

Prognosis:

1. Is this evidence about prognosis valid?
 - a. Was a defined, representative sample of patient assembled at a common point in the course of their disease?
 - b. Was follow-up of study patients sufficiently long and complete?
 - c. Were objective outcome criteria applied in a “blind” fashion?
 - d. If subgroups with different prognoses are identified:
 - i. Was there adjustment for important prognostic factors?
 - ii. Was there validation in an independent group of “test-set” patients?
2. Is this evidence about prognosis important?
 - a. How likely are the outcomes over time?
 - b. How precise are the prognostic estimates?
3. Can we apply this valid, important evidence about prognosis to our patient?
 - a. Is our patient so different from those in the study that its results cannot apply?
 - b. Will this evidence make a clinically important impact on our conclusions about what to offer or tell our patient?