Example Issues Raised by the Articles Being Discussed on Friday, February 8


1. What is the purpose of this study? (Be careful, the obvious answer is not the right answer.)
2. Why does the sensitivity have to be 1.0?
3. Explain Figure 2.
4. How many patients were not reached by telephone?


1. What’s the difference between the doctors and the patients in this study compared with the doctors and patients in the previous study?
2. The outcome in this study is “clinically significant” fractures, while the outcome in the previous study was all fractures, both “clinically significant” and “clinically insignificant fractures.” Why the change?
3. The value for kappa that was used to decide whether candidate variables were reliable enough to be included in the decision rule was 0.6 in this study while it was 0.5 in the previous study. Why the difference?


1. What happened to the frequency of patients at the intervention hospitals versus the control hospitals.
2. Were the hospitals in this study the same or different from the hospitals in the other two studies?
3. What should be the unit of analysis? Patients? Doctors? or Hospitals?