

Extract :

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PRE-TEST PROBABILITY/PREVALENCE the proportion of individuals with the target disorder in the population at risk at a specific time (point prevalence) or time interval (period prevalence).

PREVALENCE the number of persons with a specific health problem in a defined population at one point in time (point prevalence) or during a defined period of time (period prevalence). Usually expressed per 1,000 or 10,000 persons. Used of chronic diseases as opposed to INCIDENCE for acute diseases. See CROSS SECTIONAL STUDY.

PREVENTION action to avoid occurrence or development of a health problem and/or its complications. Can be divided into four categories:

1. Primary prevention: Action taken to avoid or remove the cause of a health problem in an individual or a population before it arises. Includes health promotion and specific protection (e.g. immunization).
2. Secondary prevention: Action taken to detect a health problem at an early stage in an individual or a population, thereby facilitating cure, or reducing or preventing it spreading or its long-term effects (e.g. methods, screening, case finding and early diagnosis).
3. Tertiary prevention: Action taken to reduce the chronic effects of a health problem in an individual or a population by minimizing the functional impairment consequent to the acute or chronic health problem (e.g. prevent complications of diabetes). Includes rehabilitation.
4. Quaternary Prevention: Action taken to identify patient at risk of overmedicalisation, to protect him from new medical invasion, and to suggest to him interventions, which are ethically acceptable.

PREVENTIVE MEDICINE the application of preventive measures. A field of medical practice composed of distinct disciplines that utilize skills focusing on the health of defined populations in order to promote and maintain health and well-being and prevent disease, disability, and premature death.

PREVENTIVE SERVICES include health education, immunizations, risk assessment, pre- and post-natal checkups, well baby care, family planning, screening, and other similar services.

PRIMARY CARE is the provision of integrated, accessible health care services by GPs/FPs who are accountable for addressing a large majority of personal health care needs, developing a substantial partnership with patients and practicing in the context of family and community.