Clinical Impact

Clinical impact refers to the **degree to which a study, intervention, or discovery influences medical practice, improves patient outcomes, or changes healthcare decision-making**.

Dimensions of Clinical Impact

- **Patient Outcomes**

> Does the study improve survival, quality of life, function, or symptom control?

- **Practice Change**

> Will it alter diagnostic protocols, treatment algorithms, or clinical workflows?

- **Scalability and Applicability**

> Can the findings be realistically implemented across diverse healthcare settings?

- **Guideline Integration**

> Is the evidence strong enough to be incorporated into national or international clinical guidelines?

- **Health Economics**

> Does it reduce costs, optimize resource allocation, or improve cost-effectiveness?

Indicators of Low Clinical Impact

- Findings limited to highly specific or artificial settings
- Lack of generalizability to real-world patients
- No demonstrable benefit for patient care
- Duplication of existing knowledge with no practical improvement

Summary

> **Clinical impact** distinguishes **statistically interesting studies** from those that **actually matter in patient care.**

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