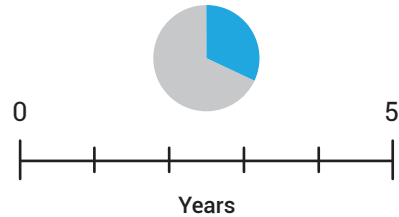


Ways to express prognosis—basics

5-year survival rate

Proportion of people surviving a disease for at least 5 years.



Case-fatality rate

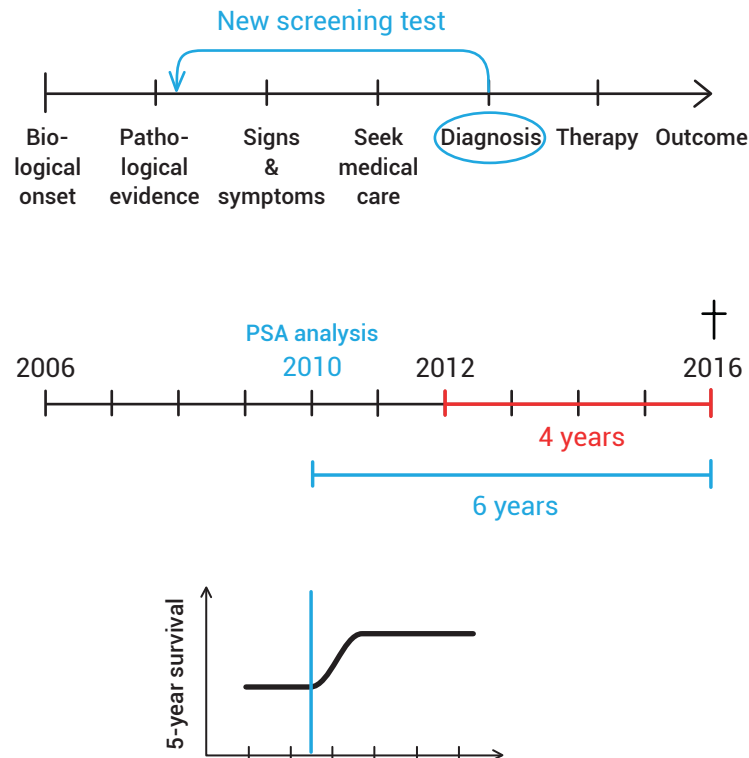
$$\frac{\text{\# People who die from disease}}{\text{\# People with the disease}} \times 100$$

Problems associated with the 5-year survival rate:

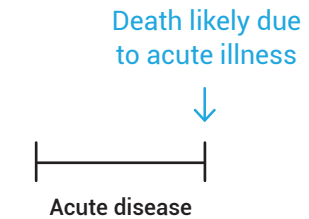
The 5-year period starts with the diagnosis.

If a new screening test is introduced that detects the disease earlier than before (e.g., PSA analysis), the same patient would be counted as a survivor, and not as a death, without there having been any improvement in treatment.

Improvement due to better care or better screening?



Case-fatality rate is generally used for acute diseases.



It is less helpful for chronic diseases:

If a patient with a chronic disease dies, it's quite possible that the cause of death is unrelated to the disease of interest.

