

RESEARCH

- Our research in 2002 focused on a broad spectrum of activities in the context of diagnosis in medicine. In cooperation with our partners in Amsterdam (Gerben ter Riet), Birmingham (Khalid S. Khan) and York (Jos Kleijnen) we worked on systematic reviews of test accuracy studies in different clinical fields. Two reviews were recently accepted for publication in the British Medical Journal and one review was published in JAMA. Besides our reviewing work we analyzed primary diagnostic research data. Our particular interest was to evaluate the value of tests when assessed in context of all other tests that are commonly available in clinical practice. For this purpose we received data from an Obstetrics Unit in Glasgow (Philip Owen) and a Gynecology Department in Birmingham (UK) (Janesh K. Gupta). Jointly with our research partners we started writing a research protocol to undertake Individual Patient Data Meta-analysis in diagnosis (see: <http://ipd.evimed.ch>). We hope to discuss our plans with experts in statistics and methodology on a one-day workshop in 2003.

Two projects focused on diagnostic information retrieval in biomedical databases. We built two generic search filters to identify diagnostic articles in Medline and Embase. The paper on the Medline filter has recently been accepted for publication in JAMIA (Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association) and is currently being evaluated to be incorporated to Clinical queries on the PubMed website.

Other activities focused on the understanding of diagnostic information among practicing physicians. A controlled clinical study concluded that physicians have problems to use accuracy information to estimate posttest disease probabilities. This study that was published in the British Medical Journal opened a vivid discussion among clinicians in our hospital and elsewhere.

Our future research activities aim to identify new formats of diagnostic information that facilitate diagnostic reasoning. In co-operation with a group of psychologists of the Max Planck Institute for Adaptive Behaviour and Cognition (Ulrich Hoffrage, Gerd Gigerenzer) we are currently developing a research protocol that explores the use of heuristics in clinical diagnosis.

SERVICE

In 2002 we published 196 CATs (Critically Appraised Topics) on our web page (www.evimed.ch). A large proportion of these articles have also been published in print form in the Journal Praxis (www.praxis.ch), a Swiss Medical Journal read by GP's.

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FINISHED PROJECTS

Pollak C, Kaufmann P, Bachmann LM, ter Riet G, Steurer J. PET Cardiology:
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Efficacy of pulmonary rehabilitation in patients with COPD or asthma. Report
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Efficacy of ultrasound screening to detect hip dysplasia in newborns. (in co-
operation with CRD in York) Report for Report for the Federal Institute for
Social Affairs

EXPERT OPINIONS (GUTACHTEN)

12 reports for the Swiss Federal Committee on Reimbursement in medicine

WORKING GROUPS

Board Member of the Foundation of the „Stiftung Schwesternschule und
Krankenhaus vom Roten Kreuz Zürich-Fluntern“