A Worksheet for Articles about Prognosis

1. Determine Relevance: *Is this article worth taking the time to read? If the answer to any of these questions is No, it may be better to read other articles first.*

Based on the conclusion of the abstract or article:
A. **Will this information, if true, have a *direct* bearing on the health of your patients and is it something *they* will care about?**

        Yes (go on)   No (stop)

B. **Is the problem addressed one that is *common* to your practice?**

        Yes (go on)   No (stop)

C. **Will this information, if true, require you to *change* your current practice?**

        Yes (go on)   No (stop)

2. Determine Validity: *If the answers to all three questions above are Yes, then continued assessment of the article is mandatory. Study design flaws are common; fatal flaws are arresting.*

D. **Was an "inception cohort" assembled? (**Did the investigators identify a specific group of people and follow them **forward** in time?)	Yes	No (stop)
E. **Were the criteria for entry into the study objective and reasonable?**	Yes	No (stop)
F. **Was follow-up of subjects adequate (at least 70%-80%)?**	Yes	No (stop)
G. **Were the patients similar to yours, in terms of age, sex, race, severity of disease, and other factors that might influence the course of the disease?**	Yes	No (stop)
H. **Where did the subjects come from — was the referral pattern specified?**	Yes	No
I. **Were outcomes assessed objectively and blindly?**	Yes	No