

Journal Watch – Prognostication – October 2017

Article:

Prognostic Factors in Patients with Advanced Cancer: A Comparison of Clinicopathological Factors and the Development of an Inflammation-Based Prognostic System

Laird et al

Clin Cancer Res 2013; 19(19):5456-64

Article link: DOI: [10.1158/1078-0432.CCR-13-1066](https://doi.org/10.1158/1078-0432.CCR-13-1066)

Review:

Strengths: A large database study of 2 data sets to look at evidence for enhanced clinical prognostic accuracy. The importance of prognosis in clinical care to many important decisions is indisputable.

Limitations: The inclusion of heterogeneous cancer primaries does potentially limit generalizability. There may well be different cancer etiologies that drive the laboratory parameters of the mGPS in varying ways. The suggestion that performance status is subjective could be disputed.

Relevance to Palliative Care: The ability to improve accuracy of prognosis by incorporating the mGPS into our clinical evaluation and management is intriguing and worthy of further exploration.