

# Pseudo-Anonymized Non-Interventional Retrospective Clinical Validation of AI-Ambient Patient-Clinical Intelligence (A.P.C.I.) Using the GRADE Methodology

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# 01 / Background

- A fundamentally new approach to **evidence-based clinical decision-making is required for optimizing** and personalizing diagnostic and therapeutic interventions in cancer care. This includes enhancing the effectiveness of multidisciplinary tumor teams (MDTs), **comprehensive cancer efficiency**, clinical practice guidelines, and health policies.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) has endorsed the **GRADE** (Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development, and Evaluation) approach as the most rigorous and transparent methodology for assessing the quality of evidence and formulating healthcare recommendations.<sup>1</sup> Meanwhile, **generative artificial intelligence (Gen-AI) customization** would provide an efficient and scalable tool for systematically retrieving systematic reviews and analyzing large volumes of statistical parameters to evaluate evidence quality.<sup>2,3</sup>
- The **AI-Ambient Patient-Clinical Intelligence (A.P.C.I.)** system, serves as clinical decision-making component of the tele-oncology platform PrOPA. It is designed to support practicing oncologists, MDTs and oncology institutions by leveraging structured **PICO-based clinical questions** and systematically curated, structured, and parameterized **evidence datasets** derived from systematic review publications in digital libraries.

1. GRADE guidelines; Gordon Guyatt et al.; Journal of Clinical Epidemiology 64 (2011) 383e394

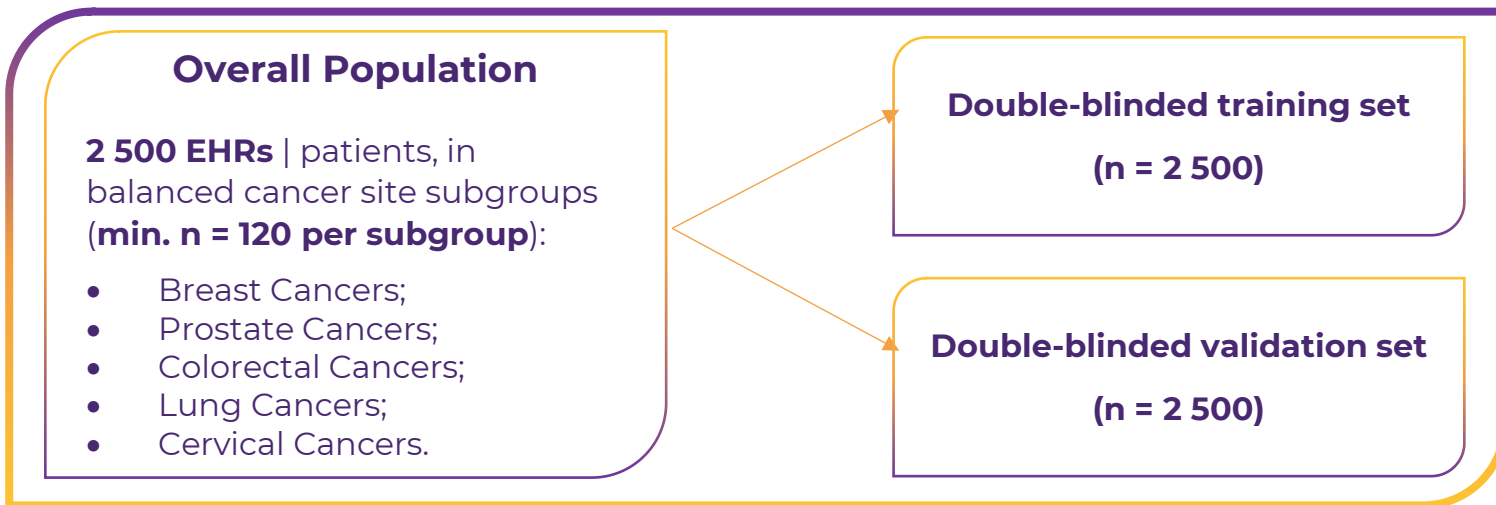
2. Huo, B. MD et. al. Large Language Models for Chatbot Health Advice Studies - A Systematic Review, JAMA Network Open. 2025;8(2):e2457879. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2024.57879

3. Wilhelm, C. et. al. Benefits and harms associated with the use of AI-related algorithmic decision-making systems by healthcare professionals: a systematic review. The Lancet Regional Health – Europe 2025;48: 101145. December 2024



## 02 / Study Design

### NON-INTERVENTIONAL RETROSPECTIVE CLINICAL TRIAL



#### Algorithm development:

- (1) Development of an LLM algorithm for PICO structured clinical questions and GRADE-based recommendations for diagnostic and therapeutic intervention;
- (2) Internal testing of the algorithm;
- (3) Training using a training set;
- (4) Validation using a validation set.

#### Primary Endpoints

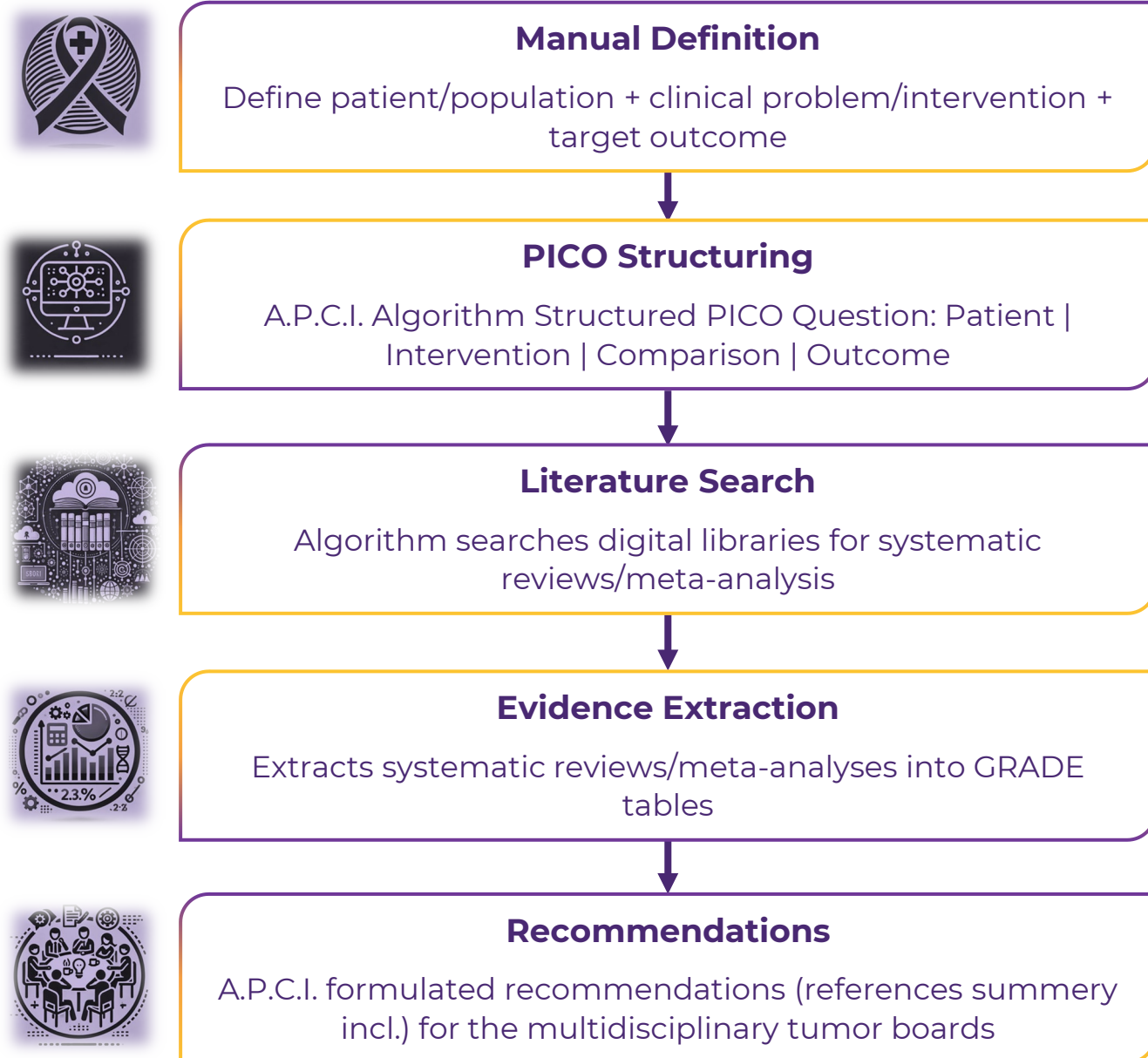
- **Intervention Choice Accuracy:** Training v/s Validation Set;
- **Extent of Agreement (Chance Agreement):** A.P.C.I. recommendation v/s MDT decision.

#### Secondary Endpoints

- **Subgroup cost-effectiveness analyses (CEAs):** Training v/s Validation Set QALY
- **Subgroup overall survival (OS):** Training v/s Validation Set
- **Subgroup progression free survival (PFS):** Training v/s Validation Set



## 03 / AI Algorithm and Statistics



### Statistical analyses

- Measures of observer variability (Kappa statistic);
- Cox Proportional Hazard (PH) model: Hazard ratio (HR) with 95% confidence interval (95% CI);
- Cost-effectiveness analyses (Quality-Adjusted Life Years).

### Metadata analyses:

- Analyzes over **12 million** scientific papers;
- Reviews **2 million** Systematic Reviews;
- Processes over **700 thousand** meta-analyses

The system leverages the entire **PubMed and Cochrane libraries** for evidence-based clinical decision-making.



## 04 / Patient Characteristics and Inclusion Criteria

The study population will comprise patients diagnosed with malignancies across various sites.

### Inclusion criteria:

- Patients with available structured and/or unstructured data-sets (**electronic health records (EHRs)**) suitable for analysis. Both baseline and follow-up data are considered valuable for retrospective learning and validation.
- **Follow-up data** (including patient history, diagnostic findings, treatment outcomes, clinical notes, and multidisciplinary tumor board recommendations) are preferred, as they allow for direct comparison between A.P.C.I. artificial system-generated recommendations and human clinical decision-making.
- **Diagnosis confirmed** through **biopsy, pathology, and/or imaging reports**.
- Patients who have **ongoing and/or completed a full course of treatment** with documented clinical outcomes.

### Sites

- PrOPA™ existing pseudo-anonymized database
- Bulgarian Cancer Database
- German Cancer Center, Limassol, Cyprus
- Sao Joao Hospital, Porto, Portugal
- Command Hospital Kolkata, Kolkata, India



Input

Person

 Patient

Person

 P.I.C.O. Characteristics



Input

Person

 Patient

Person

 P.I.C.O. Characteristics

Question 0

Question 1

Question 2

Summary

Demographics

Gender

female

Age in Years

51

Conditions

Primary Oncology Diagnosis

Name

Ductal carcinoma of the left breast (Luminal A)

ICD 10 Classification

TNM Status

TNM Stage

G2

pT1c pN0 (0/11) cM0

IA

TNM Grading

Author

Certainty

pathological

лекуващия екип

100 %

Type

Status

Evidences

pathological

active

ER+

PgR+

HER2 1+

Ki67 18%

Has Undergone Antitumor Treatment

Birth and Menstruation Cycle

Has Menstruation Cycle

First Menstruation Cycle

How old was the Patient when they had their first menstruation cycle

Has Given Birth

Has Organ Transplants

Family History

Family Member

Condition

mother

Carcinoma of the oral cavity

## Oncology Commission Summary

### Patient Overview

- **Patient ID:** patient-51yo-female
- **Age:** 51
- **Gender:** Female
- **Primary Diagnosis:** Ductal carcinoma of the left breast (Luminal A)
- **TNM Classification:** pT1c pN0 (0/11) cM0
- **Stage:** IA
- **Grading:** G2
- **Status:** Active
- **Certainty:** 100%
- **Evidences:** ER+, PgR+, HER2 1+, Ki67 18%
- **Family History:** Mother with carcinoma of the oral cavity
- **Medical History:** Discussed at the Clinical Oncology Commission (SBALOZ – Varna) on 22.08.2023; protocol decision for adjuvant radiotherapy and endocrine therapy.

### PICO Profile

- **Tumor Characteristics:**
  - **Site:** Left breast
  - **Histology Subtype:** Ductal carcinoma
  - **Molecular Subtype:** Luminal A
  - **Pathological TNM Staging:** T1c N0 M0
  - **Disease Phase:** Early disease
  - **Risk Group:** Low risk
- **Treatment Characteristics:**
  - **Surgery:** With surgery
  - **Neoadjuvant:** Without neoadjuvant before surgery treatment
  - **Adjuvant:** With adjuvant after surgery treatment
  - **Systemic Therapy:** Without systemic therapy for metastatic disease
  - **Initial or Subsequent Treatment:** Primary (front-line) medicinal treatment
  - **Chemotherapy Naive:** Chemotherapy-naive patient
  - **Disease Type:** Stable disease

- ➔

 Ductal carcinoma of the left breast
- 🔍

 Breast cancer
- 🔍

 Breast carcinoma
- ➔

 Luminal A
- 🔍

 ER-positive
- 🔍

 HER2-negative
- 🔍

 Hormone receptor-positive
- ➔

 low risk

### Specific Terms

- 90%

 with surgery
- 🔍

 post-surgical
- 🔍

 after surgery
- 80%

 with adjuvant after surgery treatment
- 🔍

 post-surgery adjuvant therapy
- 70%

 without neoadjuvant before surgery treatment
- 🔍

 no pre-surgery treatment
- 60%

 without systemic therapy for metastatic disease
- 🔍

 non-metastatic
- 🔍

 localized

### Additional Terms

- 50%

 primary (front-line) medicinal treatment



Input

Patient

P.I.C.O. Characteristics

P.I.C.O. 1

P.I.C.O. 2

P.I.C.O. 3

Summary

For the patient with ductal carcinoma of the left breast (Luminal A), it is recommended to consider the Oncotype DX 21-gene Recurrence Score (RS) for prognostic evaluation, as it provides valuable insights into locoregional recurrence rates. Additionally, assessing BAG-1 mRNA expression could offer prognostic information regarding breast cancer-specific survival. Tumour-infiltrating lymphocytes (TILs) levels may also be considered, although the evidence quality is lower. These tests can help tailor the treatment plan and predict outcomes more accurately.

Interventions Considered

Reasoning and Evidence

Value of the 21-gene expression assay in predicting locoregional recurrence rates in estrogen receptor-positive breast cancer: a systematic review and network meta-analysis.

Outcome	Certainty of Evidence	Effect Group Size	Control Group Size	Relative Effect (95% CI)	Absolute Effect (95% CI)	No. of Participants
Locoregional recurrence (LRR) rates for each RS category using traditional and TAILORx cut-offs.	<div><div>○ ○</div><div>○ ○</div><div>Very Low</div></div>	4269	3944	1.76 (1.32 - 2.37)	3.45 (2.63 - 4.53)	8213

Tumour-infiltrating lymphocytes (TILs) levels are associated with local recurrence in non-invasive breast cancer.

Tumour-infiltrating lymphocytes in non-invasive breast cancer: A systematic review and meta-analysis.

Outcome	Certainty of Evidence	Effect Group Size	Control Group Size	Relative Effect (95% CI)	Absolute Effect (95% CI)	No. of Participants
Association with local recurrence (invasive or non-invasive)	<div><div>○ ○</div><div>○ ○</div><div>Very Low</div></div>	3437	2941	2.05 (1.03 - 4.08)		6378

Questions and Answers

Diagnostic Interventions

- **Question:** What are the required diagnostic interventions in their practical sequence?
- **Answer:** No interventions considered relevant for this patient.

Predictive Biomarkers

- **Question:** What are the required testing/diagnostic interventions to identify predictive biomarkers?
- **Answer:**
  - **Oncotype DX 21-gene Recurrence Score (RS):** Valuable for predicting locoregional recurrence rates in estrogen receptor-positive breast cancer.
    - **Evidence:** [Value of the 21-gene expression assay in predicting locoregional recurrence rates in estrogen receptor-positive breast cancer: a systematic review and network meta-analysis.](#)
    - **Quality:** Moderate
  - **Tumour-infiltrating lymphocytes (TILs) levels:** Associated with local recurrence in non-invasive breast cancer.
    - **Evidence:** [Tumour-infiltrating lymphocytes in non-invasive breast cancer: A systematic review and meta-analysis.](#)
    - **Quality:** Low
  - **BAG-1 mRNA expression:** Associated with improved breast cancer-specific survival in early breast cancer.
    - **Evidence:** [BAG-1 as a biomarker in early breast cancer prognosis: a systematic review with meta-analyses.](#)
    - **Quality:** Moderate

Therapeutic Interventions

- **Question:** What are the required therapeutic interventions in their practical sequence?
- **Answer:**
  - **Adjuvant Endocrine Therapy:** Crucial for improving event-free and overall survival in women with non-metastatic breast cancer.
    - **Evidence:** [Importance of endocrine treatment adherence and persistence in breast cancer survivorship: a systematic review.](#)
    - **Quality:** Moderate
  - **Radiotherapy:** Following breast-conserving surgery significantly reduces breast cancer mortality.
    - **Evidence:** [Adjuvant and neoadjuvant breast cancer treatments: A systematic review of their effects on mortality.](#)
    - **Quality:** High

This summary provides a comprehensive overview of the patient's condition, recommended diagnostic and therapeutic interventions, and the supporting evidence for these recommendations. The evidence quality and relevance to decision-making have been assessed using the GRADE methodology.







# 08 / A.P.C.I. Learning & Results | Case 4

- Endoscopic ultrasound-guided fine needle biopsy (EUS-FNB) is superior to fine needle aspiration (EUS-FNA) for diagnosing pancreatic masses, with higher diagnostic accuracy and specimen adequacy.

📖 😊 Fine needle biopsy is superior to fine needle aspiration in endoscopic ultrasound guided sampling of pancreatic masses: A meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials. (2018-03-01) 🔗

## GRADE Table Summary of Findings

### Systematic review/MetaAnalysis:

Fine needle biopsy is superior to fine needle aspiration in endoscopic ultrasound guided sampling of pancreatic masses: A meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials.



### Patients/Population:

Patients with pancreatic masses revealed by CT, MRI, or EUS

### Intervention:

EUS-guided fine needle biopsy (FNB)

### Comparator:

EUS-guided fine needle aspiration (FNA)

Outcome	Illustrative Risk		Relative Effect (95% CI)	Number of Participants (Studies)	Overall Quality of Evidence	Comments
	Assumed Risk	Corresponding Risk				
Complications	NR	NR	OR 1.01 95% CI 0.27 - 3.78	1382 patients (10 RCT)	○○○○	⚠️
Technical success	NR	NR	OR 0.13 95% CI 0.02 - 1.07	1382 patients (9 RCT)	○○○○	⚠️
Number of needle passes required for diagnosis	NR	NR	NR	1382 patients (5 RCT)	○○○○	⚠️
Specimen adequacy	NR	NR	OR 1.83 95% CI 1.27 - 2.64	1382 patients (7 RCT)	○○○○	⚠️
Diagnostic accuracy	NR	NR	OR 1.62 95% CI 1.17 - 2.26	1382 patients (10 RCT)	○○○○	⚠️

## Oncology Commission Summary: Pancreatic Adenocarcinoma

### Patient Overview

- **Patient ID:** N06360/date:16/01/24
- **Age:** 70 years
- **Diagnosis:** Pancreatic adenocarcinoma (ICD-10: C25.0)
- **TNM Staging:** T4N1M1, Stage IV, Grade G2
- **Status:** Active, metastatic disease with liver and lymph node involvement
- **Therapies Performed:** Surgical resection (pancreatoduodenectomy), systemic chemotherapy (FOLFIRINOX, reduced dose due to hematological toxicity)

### Diagnostic Interventions: Practical Sequence

Recommended Sequence:

1. **Contrast-Enhanced CT:** Initial assessment of resectability.
  - **Evidence:** Meta-analysis of 29 studies shows a positive predictive value (PPV) of 0.81.
  - **Limitations:** Retrospective designs, heterogeneity among studies.
  - **Reference:** [Contrast-enhanced CT in determining resectability in patients with pancreatic carcinoma](#)
2. **18F-FDG PET/CT:** Prognostic evaluation for event-free survival (EFS) and overall survival (OS).
  - **Evidence:** Hazard ratios for EFS and OS are 1.9 and 1.21, respectively.
  - **Limitations:** Significant heterogeneity ( $I^2 = 59.8\%$ ).
  - **Reference:** [Prognostic value of 18F-FDG-PET/CT parameters in patients with pancreatic carcinoma](#)
3. **Serum CA 19-9 Levels:** Preoperative biomarker evaluation.
  - **Evidence:** Limited predictive value for resectability (AUC = 0.794).
  - **Limitations:** Influenced by benign conditions (e.g., jaundice).
  - **Reference:** [Preoperative Serum Carbohydrate Antigen 19-9 Levels Cannot Predict the Surgical Resectability of Pancreatic Cancer](#)
4. **Endoscopic Ultrasound-Guided Fine Needle Biopsy (EUS-FNB):** Tissue sampling.
  - **Evidence:** Superior diagnostic accuracy and specimen adequacy compared to EUS-FNA.
  - **Reference:** [Fine needle biopsy is superior to fine needle aspiration in endoscopic ultrasound guided sampling of pancreatic masses](#)
5. **K-ras Mutation Analysis with EUS-FNA:** Differential diagnosis of pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma (PDAC) vs. pancreatic inflammatory masses (PIM).
  - **Evidence:** Sensitivity 0.9, specificity 0.95.
  - **Reference:** [Performance of K-ras mutation analysis plus endoscopic ultrasound-guided fine-needle aspiration for differentiating diagnosis of pancreatic solid mass](#)

### Biomarker Testing for Prognostic Evaluation

Recommended Biomarkers:

1. **Liquid Biopsy:** Circulating tumor DNA (ctDNA), circulating tumor cells (CTCs), and circulating miRNAs.
  - **Evidence:** Promising for early detection, but very low quality due to small sample sizes and lack of randomization.
  - **Reference:** [Advances in the Detection of Pancreatic Cancer Through Liquid Biopsy](#)
2. **Modified Glasgow Prognostic Score (mGPS):** Prognostic marker for overall survival.
  - **Evidence:** Higher scores indicate worse prognosis (HR = 1.78).
  - **Limitations:** Retrospective designs, heterogeneity.
  - **Reference:** [Prognostic and clinical significance of modified glasgow prognostic score in pancreatic cancer](#)
3. **CA19-9 Levels:** Widely used biomarker for prognosis and survival prediction.
  - **Evidence:** Higher levels associated with worse outcomes (HR = 1.77).
  - **Limitations:** Observational designs, inconsistencies.
  - **Reference:** [Prognostic Role of Carbohydrate Antigen 19 to 9 in Predicting Survival of Patients With Pancreatic Cancer](#)
4. **Platelet-to-Lymphocyte Ratio (PLR):** Prognostic marker for overall survival.
  - **Evidence:** Elevated PLR associated with worse outcomes (HR = 1.22).
  - **Limitations:** Retrospective designs, publication bias.
  - **Reference:** [Prognostic role of platelet to lymphocyte ratio in pancreatic cancers](#)

Evidence Quality Modifier		
Finding	QoE Modifier	Comment
Risk of Bias	-2	High risk of performance bias due to lack of blinding of endos
Starting QoE: 3 (QualityOfEvidence.HIGH). CI width > 0.8 => quality of evidence -1 CI contains 1 => quality of evidence -2 Current QoE: 0. After application of negative modifiers: 0. After application of positive modifiers: 0.		
CLOSE		

### Therapeutic Interventions: Practical Sequence

Recommended Sequence:

1. **First-Line Therapy:**
  - **FOLFIRINOX:** Preferred for patients with good performance status (ECOG PS 0-1).
    - **Evidence:** Superior overall survival compared to gemcitabine-based therapies.
    - **Reference:** [Metastatic Pancreatic Cancer: American Society of Clinical Oncology Clinical Practice Guideline](#)
  - **Gemcitabine + Nab-Paclitaxel:** Alternative for patients with ECOG PS 2 or comorbidities.
    - **Evidence:** Effective for patients unable to tolerate FOLFIRINOX.
    - **Reference:** [Metastatic Pancreatic Cancer: American Society of Clinical Oncology Clinical Practice Guideline](#)
2. **Second-Line Therapy:**
  - **Liposomal Irinotecan + Fluorouracil + Leucovorin:** For progression after first-line gemcitabine-based therapy.
    - **Evidence:** Viable option with limited data.
    - **Reference:** [Metastatic Pancreatic Cancer: ASCO Clinical Practice Guideline Update](#)

### Summary of Evidence Quality

- **Diagnostic Interventions:** Evidence quality ranges from very low to moderate, with significant limitations due to heterogeneity, retrospective designs, and small sample sizes.
- **Biomarker Testing:** Evidence quality is predominantly very low, emphasizing the need for further validation in larger, randomized studies.
- **Therapeutic Interventions:** High-quality evidence supports the use of FOLFIRINOX and gemcitabine + nab-paclitaxel as first-line therapies. Second-line options require further robust data.

This summary provides a structured approach to the diagnosis, prognostic evaluation, and treatment of metastatic pancreatic adenocarcinoma, tailored to the patient's clinical profile.



## 09 / Expected Outcomes and Potential Limitations

### Expected Outcomes

- **Insights into the personalized performance** of the large language model (LLM) within the A.P.C.I. system in real-world clinical settings.
- **GRADE-based evidence** supporting optimized clinical workflows and enhanced data-driven insights guiding decision-making for multidisciplinary tumour boards.
- **Data-driven insights** informing further development and global implementation of **standalone LLM-based multidisciplinary clinical decisions support system** in oncology, by overcoming language and geographical barriers.

### Potential Limitations

- **Biases associated with the retrospective study design**, which may limit control over confounding variables.
- **Heterogeneity of electronic health record (EHR) data** across different centers, **and clinical practices (SOPs)** potentially impacting result quality.
- **Incomplete patient data**, particularly regarding long-term outcomes, which may affect the robustness of conclusions.



## 10 / Conclusions



**By integrating large language model (Gen-AI) with the GRADE approach, this study evaluates the potential of A.P.C.I. to revolutionize oncology decision-making processes by enhancing diagnostic accuracy, personalizing treatment pathways, and optimizing the efficiency of multidisciplinary teams.**



**The findings will play a crucial role in clinical validation, scientific dissemination, and fostering strategic collaboration with key stakeholders. This will drive the adoption of AI-enhanced GRADE methodology within the Comprehensive Cancer Infrastructure (CCI), ensuring global scalability and impact in precision oncology.**



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MedTech World 2024, AI in Health  
Awards

HITLAB Breakthrough Alliance Challenge  
2024 FINALIST | NYC, US

Forbes Bulgaria 2024 Start-up & Social  
Innovation Awards



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