PROGNOSIS UNIT

Objectives:

At the end of this unit, you should have the ability to critical appraise the methodology of an observational study, determine the study’s risk of bias and understand its applicability into clinical practice.

Assignment:

Read the attached article, critically appraise the study using the attached worksheet, and discuss its applicability in the context of the following clinical scenario.

Clinical Scenario:

You are a fellow in the Cardiology residency training program. A thoracic surgery resident pages you regarding a patient with a postoperative serum troponin elevation. The patient is a 74 year old male with lung cancer who underwent left lower lobe lung resection. He has a past medical history of hypertension, smoking (35 pack year history), COPD and peripheral vascular disease.

The resident wants to discharge this patient from hospital as he is asymptomatic, and denies chest pain or shortness of breath, but he is unsure if the perioperative troponin elevation has any impact on short and long-term prognosis. You search in the Pubmed database and find the attached paper. Your hospital uses a high-sensitivity Troponin T assay, so you evaluate the following article.

Enclosed Materials:

3. Worksheet for the evaluation of an article on Prognosis.