

Citation:

Are the results of the study valid?

1. Was a defined, representative sample of patients assembled at a common (usually early) point in the course of their disease?	
2. Was patient follow-up sufficiently long and complete?	
3. Were objective outcome criteria applied in a "blind" fashion?	
4. If subgroups with different prognoses are identified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was there adjustment for important prognostic factors? • Was there validation in an independent group ('test set') of patients? 	

Are the results of this study important?

1. How likely are the outcomes over time?	
2. How precise are the prognostic estimates?	

Calculating a confidence interval around a measure of prognosis:

Clinical measure	Standard error (SE)	Typical calculation of CI
Proportion (as in the rate of some prognostic event, etc.) where: n → number of patients p → proportion of patients who experience the event	$\sqrt{p \times (1 - p) / n}$ where p is proportion and n is number of patients	If p=24/60=0.4 (or 40%) and n=60: $SE = \sqrt{0.4 \times (1 - 0.4) / 60}$ =0.063 (or 6.3%) 95% CI is 40% ± 1.96 × 6.3% or 27.6% to 52.4%
n from your evidence: ____ p from your evidence: ____		Your calculation: SE: ____ 95% CI: ____

Adapted from: Straus, SE, et al. 2005. *Evidence-Based Medicine: How to Practice and Teach EBM*, 3rd edition. Edinburgh: Elsevier.

Can this study be applied to your patient?

1. Do the results apply to your patient?	
2. Is your patient so different from those in the study that its results cannot apply?	
3. Will this evidence make a clinically important impact on your conclusions about what to offer or tell our patient?	