

# A Worksheet for Articles about Prognosis

**1. Determine Relevance:** *Is this article worth taking the time to read? If the answer to any of these questions is No, it may be better to read other articles first.*

Based on the conclusion of the abstract or article:

**A. Will this information, if true, have a *direct* bearing on the health of your patients and is it something *they* will care about?**

Yes (go on )                      No (stop)

**B. Is the problem addressed one that is *common* to your practice?**

Yes (go on )                      No (stop)

**C. Will this information, if true, require you to *change* your current practice?**

Yes (go on )                      No (stop)

**2. Determine Validity:** *If the answers to all three questions above are Yes, then continued assessment of the article is mandatory. Study design flaws are common; fatal flaws are arresting.*

**D. Was an “inception cohort” assembled? (Did the investigators identify a specific group of people and follow them forward in time?)**                      Yes      No (stop)

**E. Were the criteria for entry into the study objective and reasonable?**      Yes      No (stop)

**F. Was follow-up of subjects adequate (at least 70%-80%)?**                      Yes      No  
(stop)

**G. Were the patients similar to yours, in terms of age, sex, race, severity of disease, and other factors that might influence the course of the disease?**                      Yes      No (stop)

**H. Where did the subjects come from — was the referral pattern specified?**                      Yes      No

**I. Were outcomes assessed objectively and blindly?**

Yes No