

Superego Cafe online course: www.criticalappraisal.com

Checklist - Prognosis: 3 pages, updated 09 March 2008.

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Critical appraisal of prognostic studies

[CAxxx refers to the online presentation that will help you answer the question]

Methodology

Was the sample population clearly defined?	CA130
Was a sample population recruited at a common point in the course of the disease?	CA640
Was there adjustment for important prognostic factors?	CA150 CA640
Was the follow-up duration sufficiently long and complete?	CA640
Was there blind assessment of objective outcome criteria?	CA180

Results

Complete this 2x2 table (CA640)		Outcome		Totals
		positive	negative	
Prognostic factor	positive	a	b	a+b
	negative	c	d	c+d
Totals		a+c	b+d	a+b+c+d

What are the absolute risks for those with and without the prognostic factor?	CA370
What are the relative risk and odds ratio for the outcome?	CA370
What does the survival analysis show? What is the median survival time?	CA640
How precise are the prognostic estimates (confidence limits)?	CA330

Applicability

Are your patients similar to the patients in the study?
Does this study give you a better understanding of the disease and outcomes?
Does this study help you to decide to either reassure or counsel your patients?

CA130

If you are presenting this critical appraisal of a prognostic study to an audience, please download the PowerPoint template that accompanies [CA640](#).