

Risk stratification in primary biliary cirrhosis

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1. Serum levels of alkaline phosphatase and total bilirubin can reasonably be regarded as useful surrogate clinical trial endpoints in primary biliary cirrhosis. (*this thesis*)
2. The concept of biochemical response is an under attended medical tool in clinical management of PBC patients that needs increased awareness. (*this thesis*)
3. A score comprising the variables age, bilirubin, alkaline phosphatase, albumin and platelet count allows reliable identification of a subgroup of primary biliary cirrhosis patients with a prognosis deviating from normal despite treatment with ursodeoxycholic acid. (*this thesis*)
4. Male patients with cirrhosis or an insufficient response to ursodeoxycholic acid treatment and non-responding female patients with evidence of advanced disease are most likely to benefit from surveillance for hepatocellular carcinoma in primary biliary cirrhosis. (*this thesis*)
5. Male patients with primary biliary cirrhosis appear to be diagnosed at more advanced stages of the disease rather than that they exhibit a more aggressive phenotype of the disease. (*this thesis*)
6. A correlation alone does not make a surrogate (*Fleming T.R., Health Aff 2005*).
7. Essentially, all prediction models are wrong, but some are useful. (*George E. P. Box, British mathematician, 1919-2013*).
8. Good doctors use both individual clinical expertise and the best available external evidence, and neither alone is enough (*Sackett D.L., BMJ 1996*).
9. The delivery of good medical care is to do as much nothing as possible (*Samuel Shem in The House of God*)
10. Size does matter; tall men are more likely to be fathers.
11. Het is een uiterst merkwaardig feit dat vrijwel alle congreszalen extreem sprekers-onvriendelijk zijn wat betreft de positionering van de katheders en de podiumbelichting, aangezien de spreker, tenzij dat deze over bijzondere gymnastische of visuele vermogens beschikt en/of langdurige nekpijn voor lief wil nemen, doorgaans niet in staat is op enigszins comfortabele wijze het projectiescherm te zien noch kan ontwaren wie van de toehoorders een vraag stelt noch waar deze zich in de zaal zou kunnen bevinden.