



Defining priorities in prognostication research

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Prognostication

Definition

- Prediction of the course or outcome of disease

Purposes

- Clinical (e.g. guiding treatment decisions)
- Personal (e.g. organising affairs)
- Policy (e.g. eligibility for benefits)
- Research (e.g. selection criteria for studies)

Approaches

- Clinical judgement
- Prediction tools

Cancer
experiences
Collaborative



**Methodology Theme
State of the Science Meeting**

PROGNOSTICATION

**Thursday 15th October 2009
Chancellors Conference Centre
Manchester**

Workshop

Aim

- To define priorities for prognostication research

Method

- Nominal Group Technique

Participants

- 10 palliative care physicians
- 4 nurses
- 1 dietician
- 10 academic researchers

Nominal Group Technique

- Five presentations on prognostication.

Expert speakers

Professor Chris Todd University of Manchester	Why procrastinate?
Dr Paul Glare MSK Cancer Centre, New York	Prognosis as a core clinical skill.
Professor Karel KM Moons University Medical School Utrecht	Current state of the science and future challenges
Dr Patrick Stone St George's Hospital Medical School	Practical difficulties in prognostic research
Dr Michael Downing Victoria Hospice, Victoria, Canada	Prognostic indicators in clinical practice

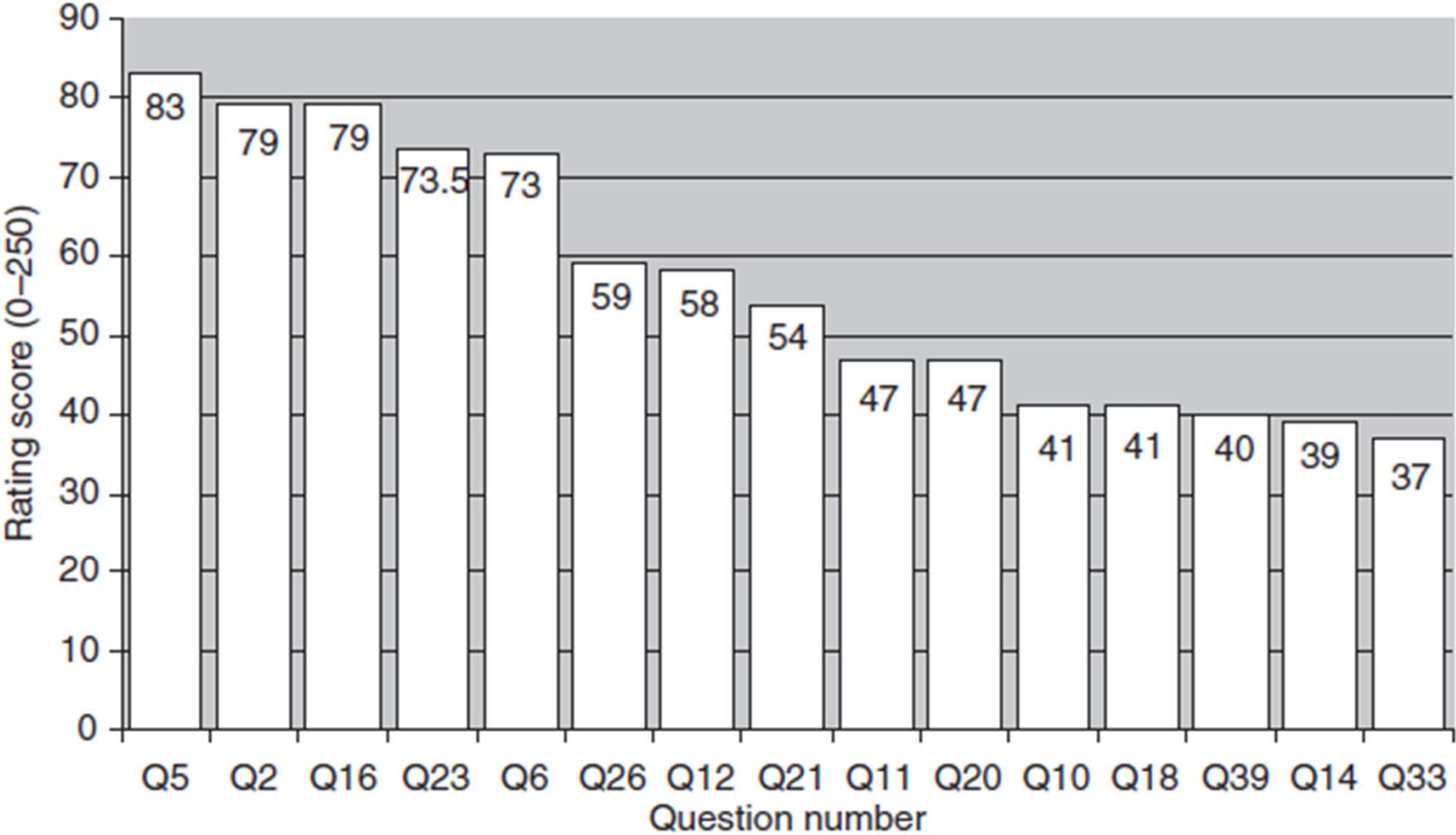
Nominal Group Technique

- Five presentations on prognostication.
- 4 facilitated groups of 6-7 participants.
- 10-min individual generation of research questions.
- Reported to facilitator for writing on flipchart.
- Discussion to clarify/rephrase questions for group list.
- 4 lists amalgamated, duplicates removed.
- Final list presented to all participants (40 items).
- Scored 10 items according to perceived importance.

Question pool examples

Q4	Is socioeconomic status important to predictions?
Q7	Are there psychosocial or spiritual factors that influence prognosis?
Q9	Could prognostic tools be adapted for children?
Q13	Can downstream tools be used upstream?
Q15	How do prognosis estimates differ between clinicians, carers, and patients?
Q18	Does receiving prognosis information alter survival?
Q26	How do predictions influence patient views?
Q37	What do patients really mean by 'how long do I have?'

Importance rank



Research priorities

Rank	Question	Score
1	How valid are prognostic tools? (Q5)	83
2=	Can we use prognostic criteria as entry criteria for research? (Q2)	79
2=	How do we judge the impact of a prognostic score in clinical practice? (Q16)	79
4	What is the best way of presenting survival data to patients? (Q23)	73.5
5	What is the most user-friendly validated tool? (Q6)	73

Defining priorities in prognostication research: results of a consensus workshop

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on behalf of the **Cancer Experiences Collaborative (CECo)**

Abstract

Purpose: To establish consensus among palliative care researchers on the priorities for prognostication research.

Methods: A nominal group technique was employed involving palliative care researchers attending a workshop within a scientific meeting on prognostication. Participants worked in small facilitated groups to generate future research questions which were amalgamated and rated according to importance.

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