



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?