Al-Mustaqbal University College Department of Anesthesia techniques

Third Stage

Lecture 8

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Independent Samples T-Test - Assumptions

- Conclusions from an independent samples t-test can be trusted if the following assumptions are met:
- Independent observations. This often holds if each case in SPSS represents a different person or other statistical unit. This seems to hold for our data.
- Normality: the dependent variable must follow a normal distribution in the population. This is only needed for samples smaller than some 25 units. We'll see the actual samples sizes used for our t-test after running it so we won't bother about normality until then.



Independent Samples T-Test - Assumptions

• Homogeneity: the standard deviation of our dependent variable must be equal in both populations. We only need this assumption if our sample sizes are (sharply) unequal.

• SPSS tests if this holds when we run our t-test. If it doesn't, we can still report corrected test results.



Quick Data Check

• The data at hand have been prepared and are good to go.

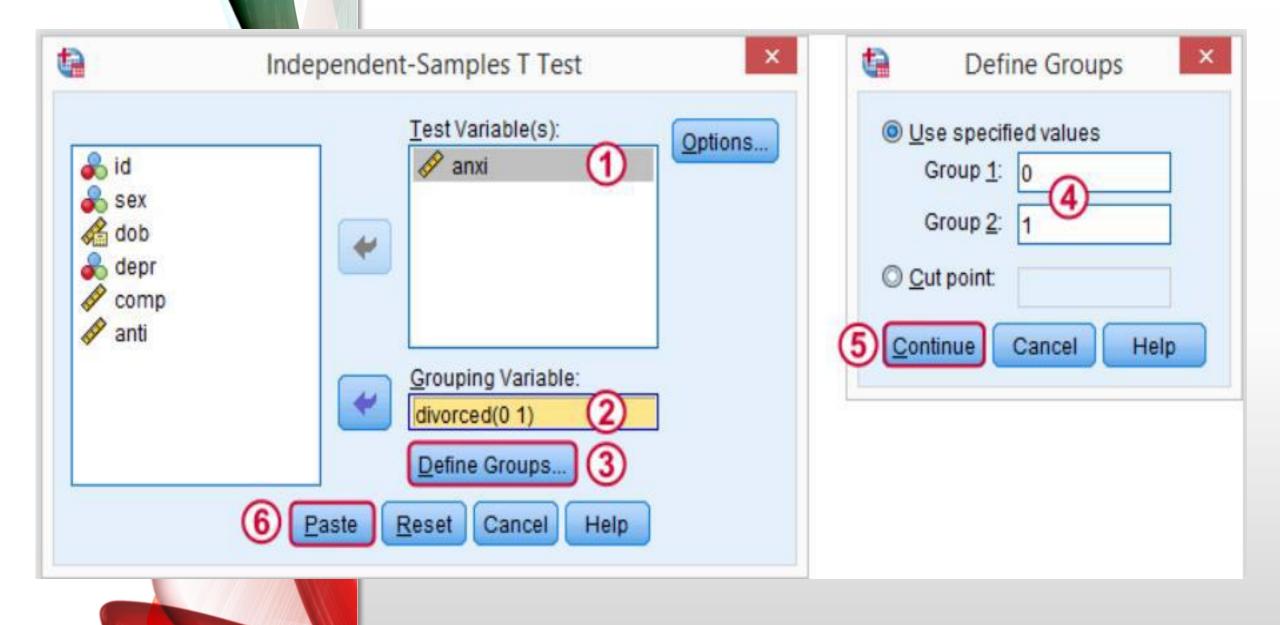
However, if you run a t-test on other data, you should at least inspect some histograms of your dependent variable(s).

• Make sure their distributions look plausible. If they contain any extreme values, specify them as user missing values.



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- 1 We'll first-test anxi and make sure we understand the output. We'll get to the other 3 dependent variables later.
- 6 Clicking Paste creates the syntax below. Let's run it.

SPSS Independent Samples T-Test Syntax

```
*Independent-samples t-test syntax for anxi by divorced.

T-TEST GROUPS=divorced(0 1)

/MISSING=ANALYSIS

/VARIABLES=anxi
/CRITERIA=CI(.95).
```

