

Exercise: Critical reading; prognosis research

Read the article by Brockman et al: Nomogram Predicting Prostate Cancer-specific Mortality for Men with Biochemical Recurrence After Radical Prostatectomy . Eur Urol 2015;67:1160-7.

Answer/discuss the following:

1. How were the patients selected (including exclusion and inclusion criteria)? Do you agree with the approach?
2. What principle was followed to select the variables to be included in the model (including their categorization)?
3. What information can you get from Figure 1?
4. Look at Table 2. How would you interpret the reported coefficient?
5. Look at the nomogram in Figure 2:
 - a Is the relative contribution of each of the variables adjusted for the other variables?
 - b Which are the variables with the strongest association with prostate cancer specific mortality?
6. Compare the nomograms in Figure 2 and Figure 3 and discuss on the differences when PSA doubling time (PSADT,mo) is introduced in the model?
7. Discuss on the validation procedures?
 - a. Internal
 - b. external
8. What was the discrimination?
9. How did the authors test for calibration?
10. Strengths and weaknesses of the present study? Would you use it in the Italian context?