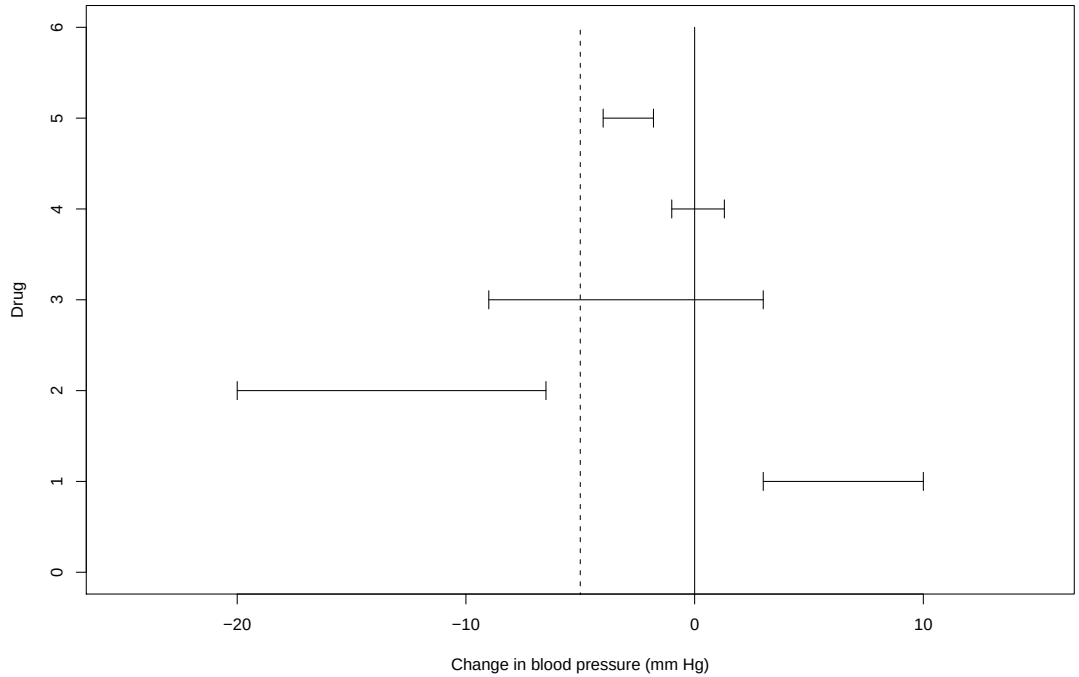
Interval estimation

- A point estimate is of little value without some indication of its precision
- interval estimation is a compromise between:
  - the width of your interval;
  - the likelihood that your interval will include the right answer.
- A confidence interval is defined as follows:
  - choose an acceptable level of confidence, say 100p% (conventionally, p = 95 but it's your choice)
  - construct an interval so that 100p% of the time, it will include the true value of the parameter

Question: all other things being equal, if you increase p, will the resulting confidence interval become wider or narrower?

Statistical significance is not the same as practical significance: comparing five anti-hypertensive drugs



- **which drugs give a significant reduction in blood pressure?**
- **which drugs give a useful reduction in blood pressure?**
- **which drugs need further investigation?**