Summary

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Main Points

- No “one-size-fits-all” study design
- Study design needs to be consistent with the study’s goals
  - Identifying genes
  - Estimating risk or attributable risk
- Key design feature: Comparability of study populations (e.g., cases & controls)
- Potential biases can be addressed through:
  - Study design
  - Analysis
  - Comparison with other studies
Important Questions to Consider

» Are the case and control definitions consistent with study goals?

» Do selection criteria for cases or controls limit generalizability?

» Are cases and controls comparable on important characteristics? Are any differences considered in the analyses?

» Are potential biases identified? Addressed?

» Is gene-environment or gene-gene interaction considered in the analyses or interpretation?