

Internal Medicine

Bedside EBM Program

Types of Clinical Questions

Most common types of questions are related to clinical tasks:

- **DIAGNOSIS**
 - **Differential Diagnosis** – when considering the possible causes of a patient’s clinical problem, how to rank them by likelihood, seriousness and treatability
 - **Diagnostic Testing** – how to select and interpret diagnostic tests, in order to confirm or exclude a diagnosis, based on considering their precision, accuracy, acceptability, expense, safety, etc
- **THERAPY** – how to select treatments to offer patients that do more good than harm and that are worth the efforts and costs of using them
- **PROGNOSIS** – how to estimate the patient’s likely clinical course over time and anticipate likely complications of disease
- **HARM/ETIOLOGY** – how to identify causes for disease (including iatrogenic forms)

Other types of questions related to clinical tasks:

- **Clinical examination** – how to properly gather and interpret findings from the history and physical examination
- **Prevention** – how to reduce the chance of disease by identifying and modifying risk factors and how to diagnose early by screening
- **Cost-Analysis** – how to compare the cost and consequences of different treatments and tests