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Editorial

Value Based Medicine

Evidence based medicine is the holy grail of medical practice – well, that is what some of us think. Remember however the dangers of even “quality sources” of evidence – publication bias, pharmaceutical vested interest, incomplete search databases and publication fraud.

Furthermore evidence that is generated in one place – specially the developed world, may not be appropriate to the place where the patient is being managed. Evidence based medicine takes into account only the clinical data most of the time. But in the real world where patients are being treated cost effectiveness, economic issues, limited resources available, social issues and cultural factors may play a bigger role than the clinical data.

Hence our management decisions should not be based only on clinical evidence that has been generated in an alien place; but on a value given to a certain treatment based on scientific evidence gathered locally, cost effectiveness and other relevant local factors. We in the developing world who work in resource poor settings should practice **value based medicine** rather than evidence based medicine.

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