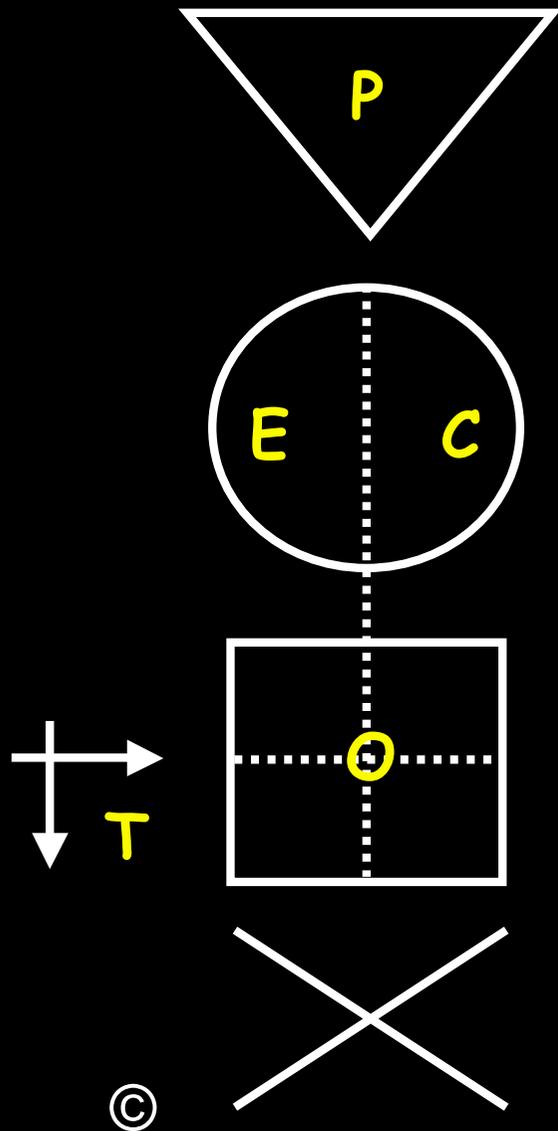
# The 4 + 1 steps of EBP (AAAAA)



1. **Ask** a focussed question
2. **Access** (ie. search) appropriate evidence
3. **Appraise** evidence for validity, impact & precision
4. **Apply** evidence accounting for patient values, clinical & policy issues (i.e. answer question)
5. **Audit personal skills in doing steps 1-4; Audit your practice (do you apply step 4 in usual practice).**

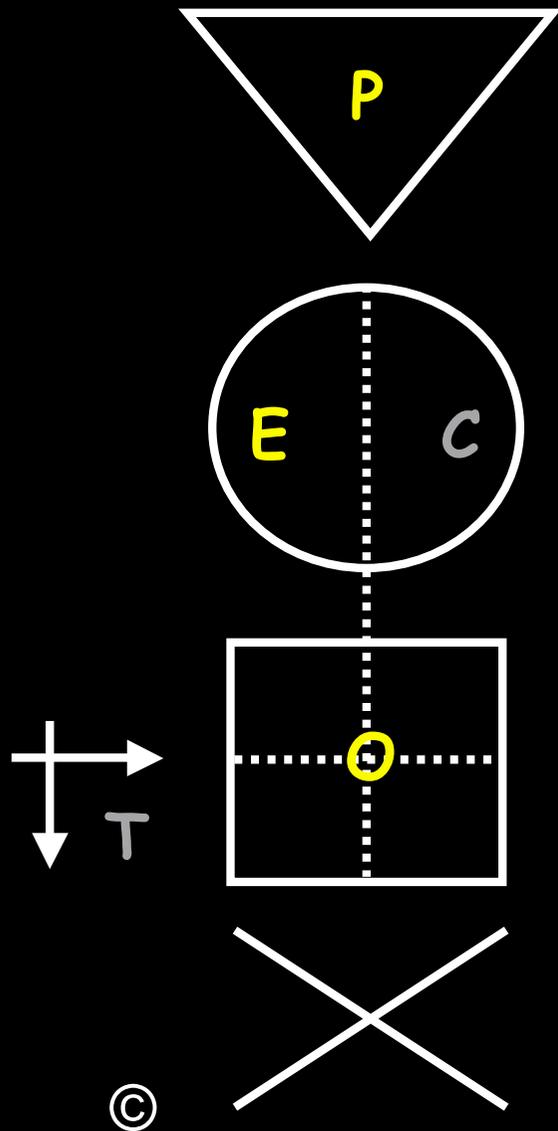
Modified from DS et al

# Q1. Ask a focussed 5-part question



1. **P**opulation.....
2. **E**xposure.....
3. **C**omparison.....
4. **O**utcome.....
5. **T**ime.....

# Q1. Access appropriate epidemiological evidence

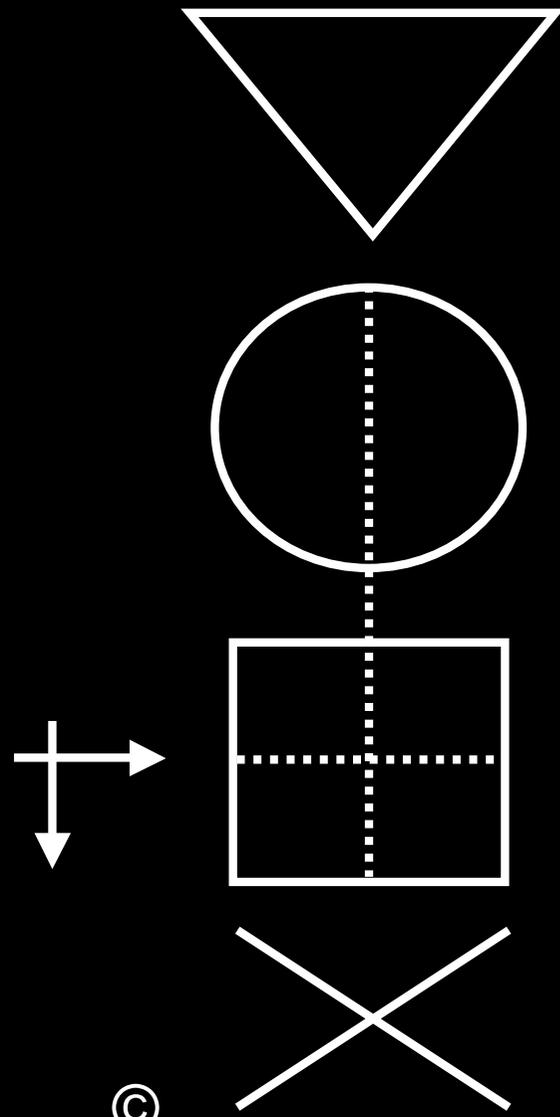


1. Population.....
2. Exposure.....
3. Comparison.....
4. Outcome.....
5. Time.....

**Q3. Appraise** evidence for validity, impact & precision

P  
E  
C  
O  
T

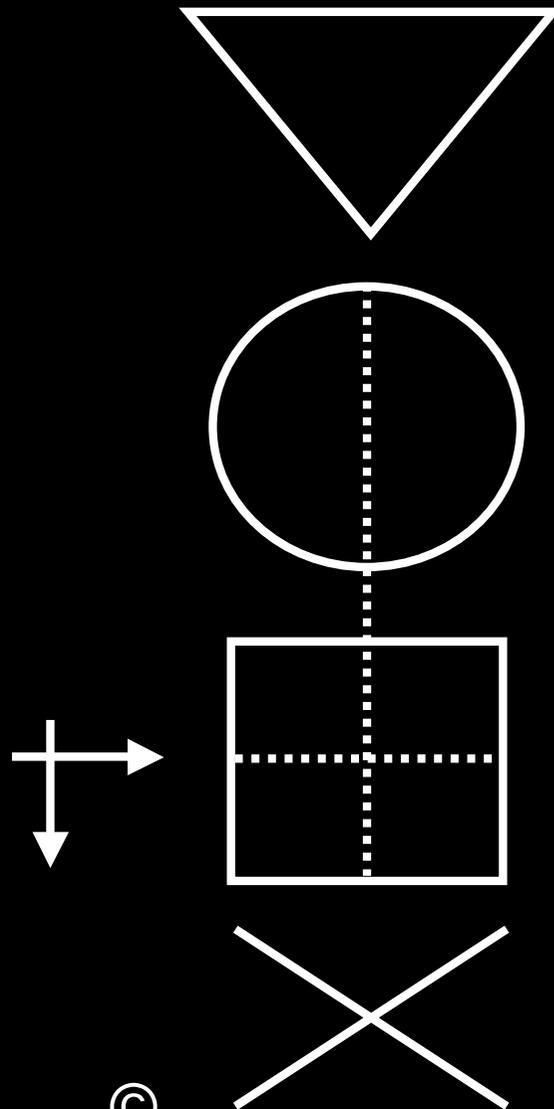
R  
A  
A  
Mbo



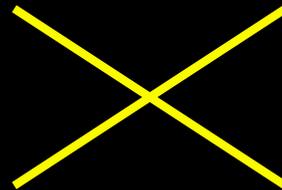
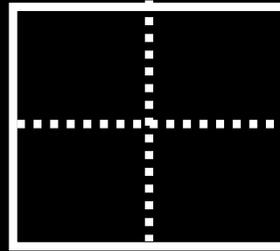
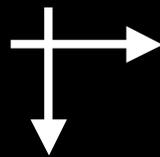
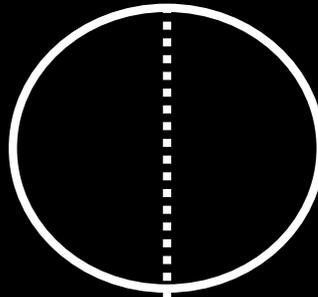
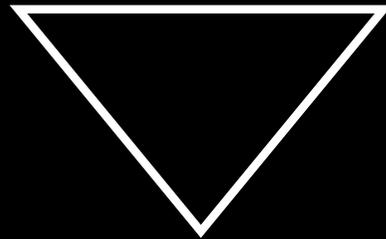
# Q3. Appraise evidence for validity, impact & precision

P  
E  
C  
O  
T

R  
A  
A  
Mbo



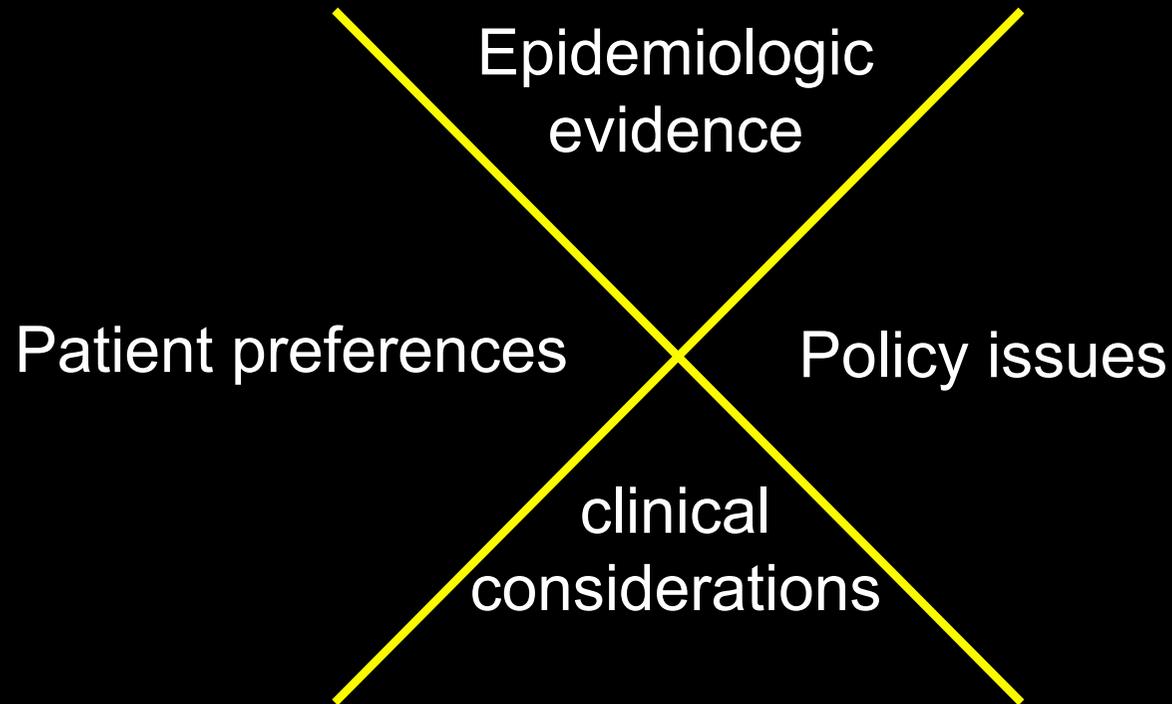
**Q4. Apply** the evidence



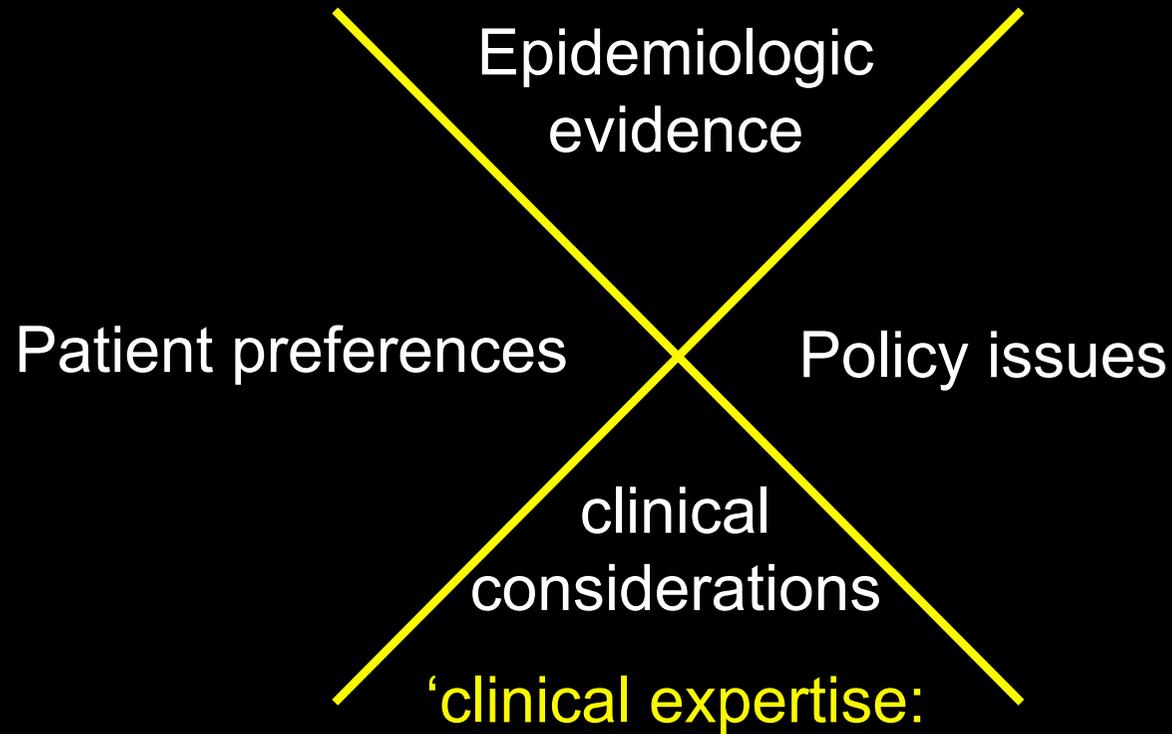
**Apply**

©

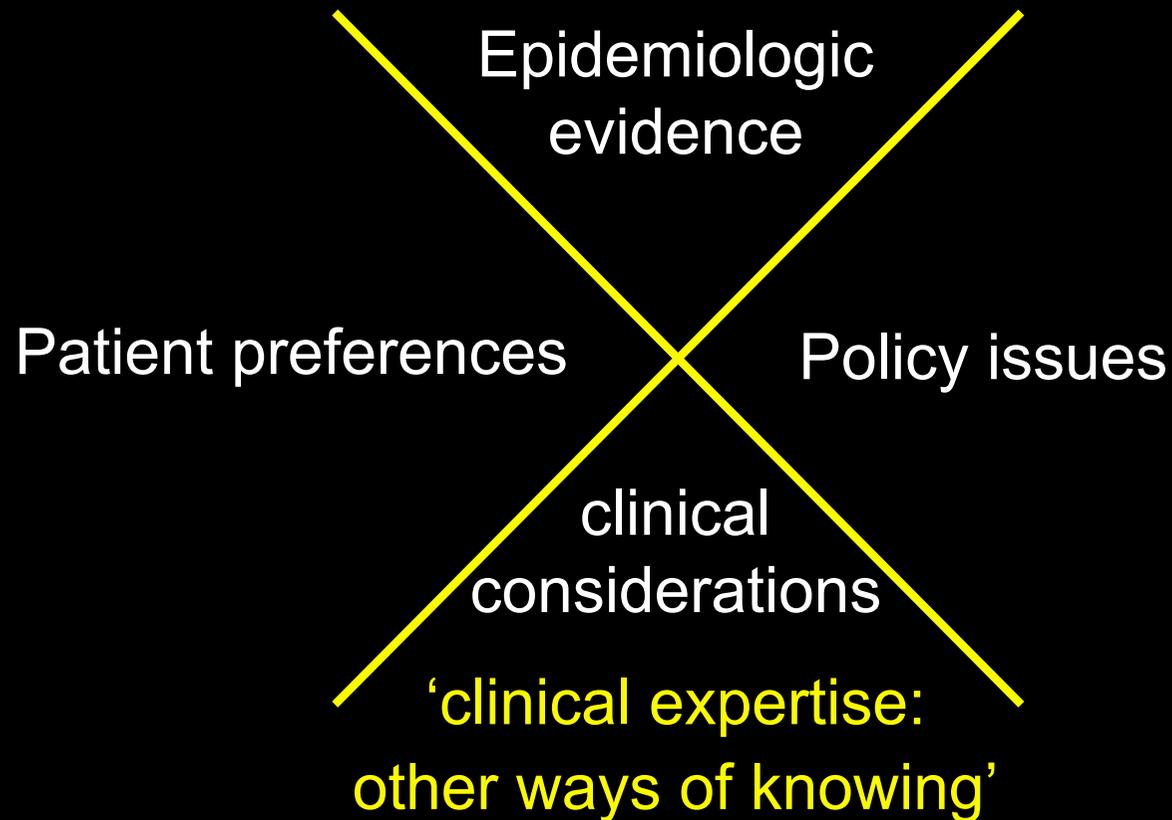
**Q4. Apply** evidence accounting for patient values,  
clinical & policy issues



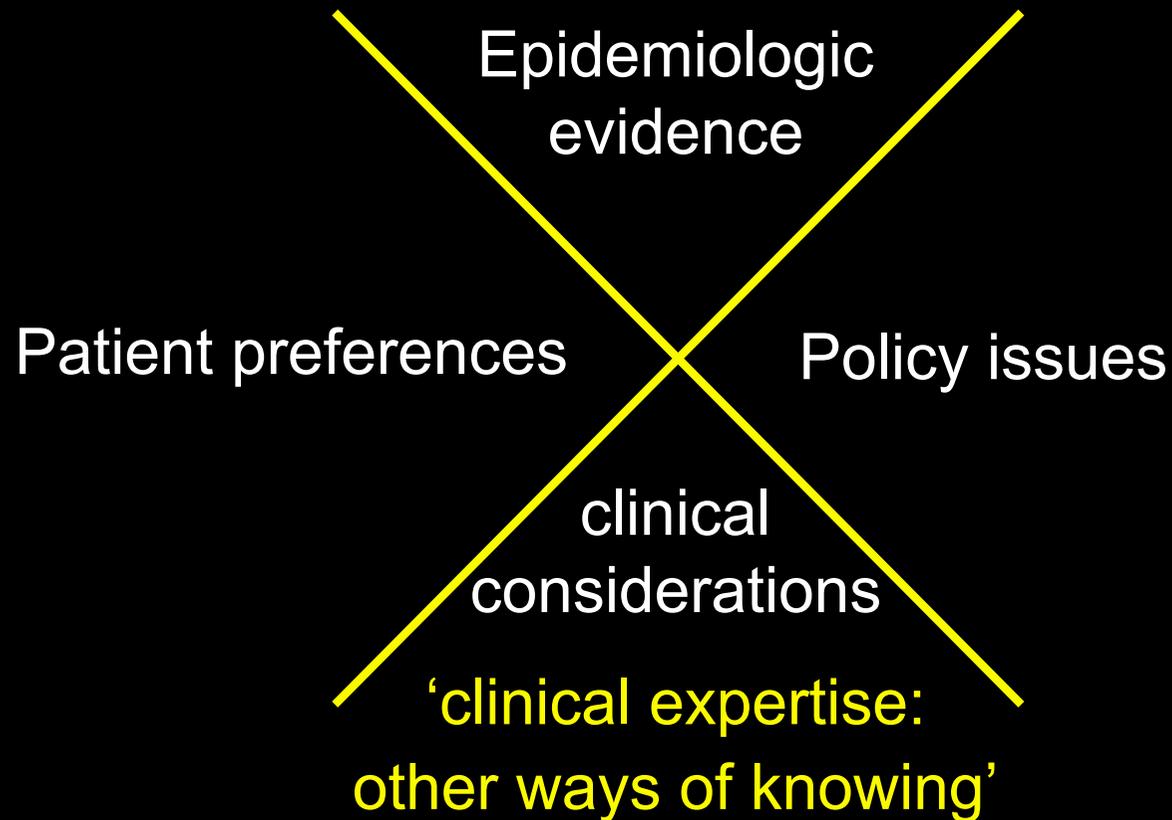
**Q4. Apply** evidence accounting for patient values,  
clinical & policy issues



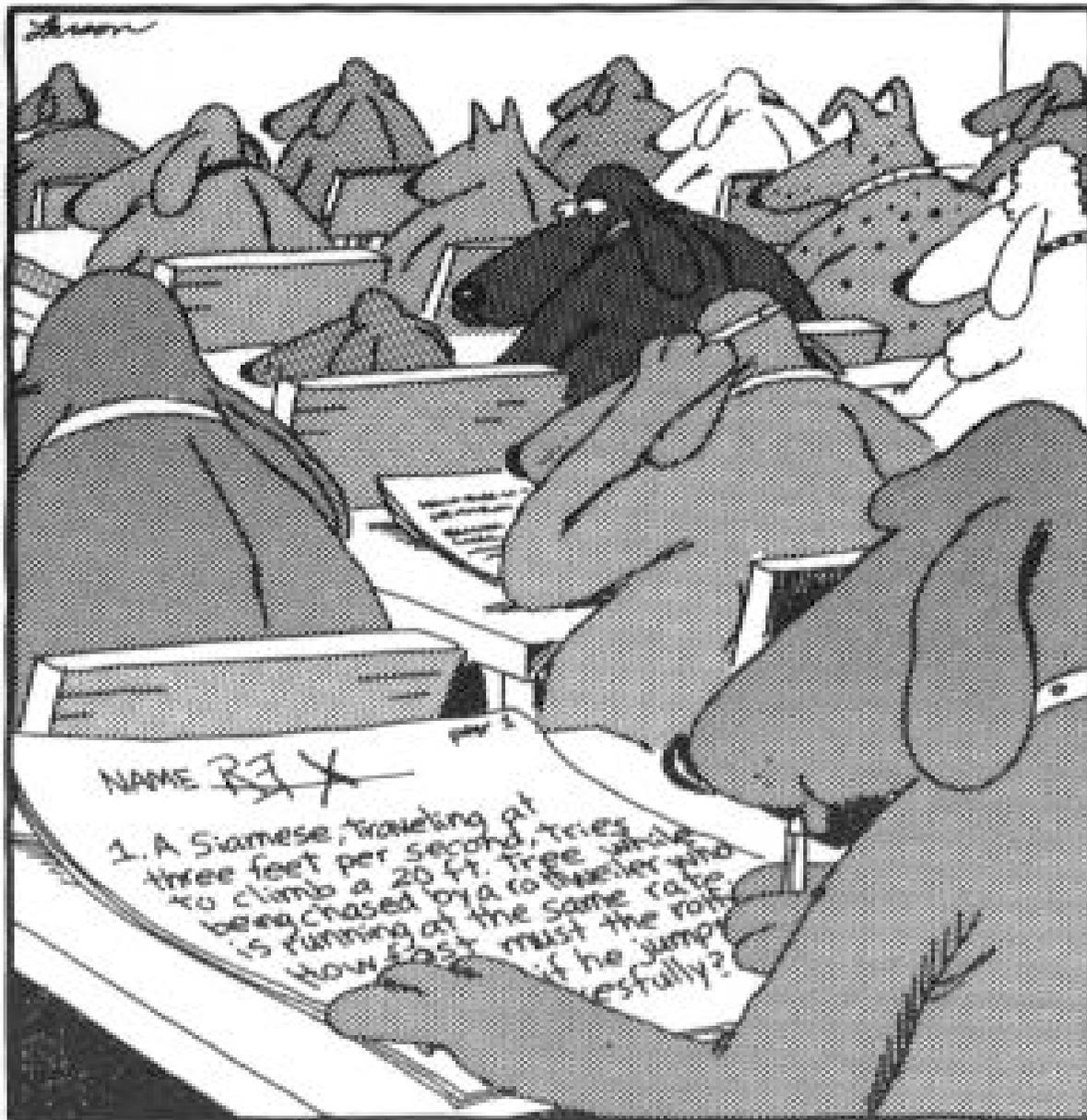
**Q4. Apply** evidence accounting for patient values,  
clinical & policy issues



**Q4. Apply** evidence accounting for patient values,  
clinical & policy issues



the X-factor: 'integrating & applying' = clinical expertise



Before their admission to any canine university, dogs must first do well on the CATs.

# CATs:



## Critically Appraised Topics:

'a tool for modeling the 5 steps of EBP'

[www.epiq.co.nz](http://www.epiq.co.nz)

CAT (Critically Appraised Topic): Applying the 5 steps of EBCP (Evidence-Based Clinical Practice)				
Intervention Studies				
		Developed by <b>EPIQ: Effective Practice, Informatics            and            Quality Improvement</b> <a href="http://www.epiq.co.nz">www.epiq.co.nz</a>		 <b>THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND</b> <b>FACULTY OF MEDICAL AND            HEALTH SCIENCES</b> School of Population Health
CAT Maker				
Name & date		Email address		
Clinical Scenario				
<p>Cardiovascular diseases (such as heart attack or stroke) are the leading cause of death and hospitalisations in New Zealand. Risk of developing CVD (eg heart attack or stroke) occurs 10 years later for women than for men leading to the hypothesis that oestrogens may account for this. Oestrogens raise HDL (good cholesterol) and lower LDL (bad cholesterol). Post-menopausal hormone replacement therapy (HRT) was introduced 70 years ago. Since then many studies have produced evidence of benefits and harms causing much controversy over whether all post-menopausal women should be treated with HRT to prevent heart disease or stroke. You decide to find &amp; appraise the relevant studies.</p>				
Step 1: Formulate a 5-part clinical question using PECOT framework				
Population or patient	In post-menopausal women			
Exposure (Intervention)	Does HRT			
Comparison (control)	No HRT			
Outcomes	Affect the risk of coronary heart disease, stroke, death			
Time	over 10 year time period			
Step 2: Search for the best evidence using PECOT framework				
Key search terms				
PECOT component	Primary search term		Synonym 1	Synonym 2
Population or patient	post-menopausal (hw)	OR	menopause/	AND
Exposure (Intervention)	HRT (hw) or hormone replacement (hw)	OR	hormone replacement therapy/	estrogen replacement therapy/
Comparison (control)		OR		AND
Outcomes	cardiovascular diseases/	OR		AND
(Time)	limit English language	OR		
Databases searched				
Database:	Cochrane	Other secondary sources	PubMed / OvidMedline	Other:
Number of hits:	6	1	556	

# CAT forms: (in Excel)

Intervention

Diagnosis

Prognosis/Risk

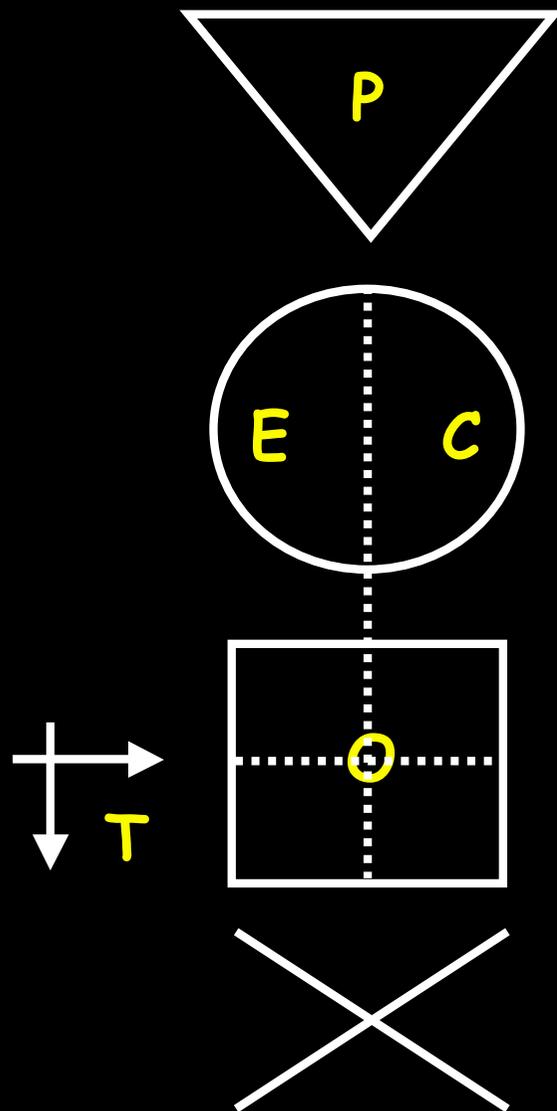
Systematic Reviews

download from:

[www.epiq.co.nz](http://www.epiq.co.nz)



# GATE Frame: PECOT (design)



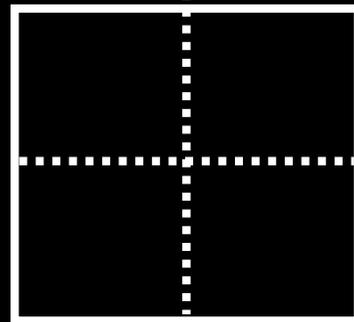
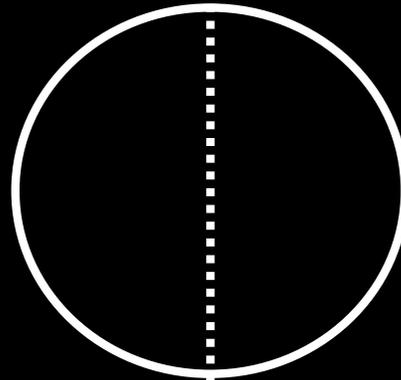
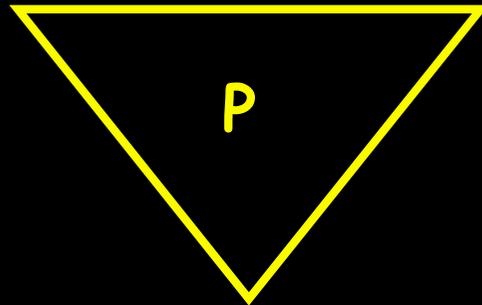
- **P**opulation .....
- **E**xposure .....
- **C**omparison .....
- **O**utcome .....
- **T**ime .....

©

'hang the HERS study on the GATE frame'

# GATE: epi study design (P)

Population

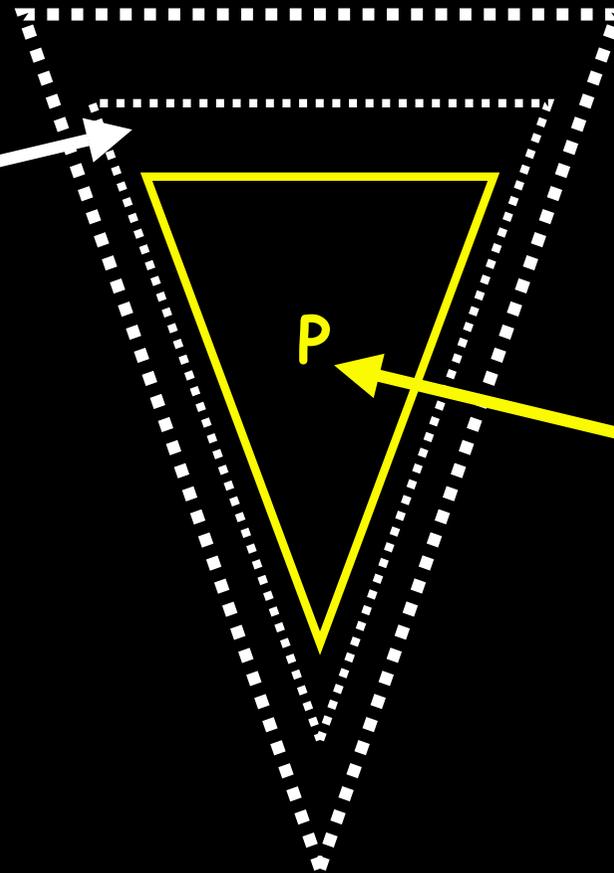


**Source Population:**

68,561 women screened from  
20 outpatients/community  
screening centres

**Eligible Population:**

Post-menopausal,  
established CHD, <  
80 yrs, no MI in  
last 6 mths, no  
HRT last 3 months

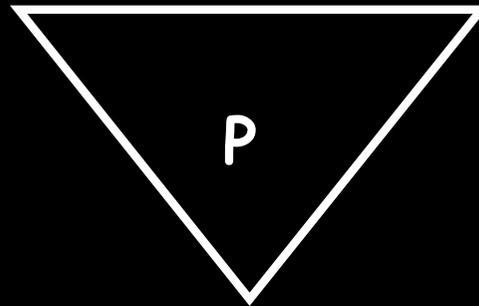


**Participant Population:**

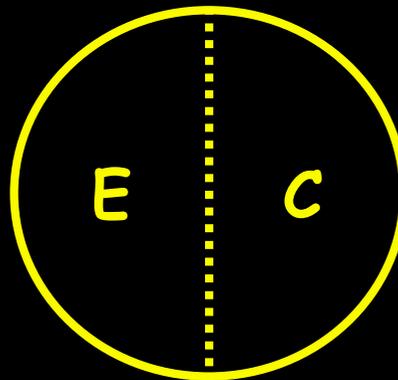
all eligibles  
invited (2763)

# GATE: epi study design (E&C)

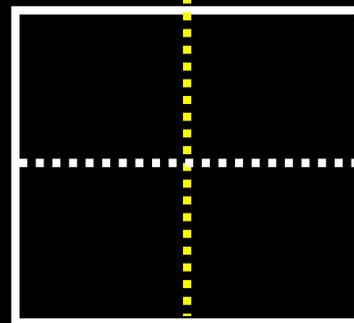
Population



Exposure (E)  
[intervention]



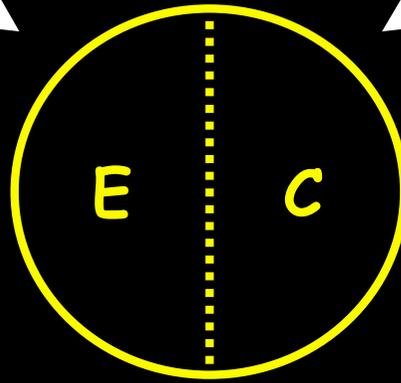
Comparison (C)  
[control]



HRT (n=1380)

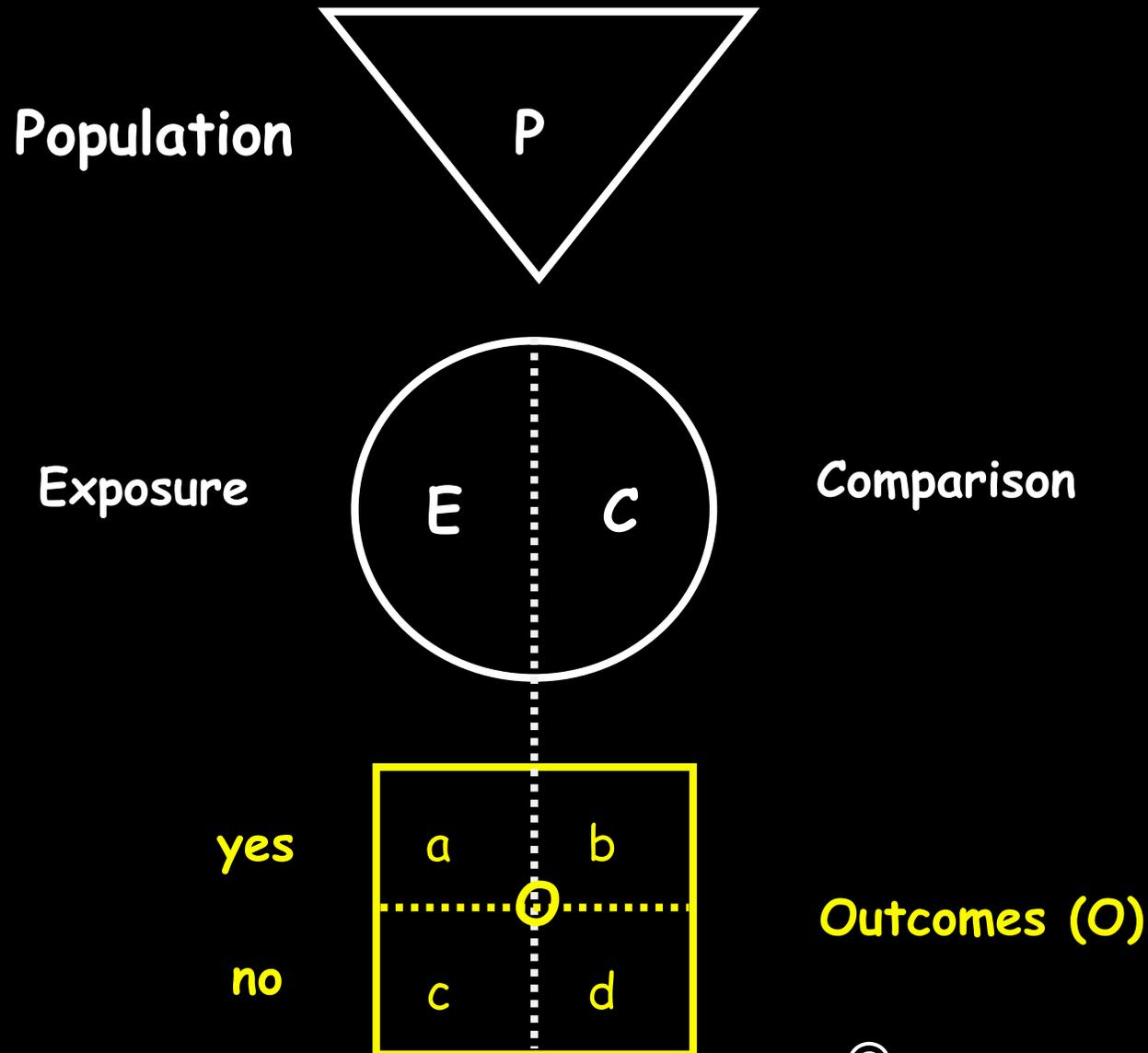
Identical Placebo  
(n=1383)

Exposure (E)  
[intervention]

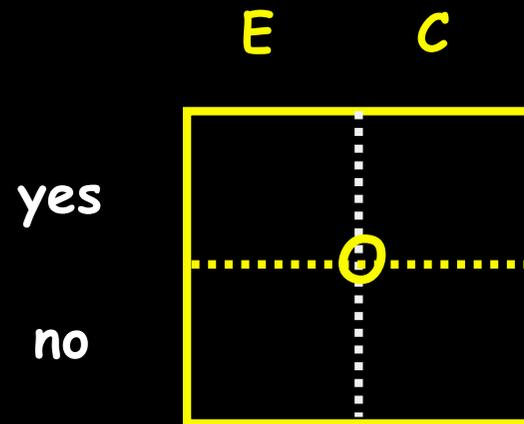


Comparison (C)  
[control]

# GATE: epi study design (O)



1° outcome: non fatal  
MI or CHD death



Outcomes (O)

1° outcome: non fatal  
MI or CHD death

	E	C
yes	172	176
no		

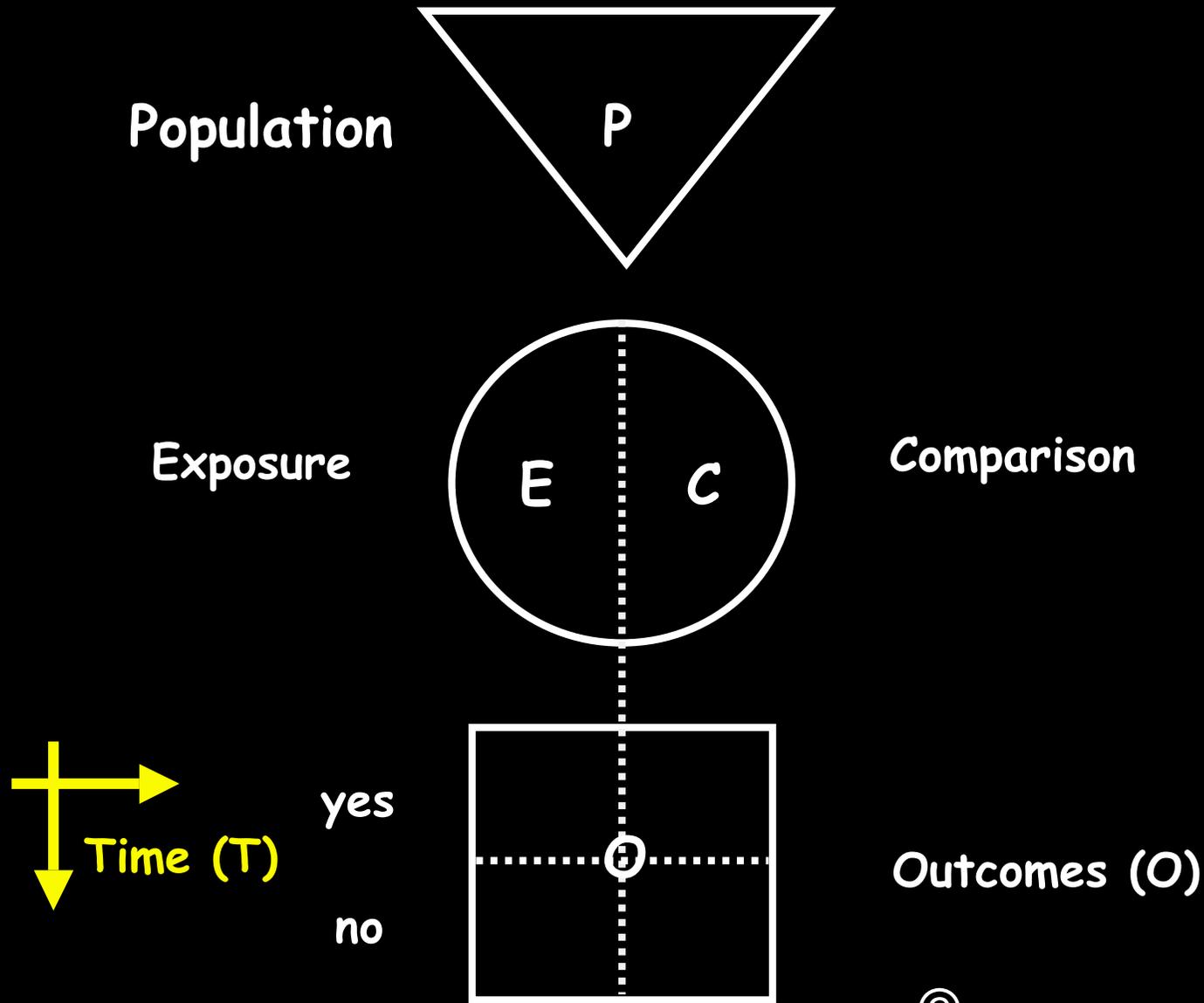
Outcomes (O)

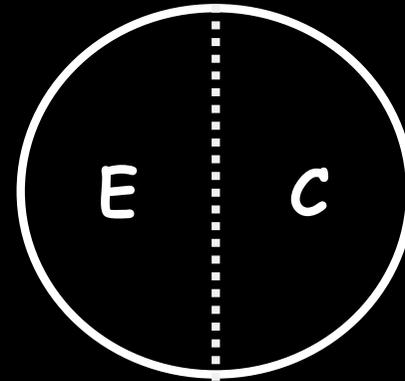
mean HDL cholesterol (mmol/L)

HRT	Placebo
1.4	1.27

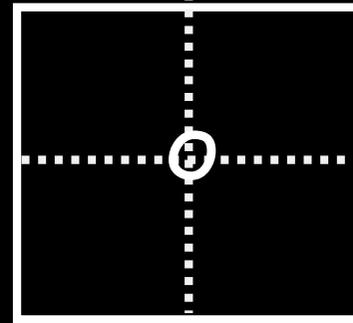
Outcomes (O)

# GATE: epi study design (T)

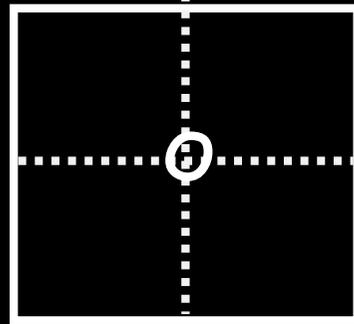
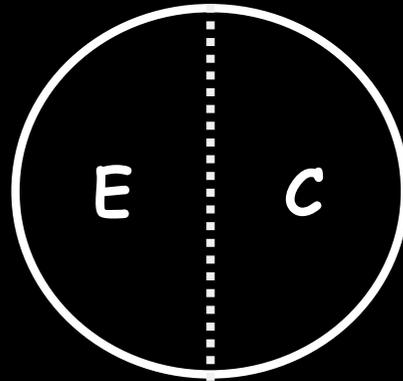




↓ Time (T)



CHD outcomes measured  
over 4.1 years  
(longitudinal)



→  
Time (T)

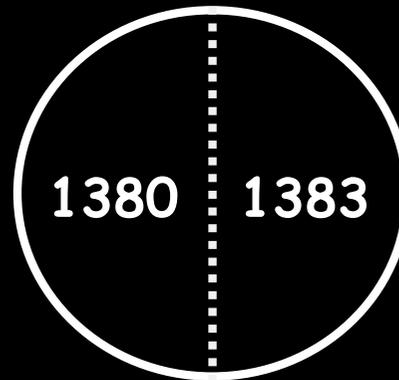
HDL cholesterol  
measured at 1 year  
(cross-sectional)

# GATE: HERS

Population =  
women with CHD



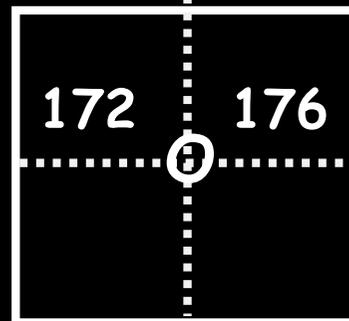
Exposure = HRT



Comparison = placebo

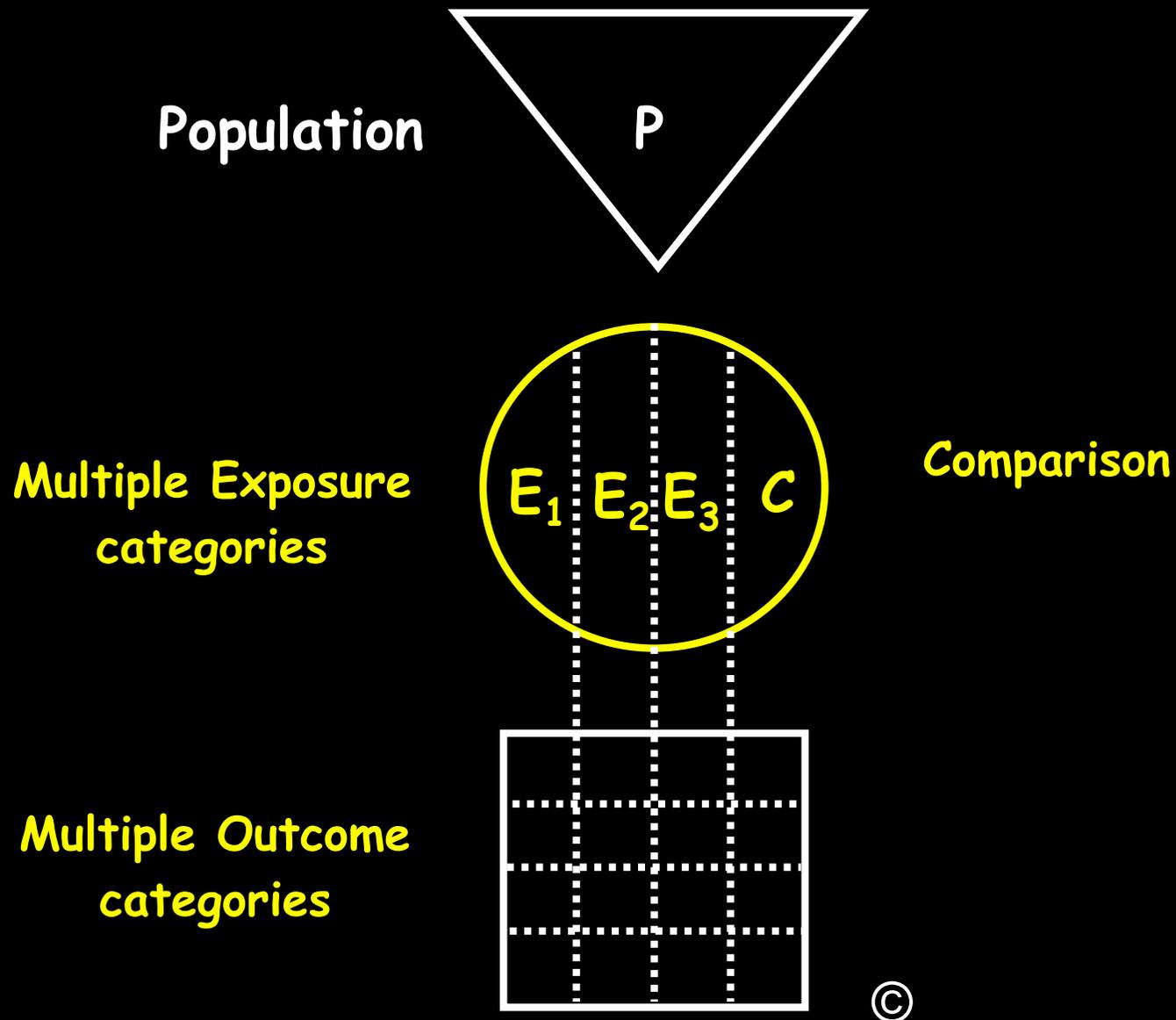


Time =  
4.1 yrs

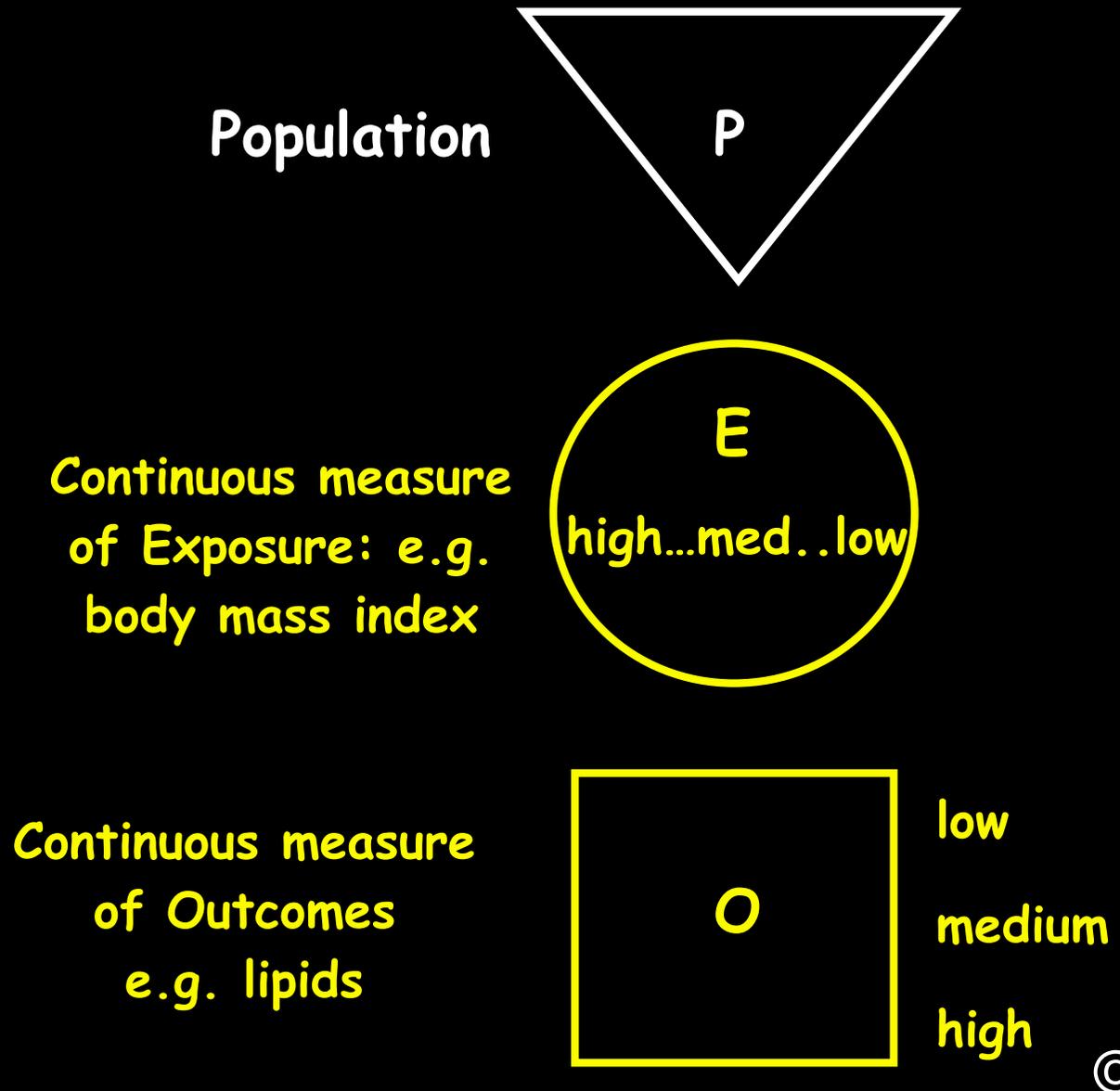


Outcomes =  
non-fatal MI  
& CHD death

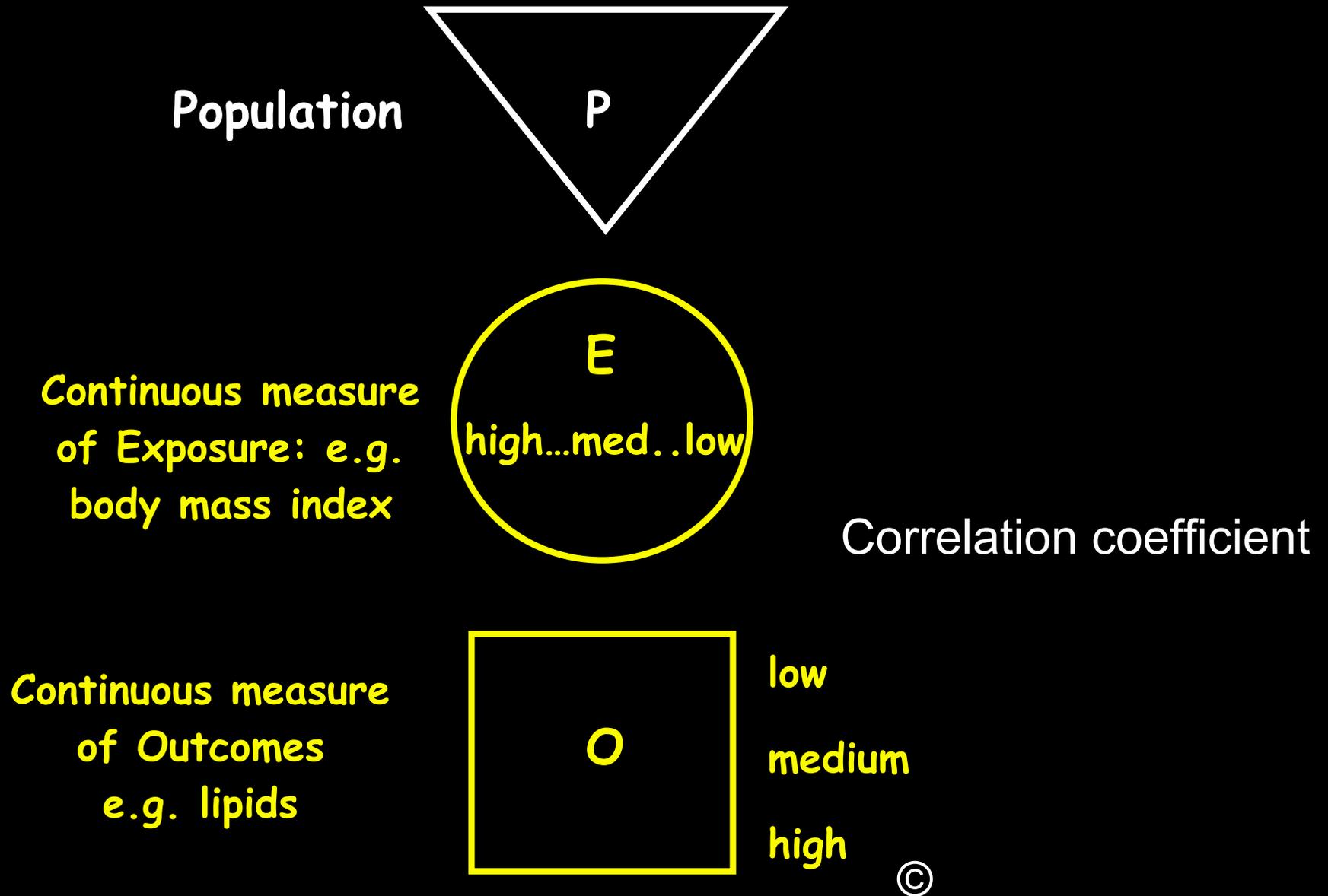
# GATE: epi study design



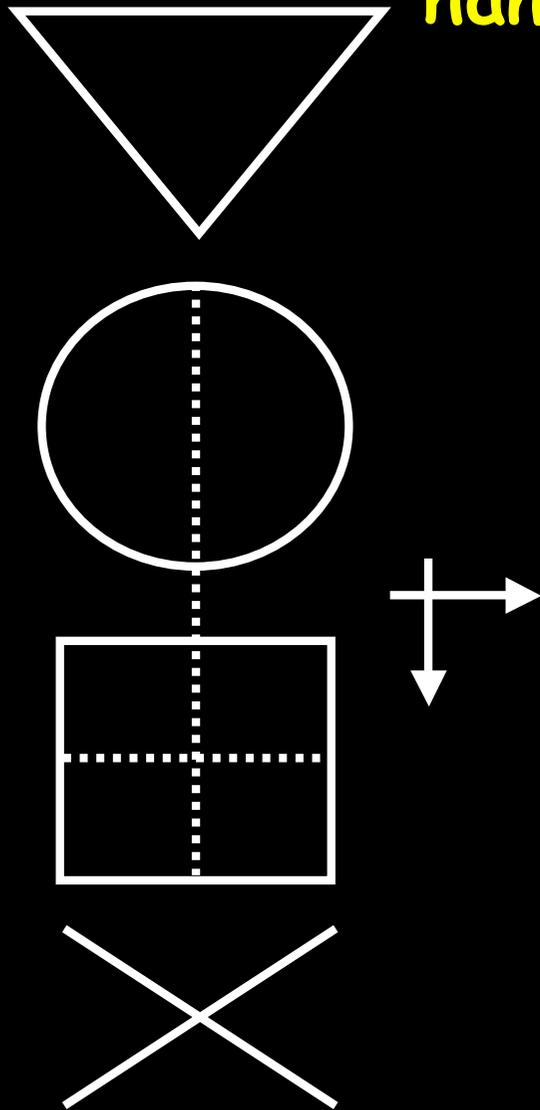
# GATE: epi study design



# GATE: epi study design



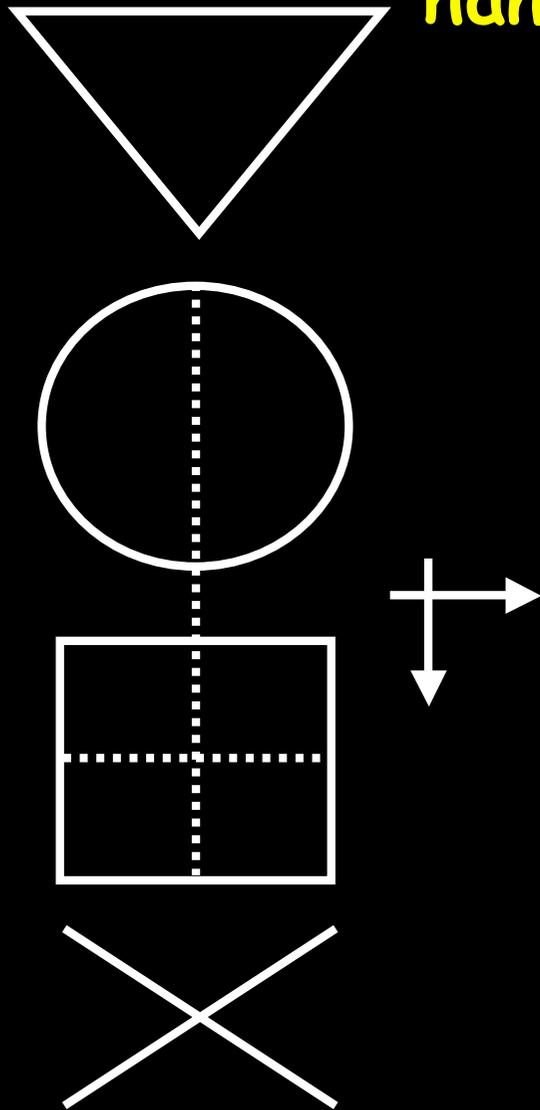
The *GATE* Approach: every epidemiological study hangs on the *GATE* frame



*GATE*: Graphic Appraisal Tool for Epidemiology

The **GATE** Approach: every epidemiological study hangs on the **GATE** frame

there is only one study design:

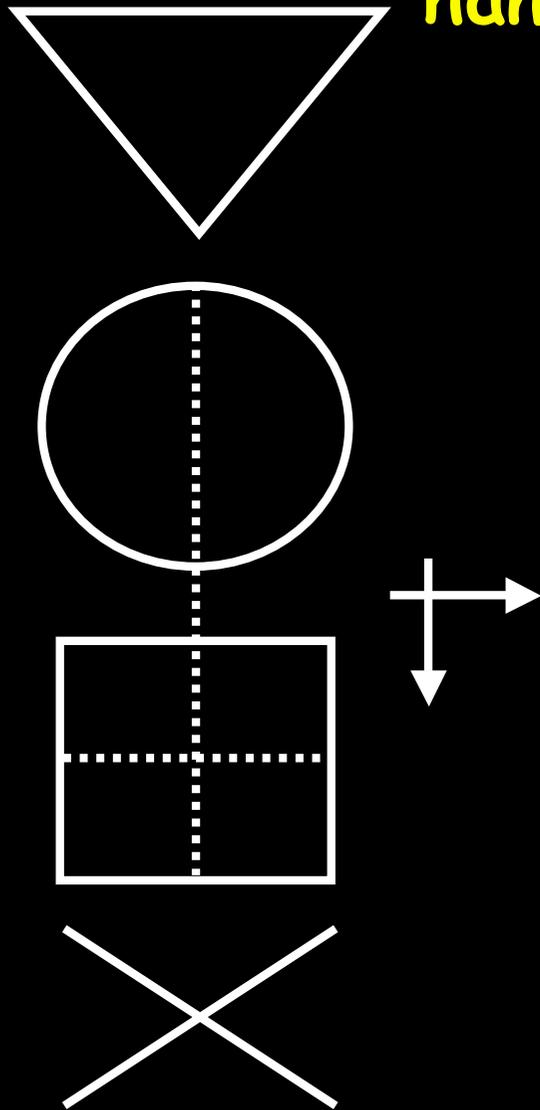


**GATE**: Graphic Appraisal Tool for Epidemiology

# The GATE Approach: every epidemiological study hangs on the GATE frame

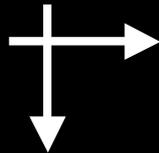
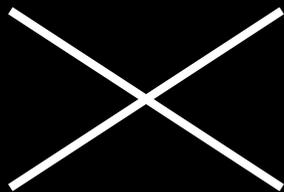
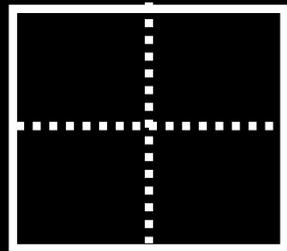
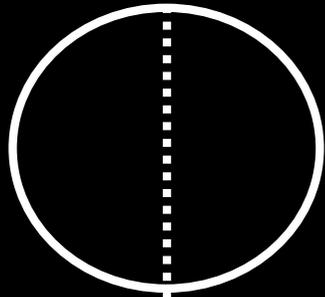
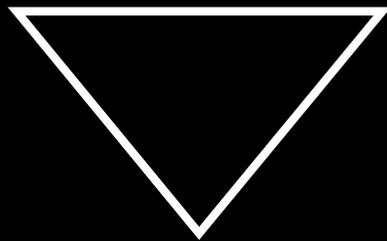
there is only one study design:

- RCT - interventions



**GATE: Graphic Appraisal Tool for Epidemiology**

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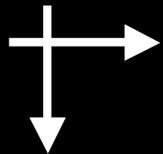
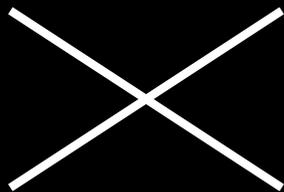
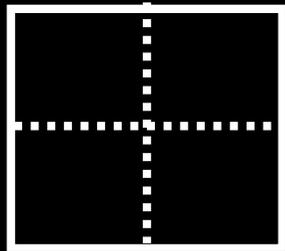
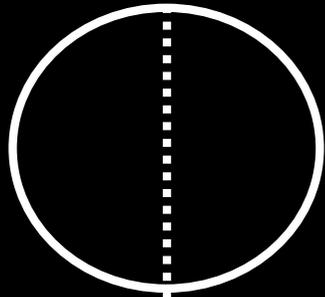
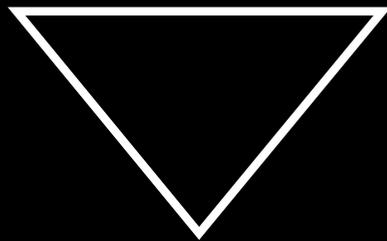
there is only one study design:

- RCT - interventions
- Cohort studies - prognosis / interv. / aetiology



**GATE: Graphic Appraisal Tool for Epidemiology**

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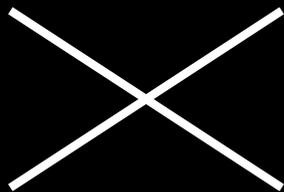
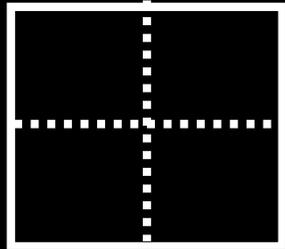
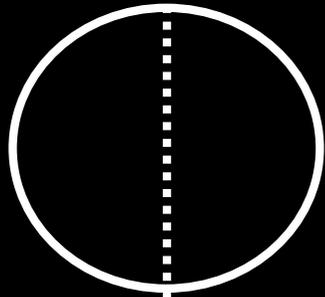
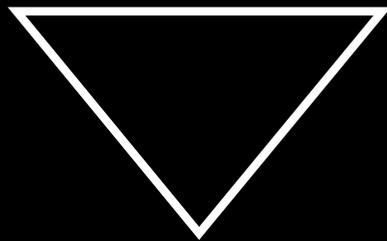
there is only one study design:

- RCT - interventions
- Cohort studies - prognosis / interv./ aetiology
- Cross-sectional studies - diagnosis



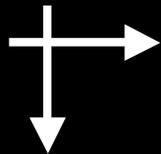
**GATE: Graphic Appraisal Tool for Epidemiology**

# The GATE Approach: every epidemiological study hangs on the GATE frame



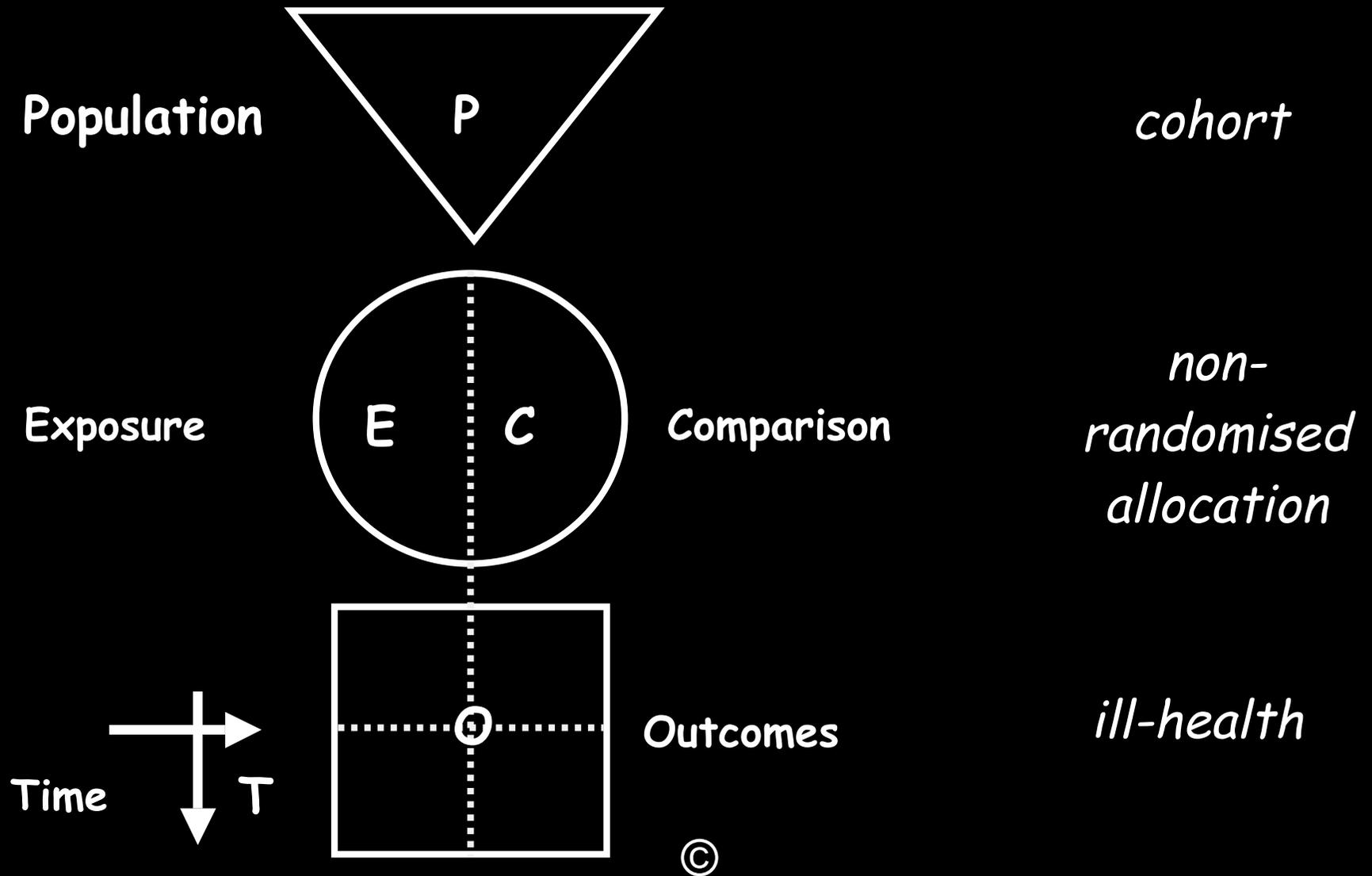
there is only one study design:

- RCT - interventions
- Cohort studies - prognosis / interv./ aetiology
- Cross-sectional studies - diagnosis
- Case-control studies - interv./aetiol.

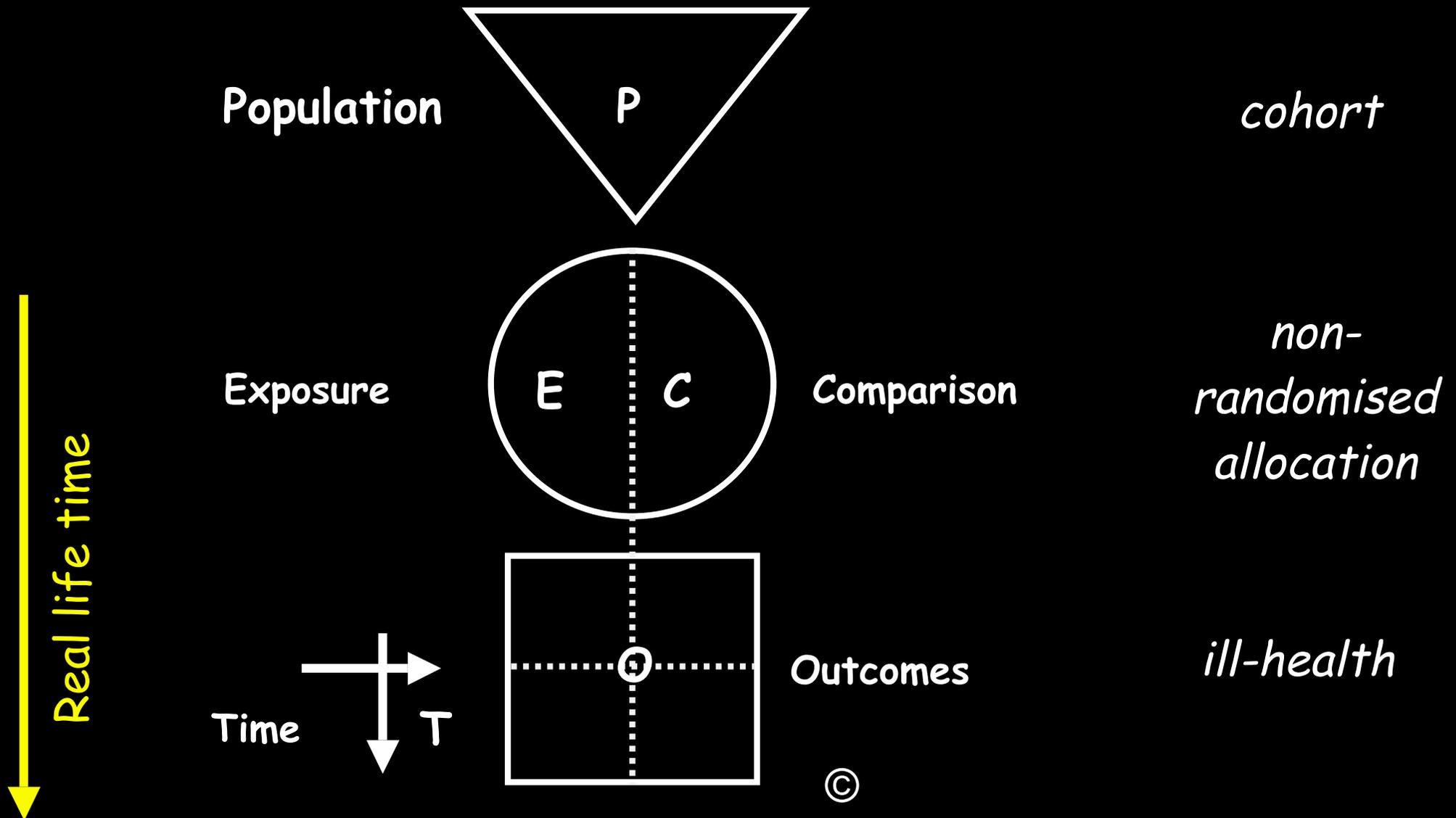


**GATE: Graphic Appraisal Tool for Epidemiology**

# Cohort (Follow-up) study: archetypal epidemiological study

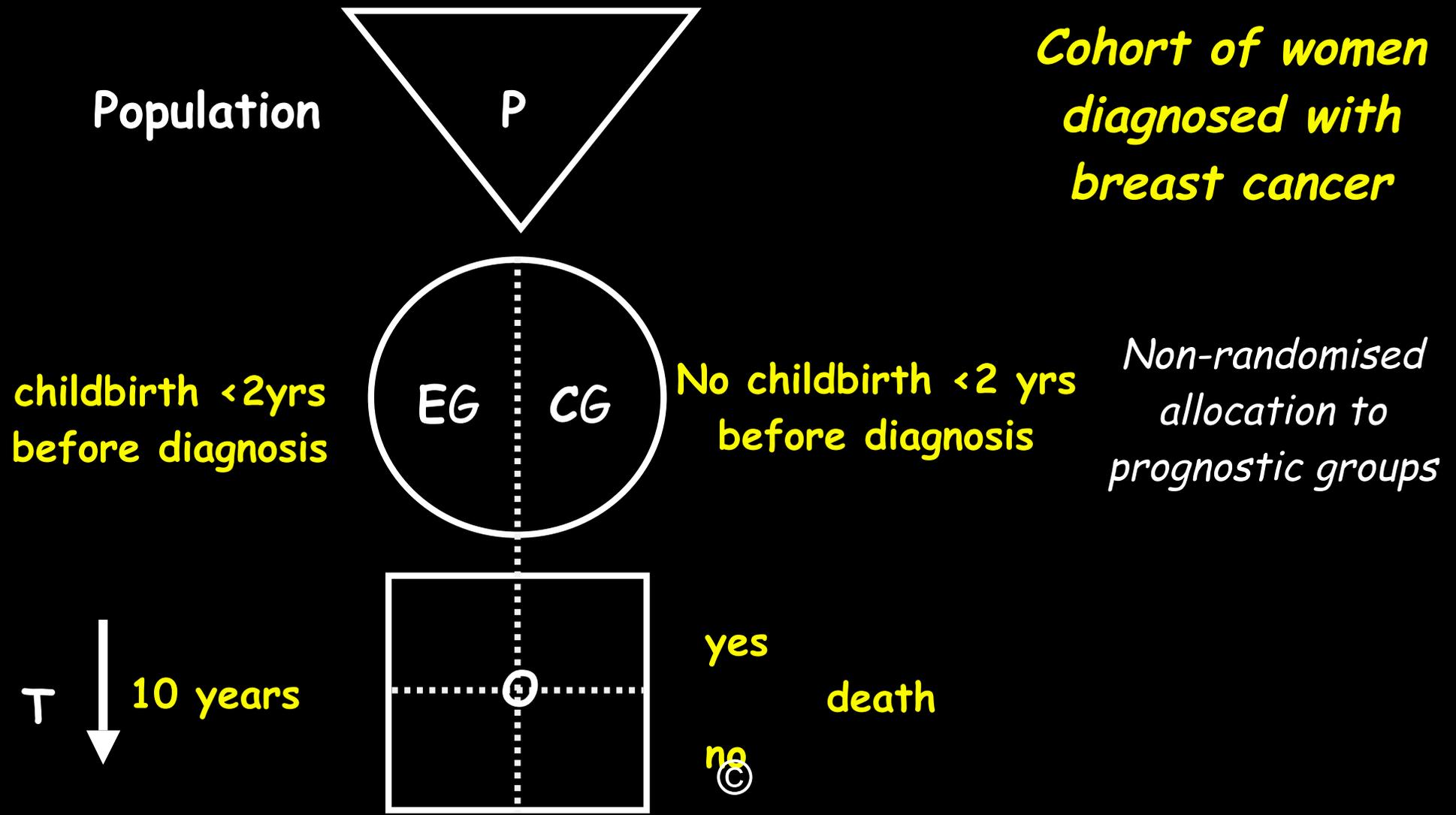


# Cohort (Follow-up) study: archetypal epidemiological study

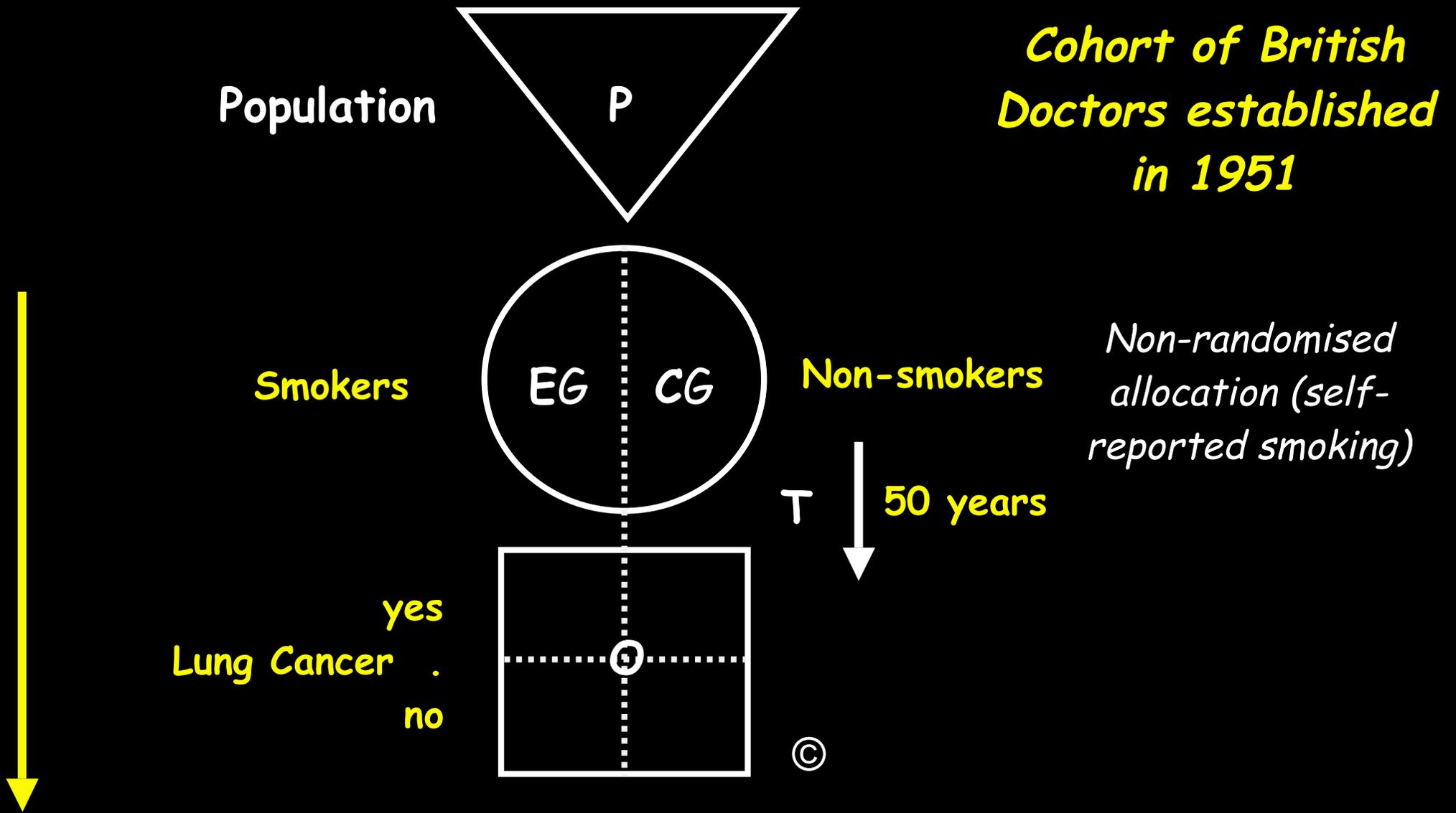


"Life" is a cohort study: a "natural experiment"

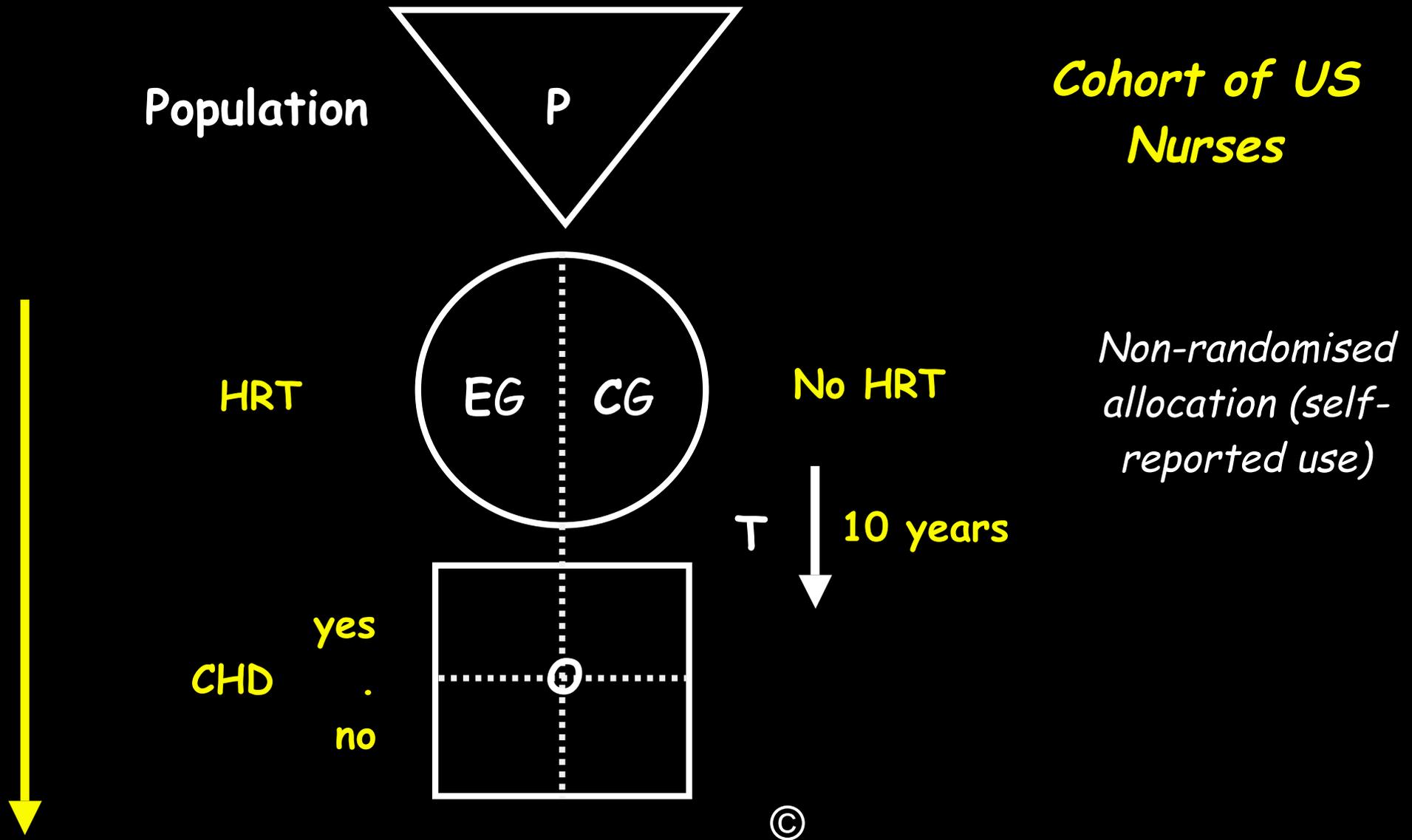
# Cohort study (prognosis): Danish Breast Cancer Cooperative



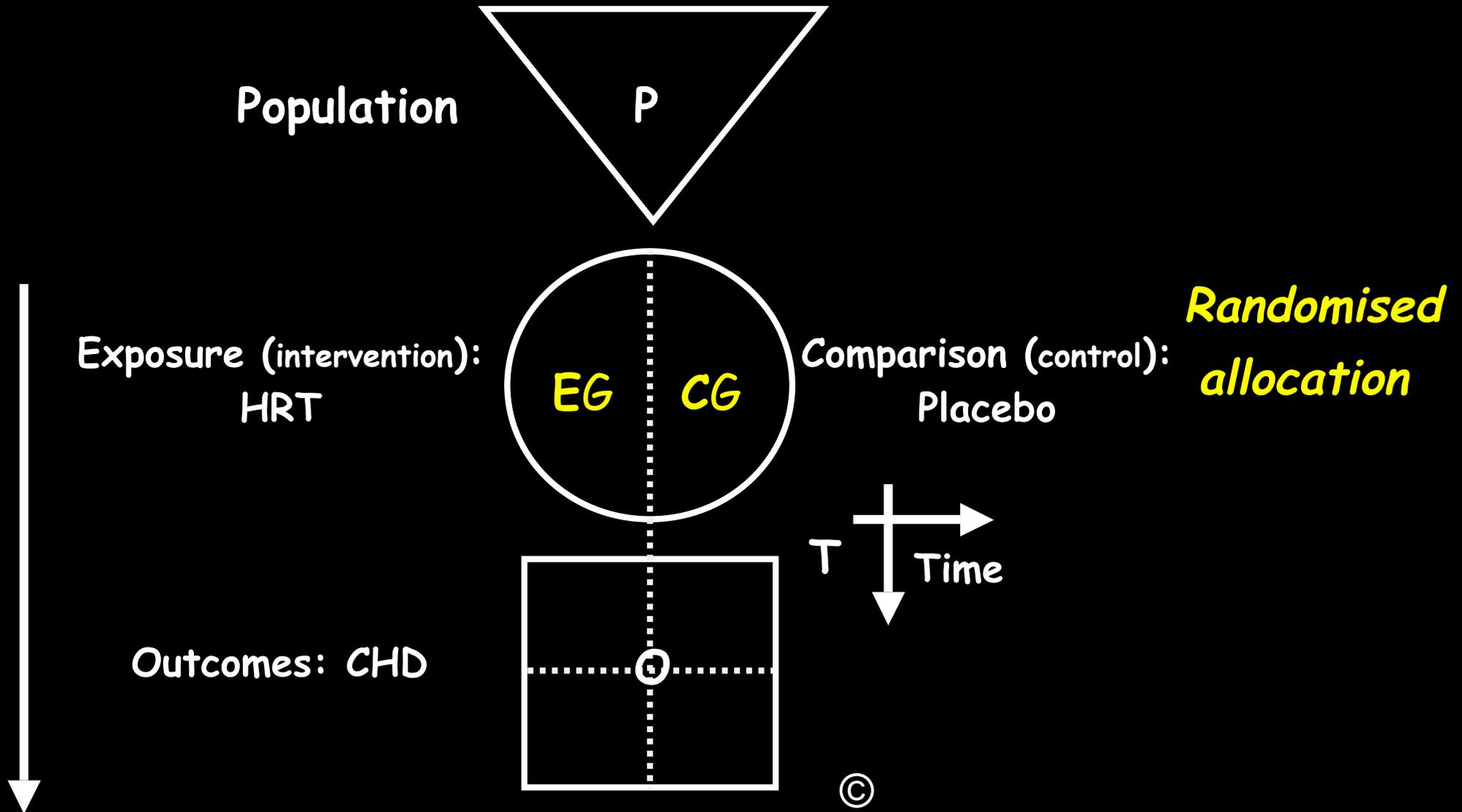
# Cohort study (aetiology): British Doctors Study



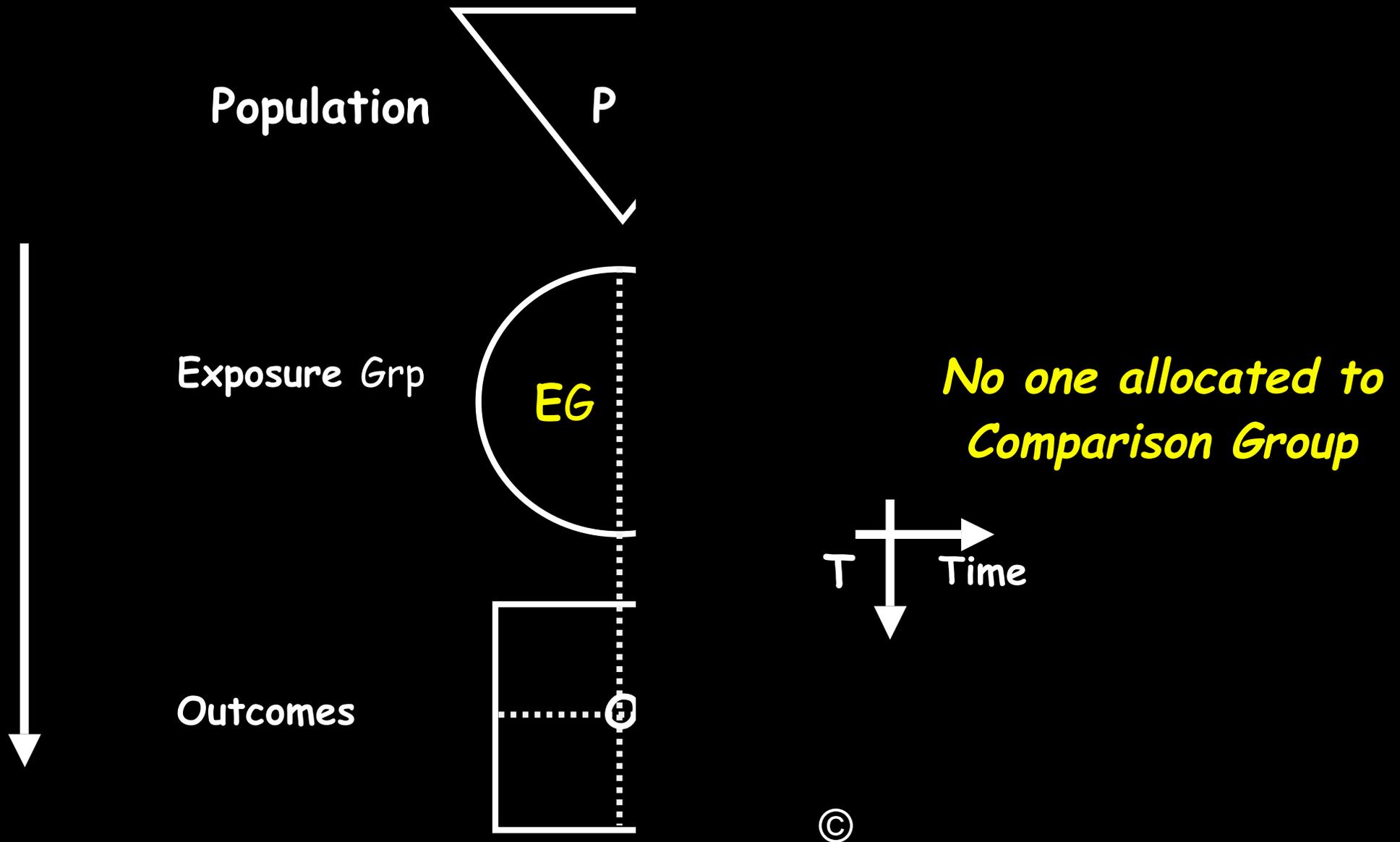
# Cohort study (intervention): Nurses Health Study



# Randomised Controlled Trial (RCT): HERS

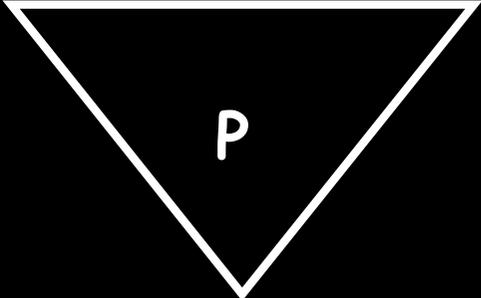


# Case series



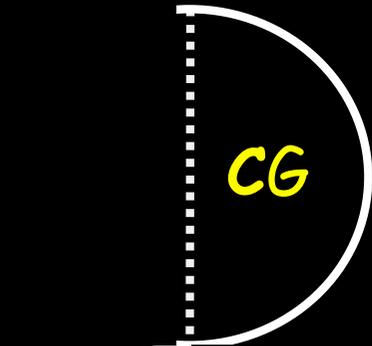
# Before-After Study (& cross-over study)

Population



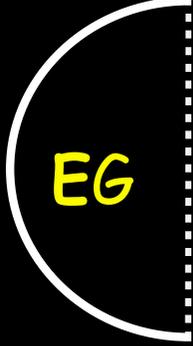
Comparison Grp

CG

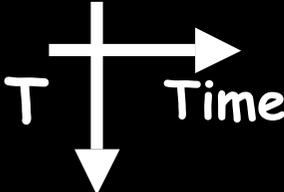


Exposure Grp

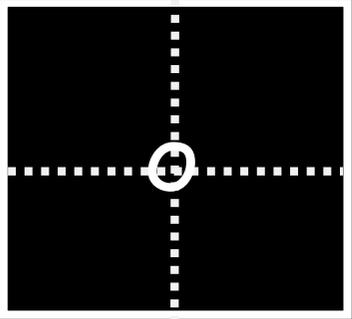
EG



*Allocation:  
randomised or  
non-randomised*

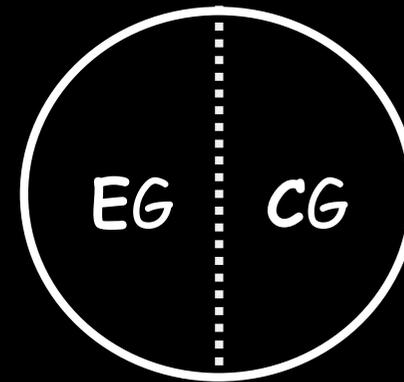
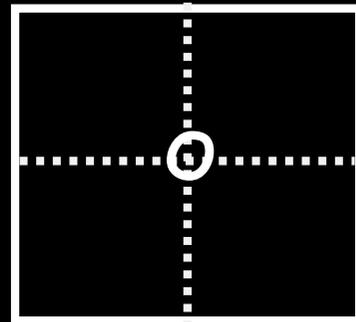
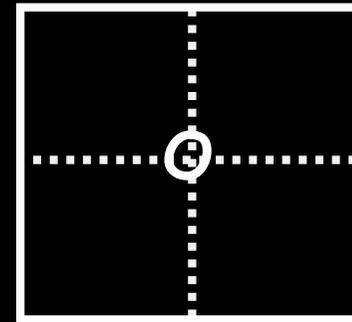
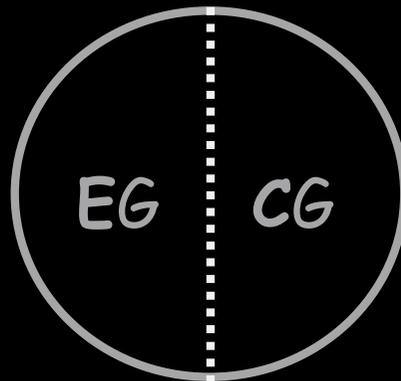
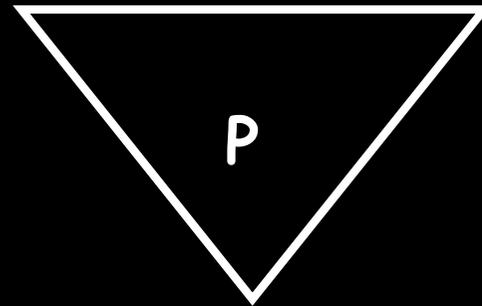


Outcomes



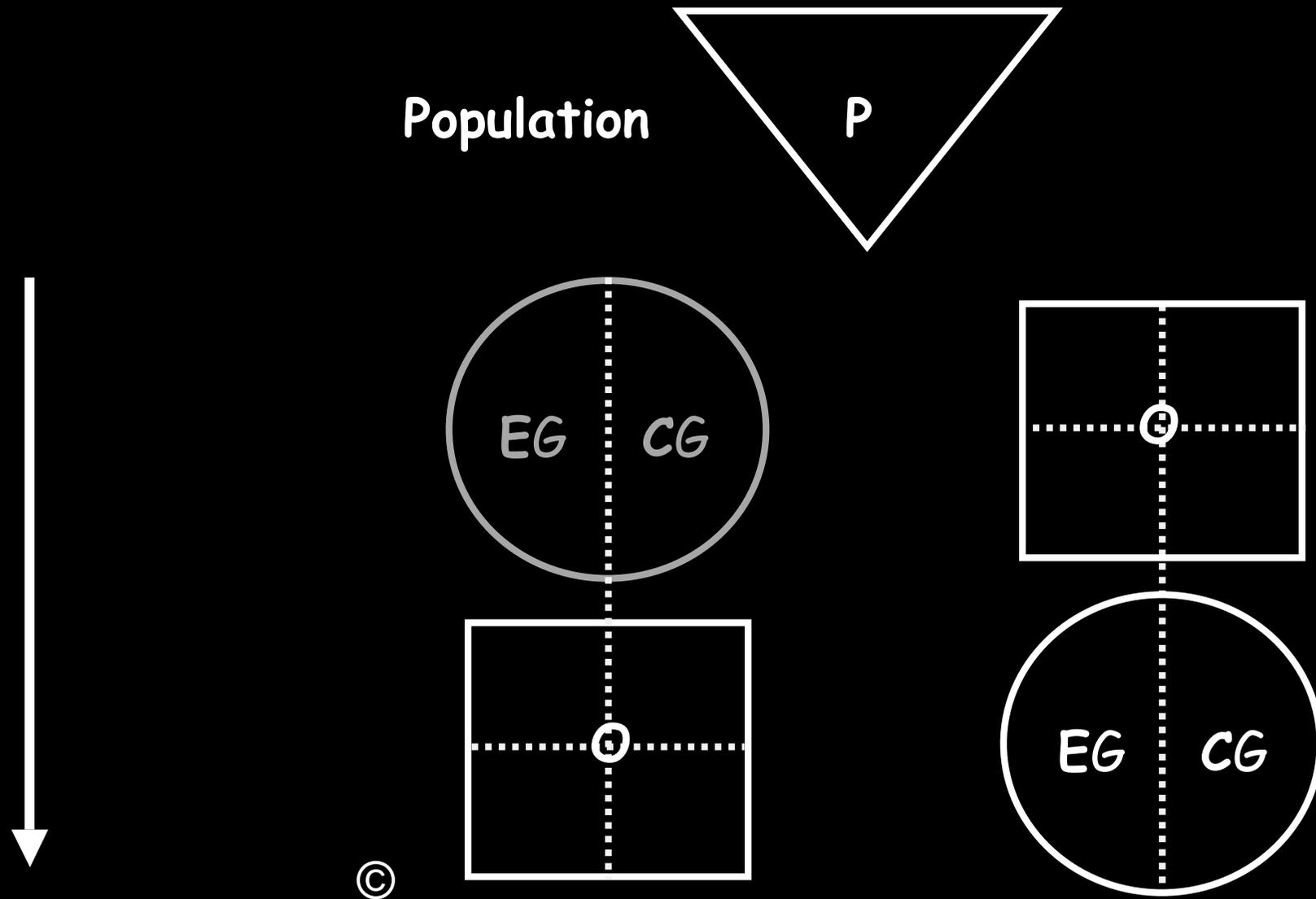
# Cross-sectional (prevalence) study/survey: PECO

Population



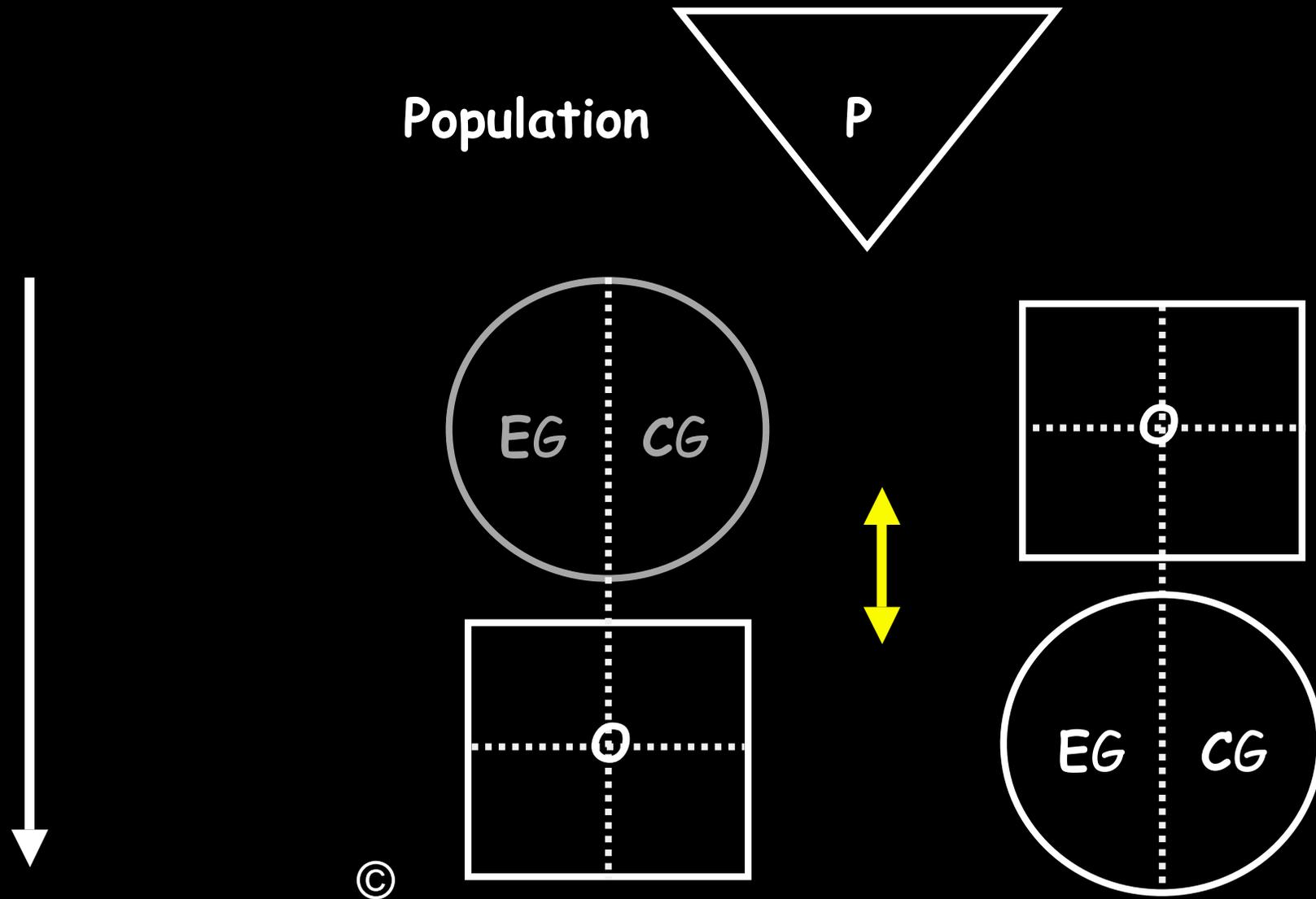
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# Cross-sectional (prevalence) study/survey: PECO



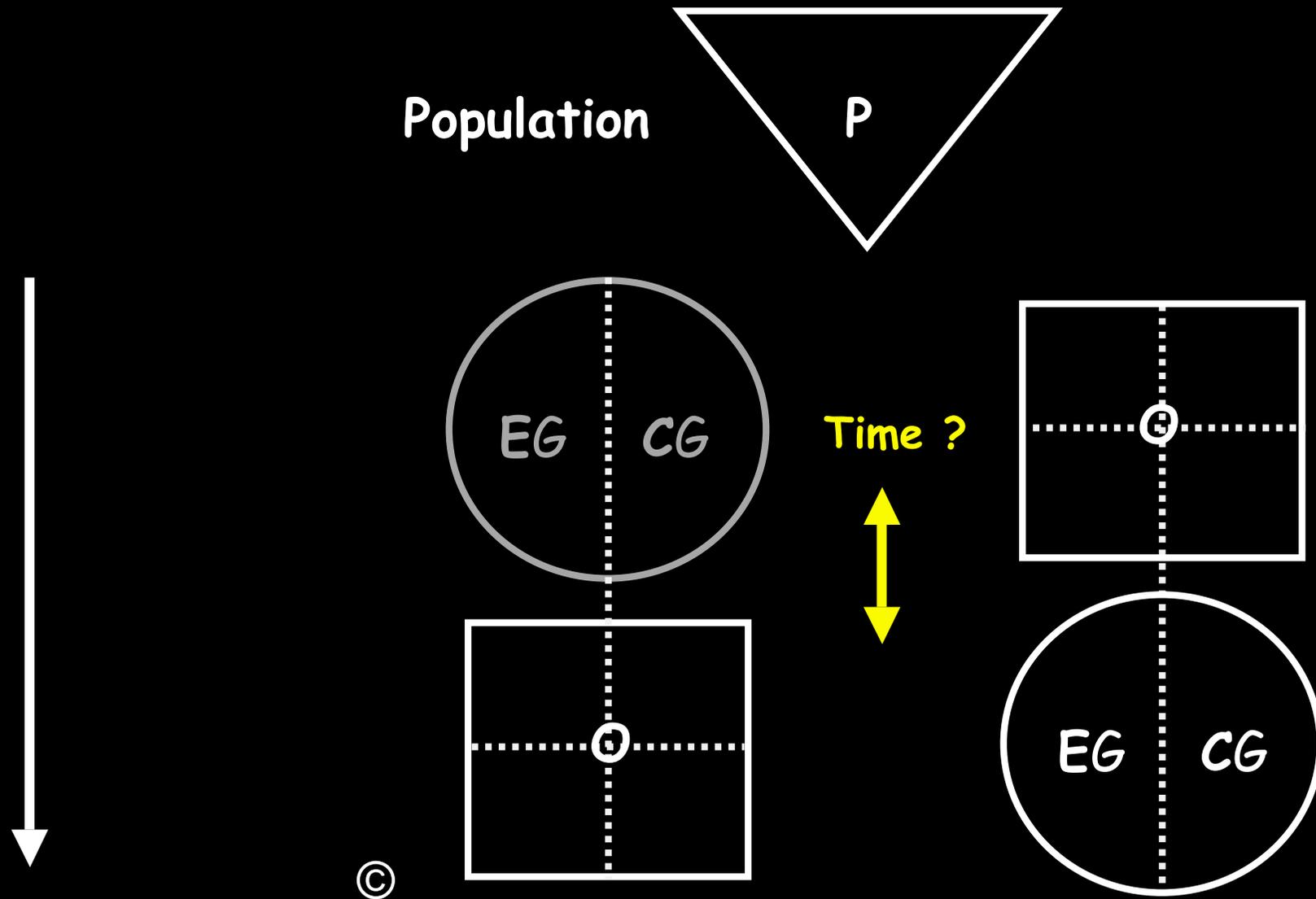
E/C assignment & Outcomes assessed in cohort at same Time

# Cross-sectional (prevalence) study/survey: PECO



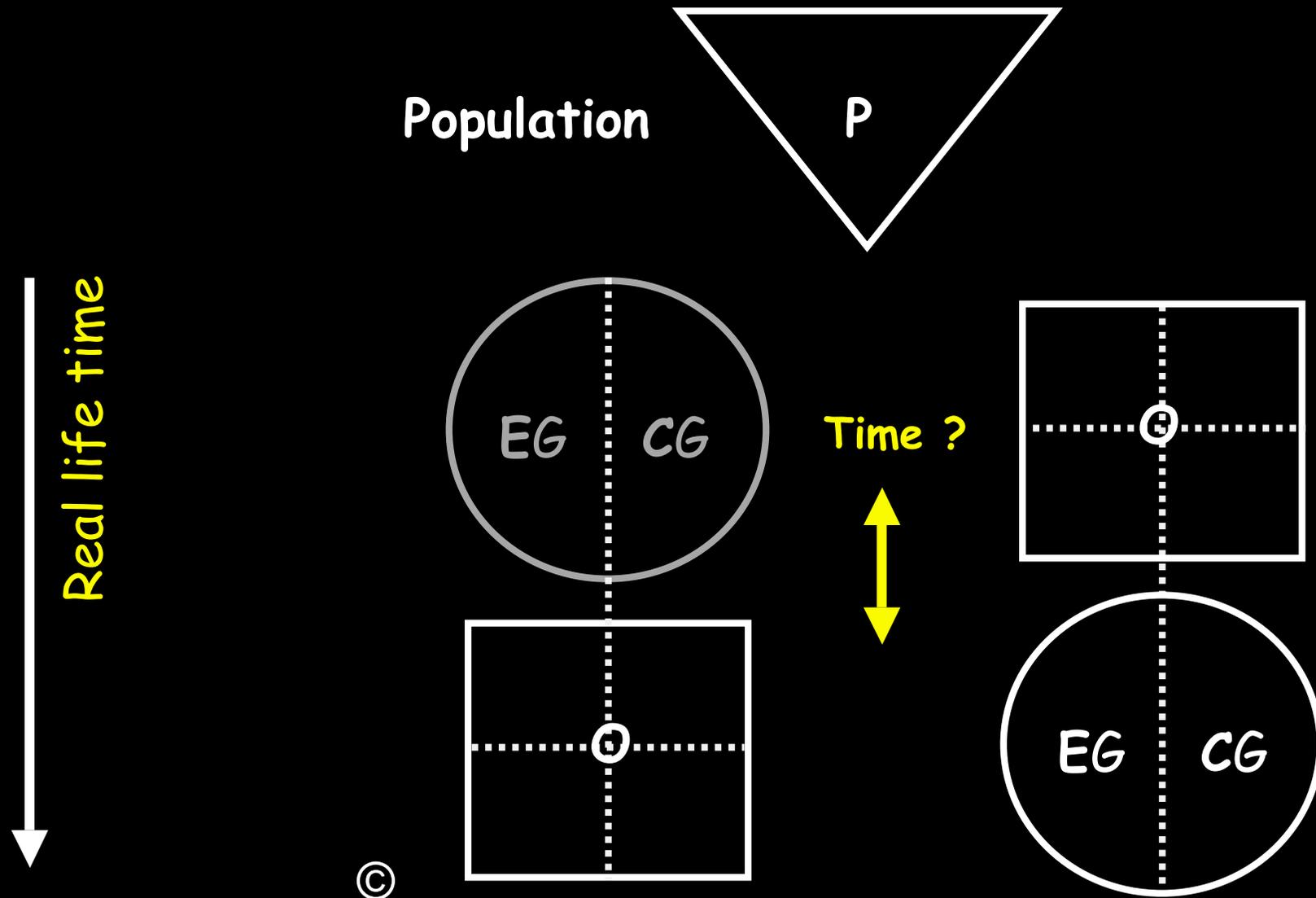
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# Cross-sectional (prevalence) study/survey: PECO



E/C assignment & Outcomes assessed in cohort at same Time

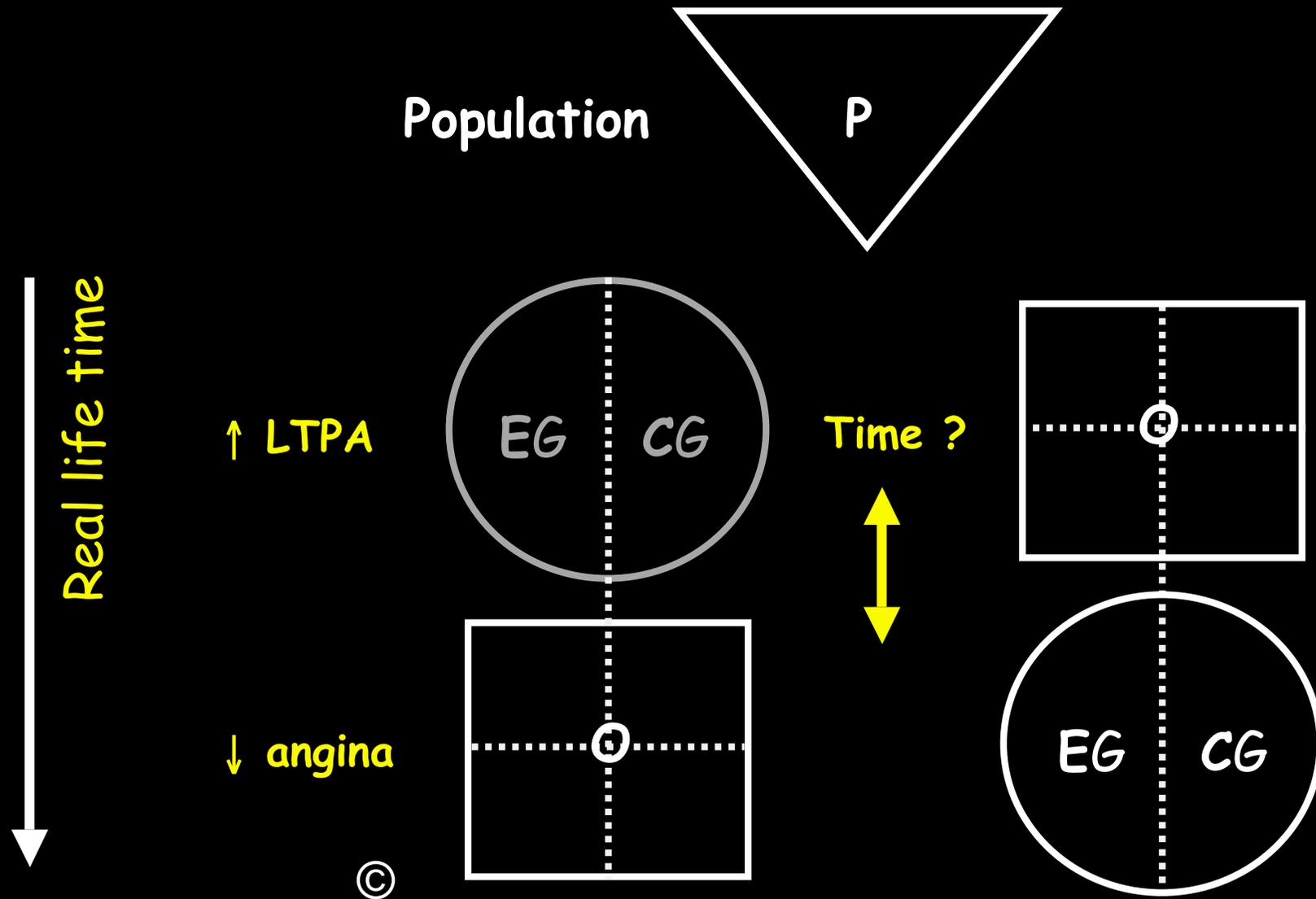
# Cross-sectional (prevalence) study/survey: PECO



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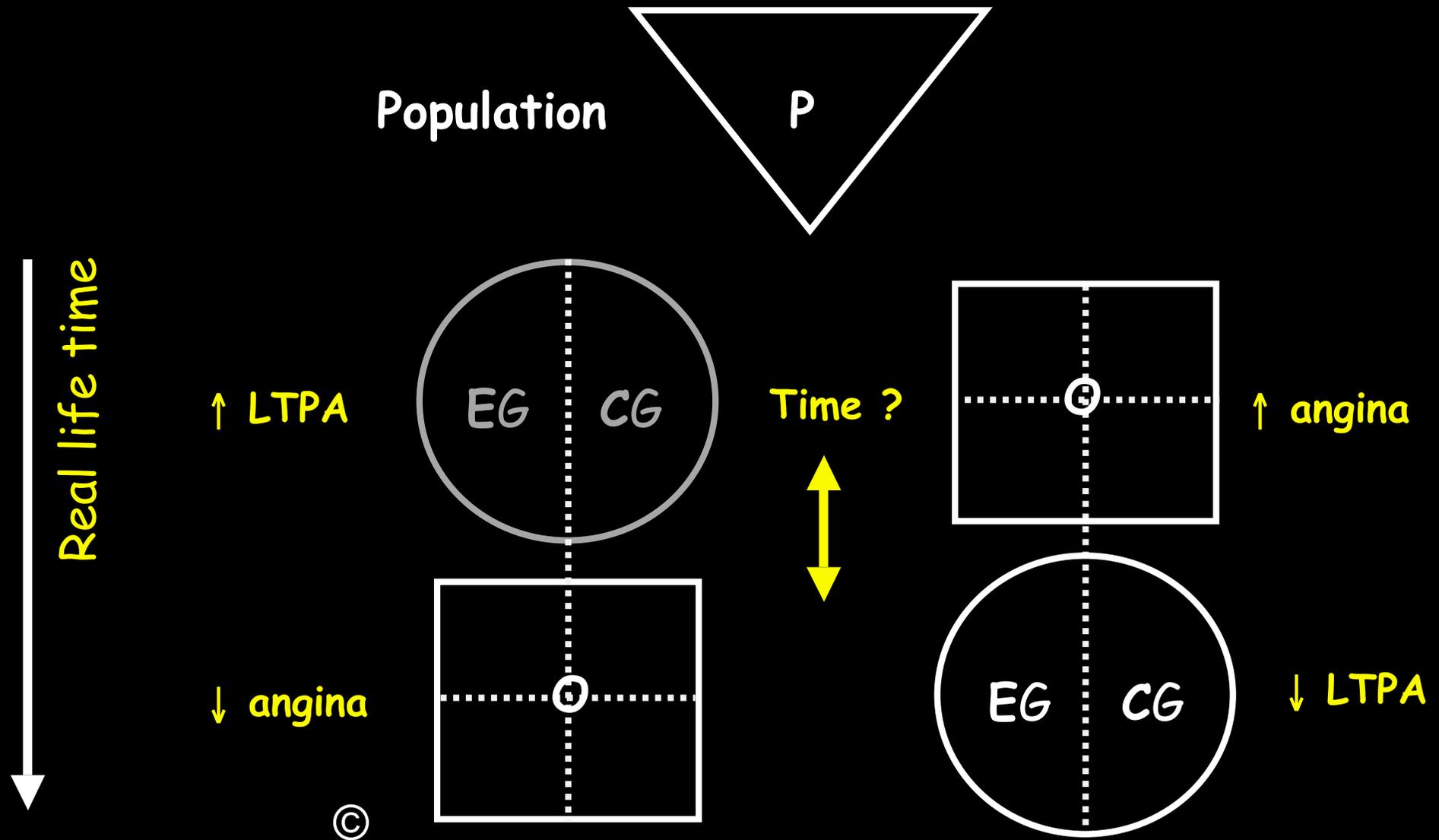
E/C assignment & Outcomes assessed in cohort at same Time

# Cross-sectional (prevalence) study/survey: PECO



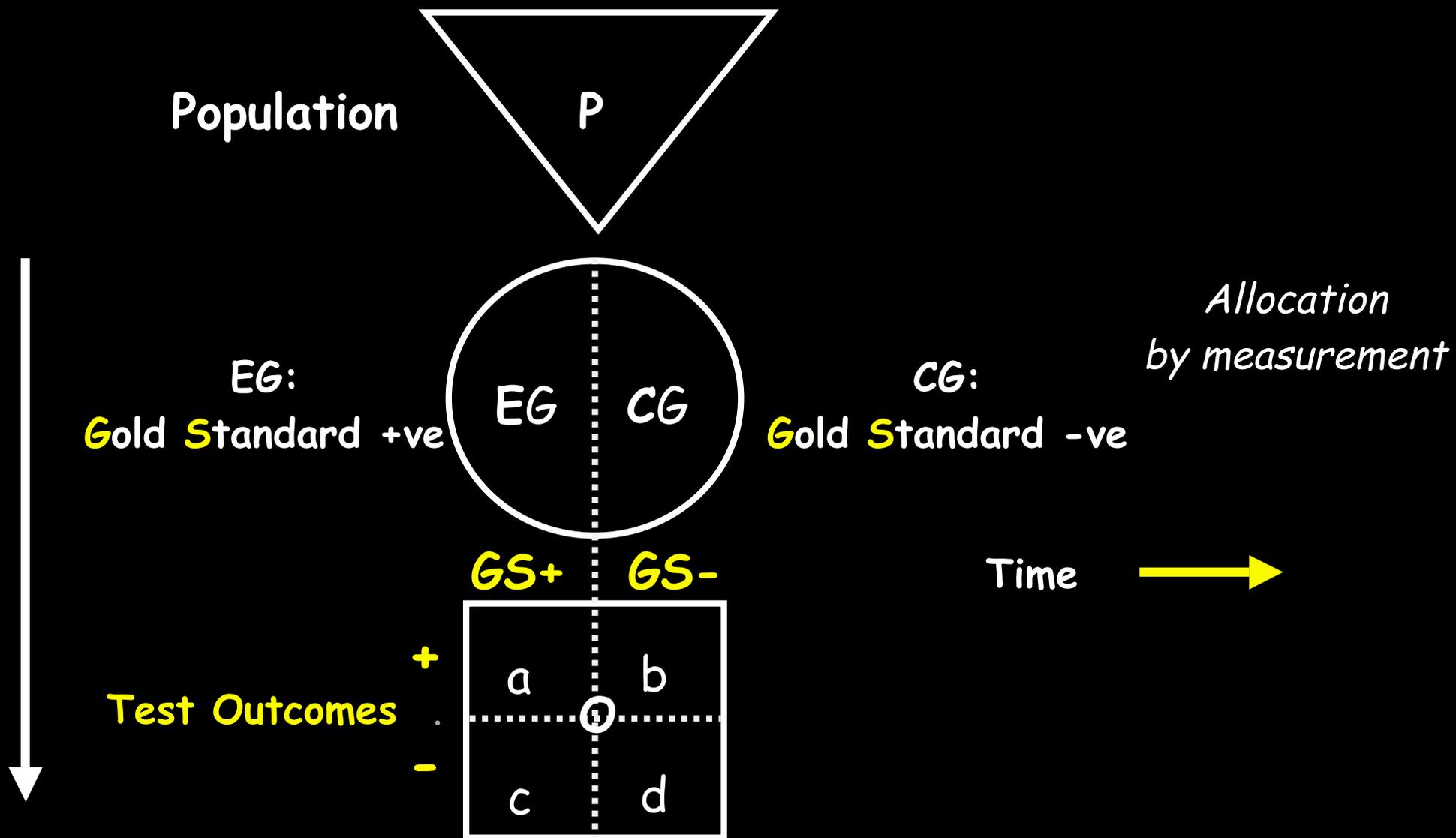
E/C assignment & Outcomes assessed in cohort at same Time

# Cross-sectional (prevalence) study/survey: PECO

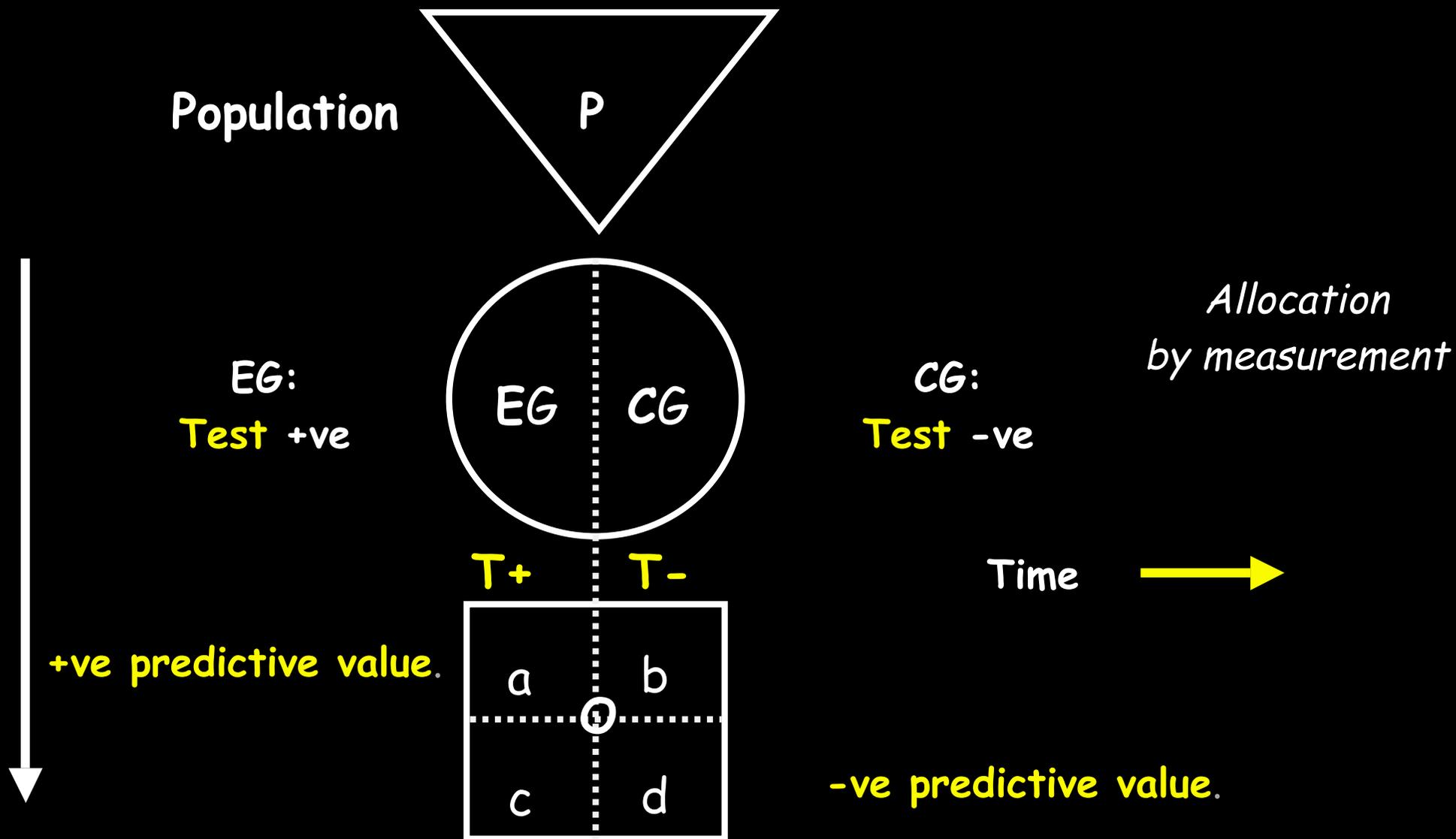


E/C assignment & Outcomes assessed in cohort at same Time

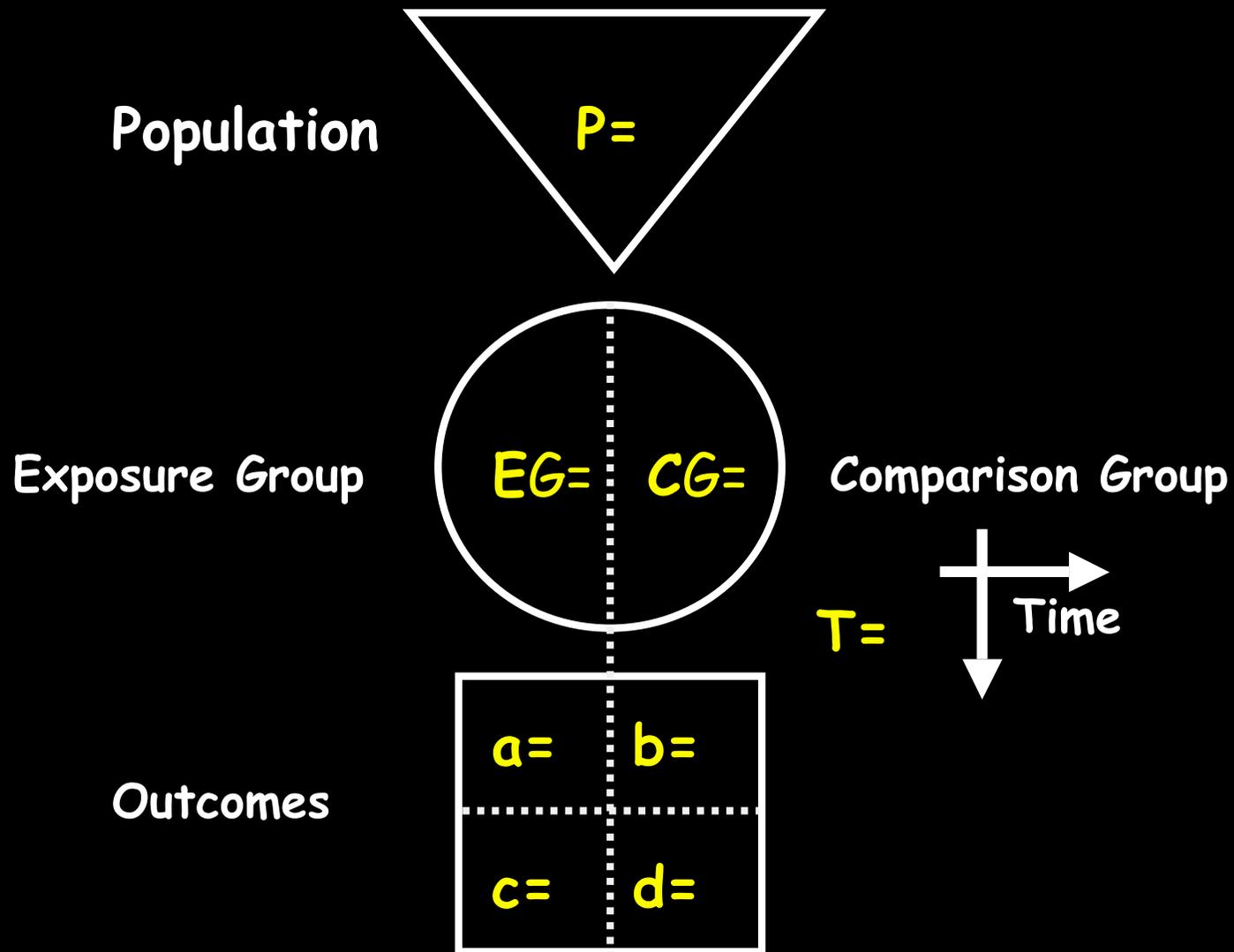
# Diagnostic Test Accuracy Study (cross-sectional)



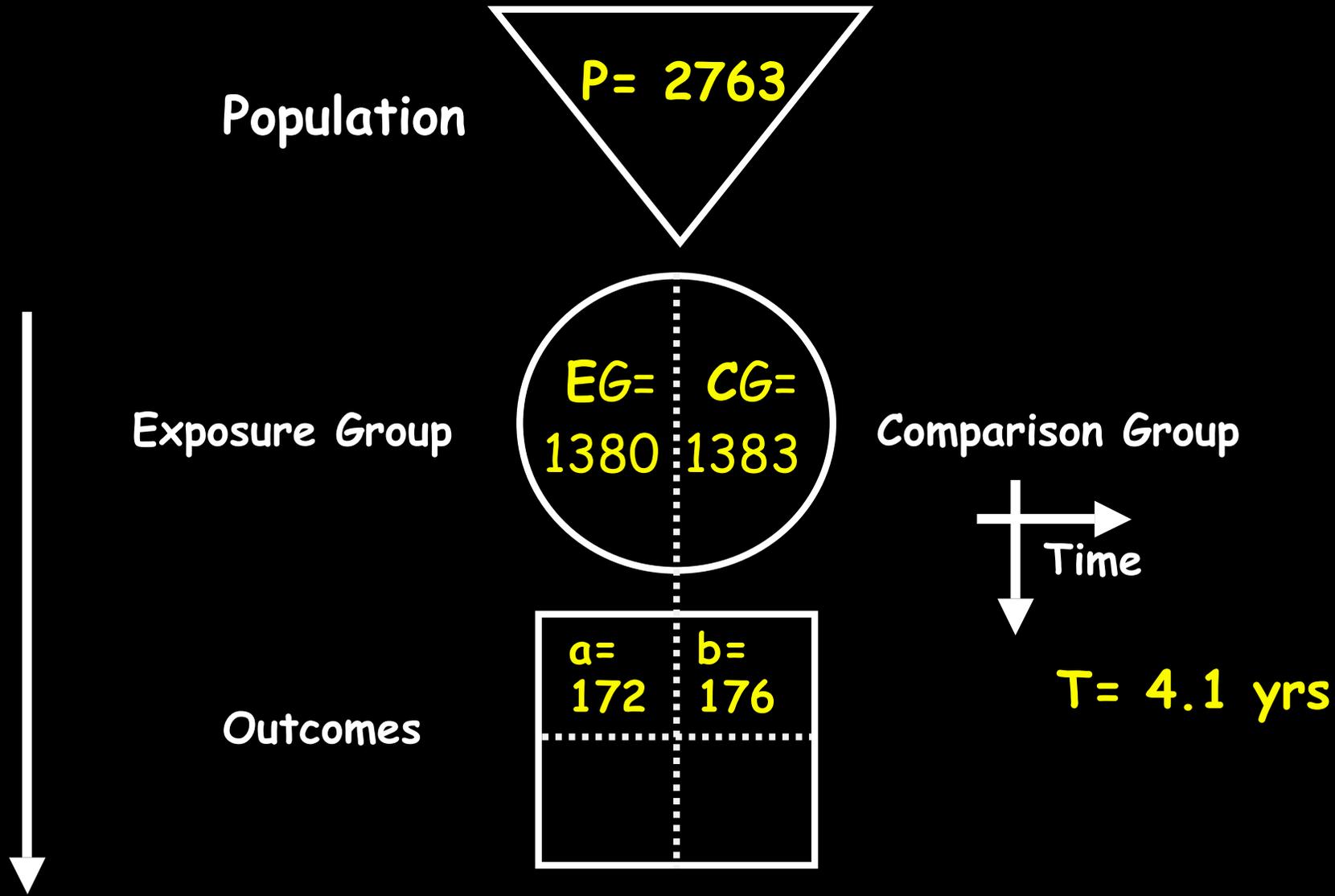
# Diagnostic Test Study Application (cross-sectional)



# GATE: the NUMBERS

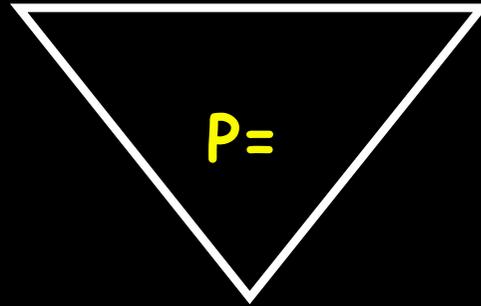


# GATE: the numbers = HERS

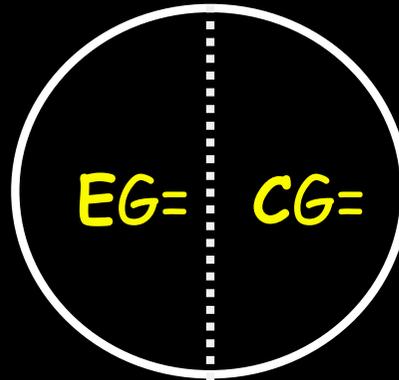


Occurrence = outcome / population

Population



sub-populations

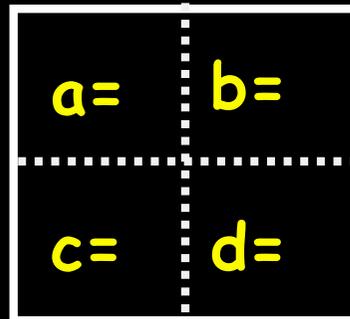


T



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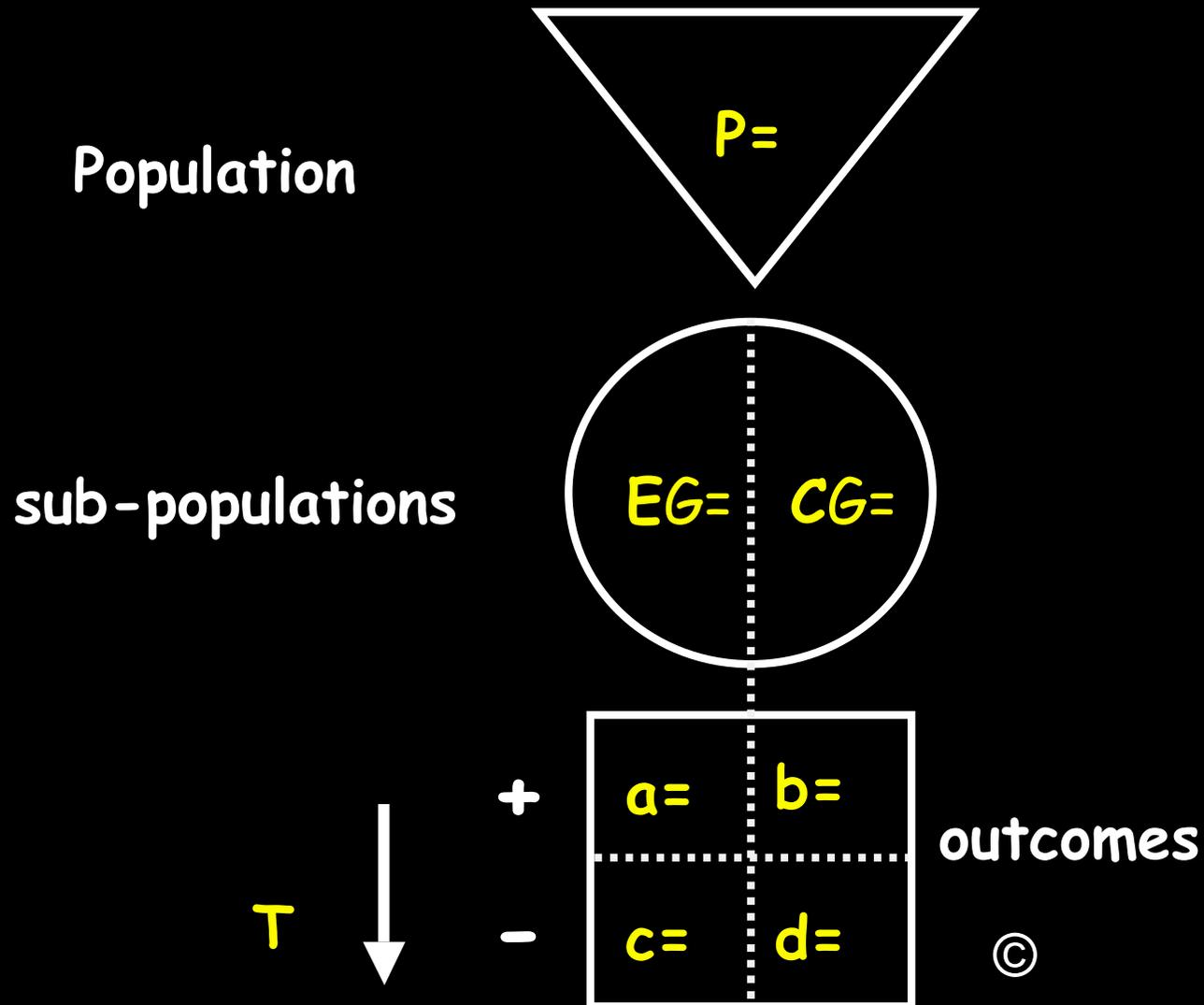
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outcomes

©

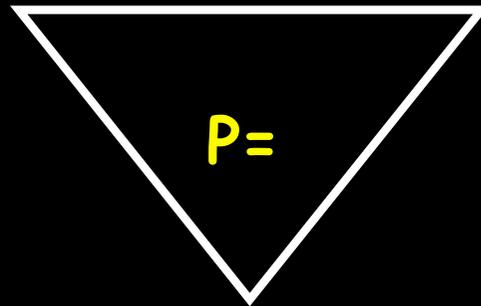
Occurrence = outcome / population



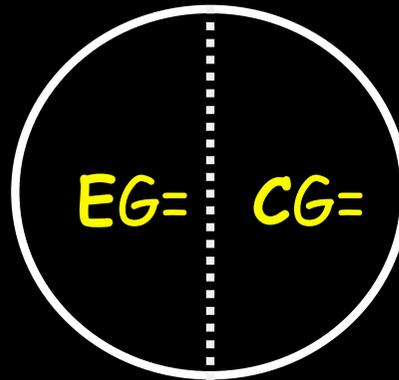
Epidemiology = numerator / denominator (E=N/D)

Occurrence = outcome / population

Population



sub-populations



T



+

a= b=

-

c= d=

outcomes

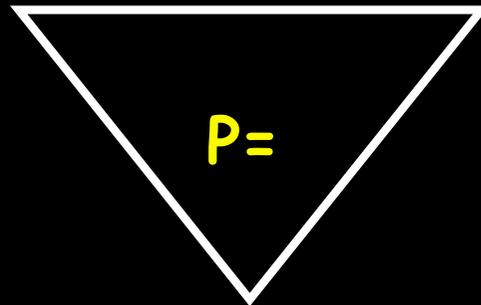


Numerators =  
a or c and b or d

Epidemiology = numerator / denominator (E=N/D)

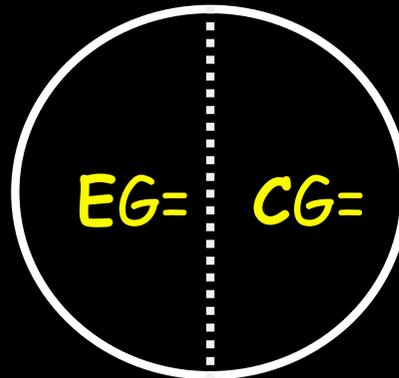
Occurrence = outcome / population

Population



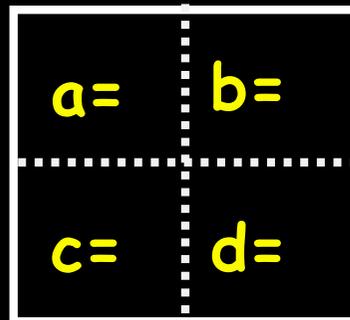
Denominators =  
EG (x T) and CG (x T)

sub-populations



T ↓

+  
-



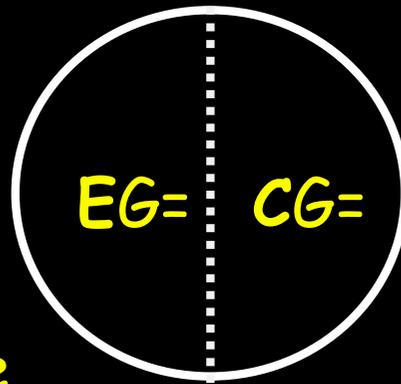
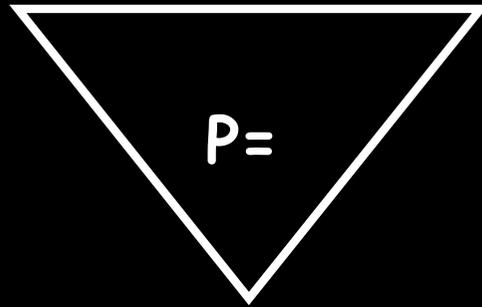
outcomes

Numerators =  
a or c and b or d

©

Epidemiology = numerator / denominator (E=N/D)

**GATE: occurrence = numerator / denominator**

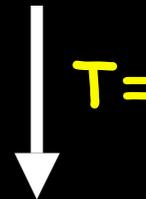
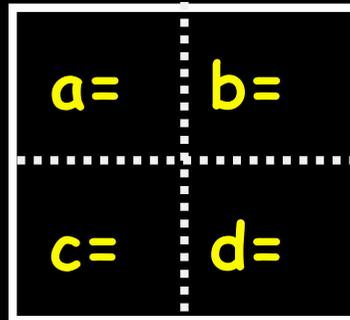


**Exp. Group Occurrence**

$$EGO = a / EG \times T$$

**Comp. Group Occurrence**

$$CGO = b / CG \times T$$



©

# GATE: occurrence HERS

P= 2763

EG= 1380  
CG= 1383

T= 4.1 yrs

Exp. Group Occurrence

$$\begin{aligned} EGO &= A / EG \times T \\ &= 172 / 1380 \times 4.1 \\ &= 30.40 / 1000 / \text{yr} \end{aligned}$$

A=	B=
172	176

Comp. Group Occurrence

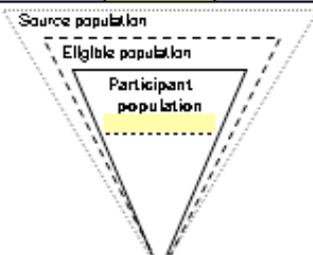
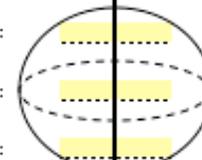
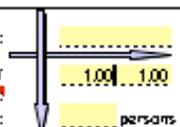
$$\begin{aligned} CGO &= B / CG \times T \\ &= 176 / 1383 \times 4.1 \\ &= 31.04 / 1000 / \text{yr} \end{aligned}$$

## Intervention Studies

Step 3: Critically appraise the study using the PECOT framework

a. "hang" the study on the GATE (Graphic Appraisal Tool for Epidemiology) Frame



	Assessed by:	Assessed when:	Publication details:					
Populans	Notes for use show to right of screen 		Source Population					
			Eligible Population					
			Participant Population					
Exposure & Comparison	Exposure Group (EG)      Comparison Group (CG)		Method of assignment to groups	Randomised or non randomised				
	Participants in each group: _____ Follow-up: dropped pre-intervention: _____ completed follow-up: _____ lost during/post-intervention: _____ Percentage lost to follow up: _____			Exposure(s)				
Outcomes	If categorical... what e.g. death? _____ participants with outcome: _____ without outcome: _____			Outcomes: ...primary				
	If continuous... what measure? _____ mean: _____ standard deviation: _____ or standard error: _____			...secondary				
Time	Unit of time (e.g. year) if rate wanted: _____ If rate wanted, enter average length of follow-up. If a proportion, enter 1.0. Report results per (e.g. per 100): _____				Time			
	<b>Results (unadjusted) with 95% confidence intervals</b>							
Calculated in GATE frame			Occurrence per 1 persons		Intervention effects per 1 persons		Number needed to treat (NNT) in 1 person	
			In exposure group (EG)	In comparison group (CG)	Relative effect (EG/CG)			
	Categorical outcome: Intention to treat analyses 95% CIs		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	
	Categorical outcome: On-treatment analyses 95% CIs		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	
Continuous outcome: Analysis of means 95% CIs		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			
Key outcome & analysis method								

# Occurrence

**EGO** = Exposure Group Occurrence ( $A/[EG \times T]$ )

**CGO** = Comparison Group Occurrence ( $B/[CG \times T]$ )

# Occurrence

**EGO** = Exposure Group Occurrence ( $A/[EG \times T]$ )

= 30.40 / 1000 persons / year

**CGO** = Comparison Group Occurrence ( $B/[CG \times T]$ )

# Occurrence

**EGO** = Exposure Group Occurrence ( $A/[EG \times T]$ )

= 30.40 / 1000 persons / year

**CGO** = Comparison Group Occurrence ( $B/[CG \times T]$ )

= 30.40 / 1000 persons / year

# Effects: comparing occurrences

$$\text{Relative Effect/Risk (RR)} = \frac{\text{EGO}}{\text{CGO}}$$

e.g. relative risk, risk ratio, prevalence ratio, incidence ratio

$$\text{Absolute Effect/Risk Difference (RD)} = \text{EGO} - \text{CGO}$$

e.g. risk difference, absolute risk

# Effects: comparing occurrences

$$\text{Relative Effect/Risk (RR)} = \frac{\text{EGO}}{\text{CGO}}$$

e.g. relative risk, risk ratio, prevalence ratio, incidence ratio

$$\text{Absolute Effect/Risk Difference (RD)} = \text{EGO} - \text{CGO}$$

e.g. risk difference, absolute risk

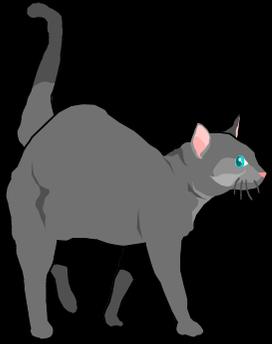
Number Needed to Treat (NNT) to prevent/cause 1 event =  $1/\text{RD}$

# R A A Mbo

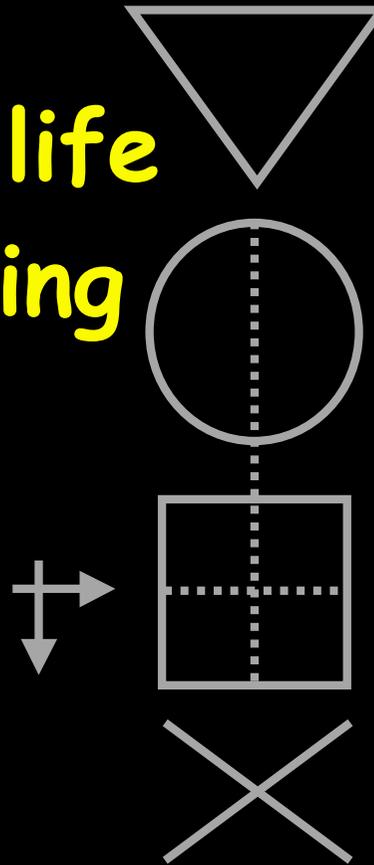
Evaluation criteria (RAAM)		Quality + ~ x nr na
Populiers	well Represented?	
	Source population well described?	
	Eligible population well described?	
	Participants representative of eligibles?	
	Were relevant prognostic indicators in participants reported?	
Exposure & Comparison	well Allocated & well Measured?	
	Exposure & comparison interventions well described & valid?	
	Allocation to exposure and comparison groups randomised?	
	Allocation concealed?	
	Exposure and comparison groups similar at baseline?	
	Participants and/or staff blind to exposure and comparison?	
	Compliance with exposure and comparison adequate?	
	Contamination acceptably low?	
	Other interventions similar in both groups?	
	All participants accounted for at study conclusion?	
	Could interventions be applied in real life?	
Outcomes	well Measured?	
	Outcome measures well described and valid?	
	Blinded outcome measurement?	
	Outcome measurement complete?	
	Were all important outcomes assessed?	
Time	Similar follow-up time in exposure & comparison groups?	
	Was follow-up time meaningful?	
Results	Intention to treat analysis?	
	Estimates of intervention effects given or calculable?	
	Precision of intervention effects given or calculable?	
	Analytical methods appropriate?	
Summary	Are the study results internally valid (i.e. unbiased)?	
	Are results precise enough to be meaningful? If not, was power sufficient?	
	Can the applicability of the results (i.e. external validity) be determined?	
	Overall study quality	

# Step 4

	A	B	C	D	E
1	<b>Intervention Studies</b>				
2	Step 4: Integrate the evidence with patient, policy and practitioner issues, and act				
3					
4	<b>The X-factor</b>				
5					
6	Summarise epidemiologic evidence				
7	The study	<p>This study is a large cohort study. The participants were nurses in USA. We know little about the socio-demographic background of these nurses (healthy worker effect?, ethnicity, socioeconomic status). The exposure comparison was poorly defined and included any HRT (dose, type, combination). There is some controversy over what preparation is beneficial vs what may be harmful. A large beneficial 44% relative risk reduction of major coronary events was reported for current HRT users after adjustment for known confounding factors. However current users were generally "healthier" in those confounders reported and there is likely to be further confounding. Issues: confounding, no blinding, probable co-intervention, possible lack of generalisability.</p>			
8	Consistency with other studies	<p>The ideal study design for an intervention is a randomised controlled trial. Since this cohort study was published there have been approx 15 rcts with 2 major trials providing key results (HERS JAMA 1998, 2002 and WHI trial JAMA 2002). They found that 0.625mg conjugated oestrogen + 2.5 mg medroxyprogesterone (combined HRT) 1) Increases the risk of heart disease events by 29% (37 vs 30 per 10,000 person years) with most of the increased risk in 1st year of use and 2) Increases risk of stroke by 41% (29 vs 21 per 10,000 person years). There are 6 Cochrane systematic reviews in the 2005 edition covering differing aspects of HRT as well as a carefully considered New Zealand Guideline for HRT. In relatively healthy women, combined continuous HRT has been found to significantly increase the risk of VTE or coronary event (after 1 year of use), stroke (after 3 yrs of use), breast cancer (after 5yrs) and gall-bladder disease. Benefits: decreased incidence of fractures and colon cancer with long term use. In women over 65yrs long term use of combined continuous HRT sig increased incidence dementia. Gaps: No trials focussed specifically on younger women but their absolute risk of CVD or other event is very low. Conclusion Farquhar</p>			
9	Identify other issues				
10	Patient preferences	<p>Some younger women at low CVD risk and with significant menopausal symptoms may decide the small possible CVD harm is worth the risk if the reduction menopausal symptoms are significant.</p>			
11	Policy issues	<p>New Zealand Guidelines now recommend that HRT should not be used for CHD prevention and that it should be used with caution and primarily short term for women with significant menopausal symptoms</p>			
12	Clinical considerations	<p>Women at high CVD risk, those at high risk of DVT and PE, those with recent breast cancer should avoid taking HRT even if they have significant menopausal symptoms. Those women with risk factors for osteoporosis and low bone mineral density need to balance the risk/benefit of HRT with risk/benefit of alternatives eg. bisphosphonates</p>			
13	The bottom line: weighing everything up				
14	<p>Beware of applying the results of a cohort intervention study. The Nurses' Health Study was widely advertised and reported and many women were prescribed HRT on the basis of this study. Seven years later the net results completely reverse the initial findings. Post-menopausal HRT should not be used for reducing risk of a cardiovascular event.</p>				
15	Step 5: Implementation and Quality Improvement				
16	<p>Plan to implement decision in your practice setting: how can your team improve practice with respect to the topic covered in this CAT?</p>				



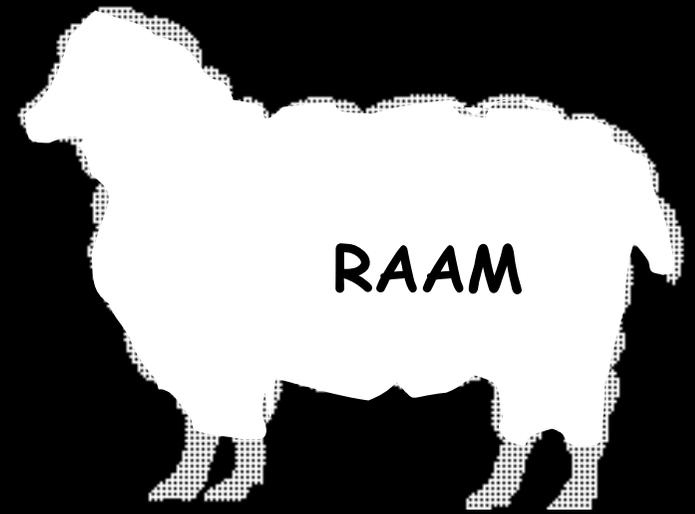
the CAT:  
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long learning

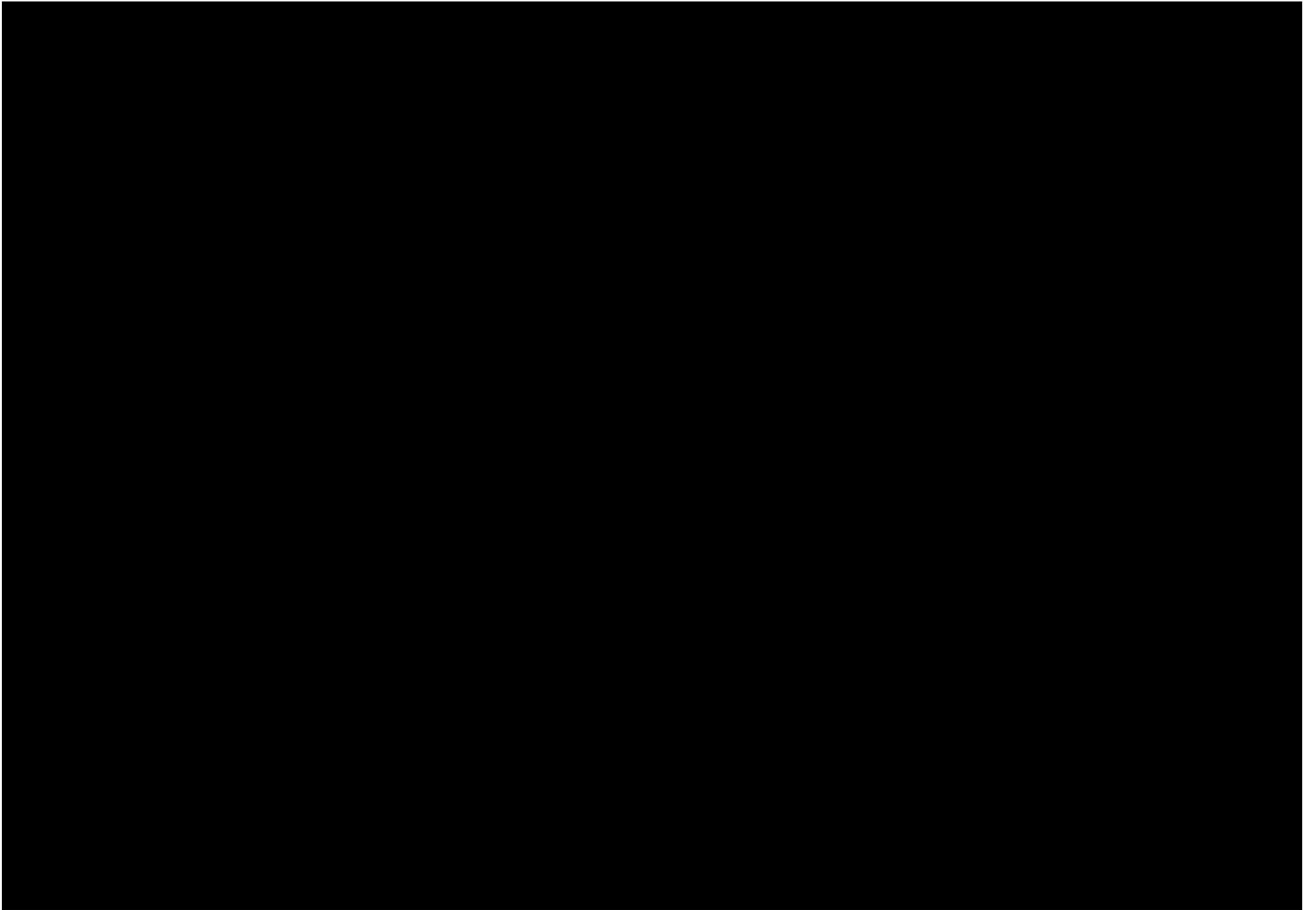


"...and, as you go out into the world, I predict that you will, gradually and imperceptibly, forget all you ever learned at this university."



the evidence based practitioner





# Using GATE to frame all the steps of EBP



[www.epiq.co.nz](http://www.epiq.co.nz)

CAT (Critically Appraised Topic): Applying the 5 steps of EBCP (Evidence-Based Clinical Practice)				
Intervention Studies				
 Developed by <b>EPIQ: Effective Practice, Informatics and Quality Improvement</b> <a href="http://www.epiq.co.nz">www.epiq.co.nz</a>		 <b>THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND</b> <b>FACULTY OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES</b> School of Population Health		
CAT Maker				
Name & date		e mail address		
Clinical Scenario				
<p>Cardiovascular diseases (such as heart attack or stroke) are the leading cause of death and hospitalisations in New Zealand. Risk of developing CVD (eg heart attack or stroke) occurs 10 years later for women than for men leading to the hypothesis that oestrogens may account for this. Oestrogens raise HDL (good cholesterol) and lower LDL (bad cholesterol). Post-menopausal hormone replacement therapy (HRT) was introduced 70 years ago. Since then many studies have produced evidence of benefits and harms causing much controversy over whether all post-menopausal women should be treated with HRT to prevent heart disease or stroke. You decide to find &amp; appraise the relevant studies.</p>				
Step 1: Formulate a 5-part clinical question using PECOT framework				
Population or patient	In post-menopausal women			
Exposure (Intervention)	Does HRT			
Comparison (control)	No HRT			
Outcomes	Affect the risk of coronary heart disease, stroke, death			
Time	over 10 year time period			
Step 2: Search for the best evidence using PECOT(T) framework				
Key search terms				
PECOT(T) component	Primary search term		Synonym 1	Synonym 2
Population or patient	post-menopausal (tw)	OR	menopause	AND
Exposure (Intervention)	HRT (tw) or hormone replacement (tw)	OR	hormone replacement therapy/	estrogen replacement therapy/
Comparison (control)		OR		AND
Outcomes	cardiovascular diseases/	OR		AND
(Time)	limit English language	OR		
Databases searched				
Database:	Cochrane	Other secondary sources	PubMed / OvidMedline	Other:
Number of hits:	8	1	558	
Page1 Page2 Page2 (2) Page3 Page4 Page5				

# Ask an answerable question: on HRT

Participants	Exposure (eg. Cause, risk factor, Rx)	Comparison	Outcome	Time
In women with coronary heart disease (CHD)	Does oral hormone replacement therapy	No hormone replacement therapy	Reduce the risk of further CHD events	Over the next 5 yrs

# Search for the appropriate epi. evidence

Participants	Exposure (eg. Cause, risk factor, Rx)	Comparison	Outcome	Time
postmenopause	hormone replacement therapy	(placebo)	Coronary disease	