

The *Disease* Odds Ratio is equal to the *Exposure* Odds Ratio  $\rightarrow$  the <u>Odds Ratio</u> is estimable from either type of study.

When the probability of the disease is small, the Odds Ratio (OR) approximates the Relative Risk (RR).

#### Sampling Distribution for In(OR)

- $\ln(\hat{O}R) = \ln\left(\frac{a \cdot d}{b \cdot c}\right)$
- Approximately normal with ...





## Reasons for an observed genetic association

• The locus is a functional variant (association is causal)

Functional variant  $\rightarrow$  Disease

• The locus is in linkage disequilibrium with a functional variant:

Marker locus  $\xrightarrow{\text{LD}}$  Functional variant  $\rightarrow$  Disease

• The association is due to confounding by population stratification

Marker locus  $\rightarrow$  Population stratification  $\rightarrow$  Functional variant  $\rightarrow$  Disease

## Measures of Disease Association - Odds Ratios and Relative Risk

• In epidemiology, association between disease and etiological factors are usually expressed in terms of relative risk measures.

(Risk of disease in exposed subjects) / (Risk of disease in unexposed subjects)

- In genetic epidemiology, relative risks can be defined for
  - $\circ \ \text{genotypes}$
  - $\circ$  alleles
  - $\circ$  haplotypes

## Genotype Relative Risks (GRRs)

- For a diallelic locus with alleles A & a, there are three genotypes: A/A, A/a, a/a
- One is typically taken as the reference group (say a/a) and GRRs are expressed as

$$GRR_{A/A} = \frac{\text{Risk for A/A geno}}{\text{Risk for a/a geno}} = \phi_{A/A} \qquad \& \qquad GRR_{A/a} = \frac{\text{Risk for A/A geno}}{\text{Risk for a/a geno}} = \phi_{A/a}$$

• For a rare disease, the RRs can be estimated by odds ratios using case-control data.



## **Allelic Relative Risks**

- An allelic RR refers to the chromosome-level of analysis, rather than person-level.
- For a diallelic locus we have  $\phi_A$  and  $\phi_a$ . If allele *a* is the reference then  $\phi_a = 1$
- They are related to Genotype RRs by a multiplicative model:  $\phi_{i/j} = \phi_i \cdot \phi_j$ 
  - $\Rightarrow \quad \phi_{A/A} = \left(\phi_A\right)^2 \quad \& \quad \phi_{A/a} = \phi_A$
- Assuming a rare disease, the multiplicative model, and HW equilibrium in the population, the allelic RR can be estimated by an odds ratio
- The assumptions make it possible to treat chromosomes as independent and analyze the 2x2 allele-level table.



## Example: A SNP in the BRCA1 gene (Pro871Leu)





Chromosomes

- Compute the two estimated GRRs (ORs) for the genotype table.
- Fill in the allele table.
- Compute an odds ratio estimate for the *Leu/Leu* genotype based on the multiplicative model.

# Dominant & Recessive Models → Different 2x2 Tables



