

Defining a Question

Most questions arise from the following 6 aspects of clinical work?

1. CLINICAL EVIDENCE: How to gather clinical findings properly and interpret them soundly.
2. DIAGNOSIS: How to select and interpret diagnostic tests.
3. PROGNOSIS: How to anticipate the patient's likely course.
4. THERAPY: How to select treatments that do more good than harm.
5. PREVENTION: How to screen and reduce the risk for disease.
6. EDUCATION: How to teach yourself, the patient, and the family what is needed.

Anatomy of a clinical question.

1. Patient or problem being addressed.
2. Intervention or exposure being considered.
3. Comparison intervention or exposure if relevant.
4. Clinical outcomes of interest.

USEFULNESS= RELEVANCE x VALIDITY / WORK