

## Worksheet for Using an Article About Prognosis

University of Alberta EBM Toolkit

### CITATION:

### ARE THE RESULTS OF THE STUDY VALID?

1. Was there a representative and well-defined sample of patients at a similar point in the course of the disease?

Yes       No       Can't Tell

- Inclusion and exclusion criteria?
- Selection biases?
- Stage of disease?

2. Was follow-up sufficiently long and complete?

Yes       No       Can't Tell

- Reasons for incomplete follow-up?
- Prognostic factors similar for patients lost- and not lost-to-follow-up?

3. Were objective and unbiased outcome criteria used?

Yes       No       Can't Tell

- Outcomes defined at start of study?
- Investigators 'blind to prognostic factors?

4. Was there adjustment for important prognostic factors?

Yes       No       Can't Tell

5. Overall, are the results of the study valid?

Yes       No       Can't Tell

### **WHAT WERE THE RESULTS?**

1. How large is the likelihood of the outcome event(s) in a specified period of time?

Yes       No       Can't Tell

- Survival curves?

2. How precise was the estimate of the treatment effect?

- Confidence intervals?

**WILL THE RESULTS HELP ME IN CARING FOR MY PATIENTS?**

1. Were the study patients similar to my own?

Yes       No       Can't Tell

- Patients similar for demographics, severity, co-morbidity and other prognostic factors?
- Compelling reason why the results should not be applied?

2. Will the results lead directly to selecting or avoiding therapy?

Yes       No       Can't Tell

3. Are the results useful for reassuring or counselling patients?

Yes       No       Can't Tell