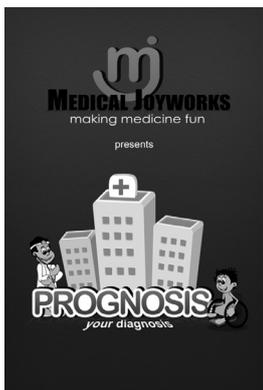


Chen Liu

Trainee Intern
 MBChB Student
 University of Auckland

Chen Liu is currently a trainee intern at the Auckland Medical School. He is interested in pursuing a surgical career.



App Review: Prognosis: Your Diagnosis
 App Company: Medical Joyworks
 RRP: Free

After seeing the initial title screen, one may think that *Prognosis: Your Diagnosis* is a gaming app designed for children which involves patients presenting with 'boo boos' and 'ouchies'. This first impression is false. The app, available for free on both Apple and Android app stores, is professional, engaging and a useful educational resource for medical students.

Prognosis: Your Diagnosis contains over 120 clinical cases from specialties of medicine, surgery, obstetrics and gynaecology, and paediatrics. You are presented with a brief summary of the pertinent history and examination findings, and are then asked what investigations you would perform. Results of the ordered tests are given and you are then asked to select the appropriate management option(s). Your answers are marked and a grade of either "done poorly", "done satisfactorily", or "done well" is awarded.

However, the grade does not really matter. It is the discussion section at the end of each case scenario that adds real value to this app. This section reveals the diagnosis and provides a summary of the disease, details the significance of certain history and examination findings, explains the thinking behind which investigation and management options are needed and explores how to exclude the differential diagnoses. The bottom of the discussion page contains some "take home messages" which are the key

points to remember. Reading through this, and reflecting upon your thinking processes as you worked through the case, is what contributes to highly effective learning.

The price (it is free), updates, variety of cases, entertainment value and the discussion section are this app's key strengths. With at least one new case added every week, there are always new scenarios to work through. The range of diseases discussed is wide, and includes both well-known or common problems (e.g. acute coronary syndrome, pancreatitis, ectopic pregnancy, and intussusception) as well as clinical rarities (e.g. mesothelioma, Dieulafoy's lesion, and neuroleptic malignant syndrome). Finally, this app is fun. It gives you the feeling of being a real-life clinician making decisions about patient management.

The need for internet access is a problem. Without internet access, the highlight of this app, the discussion page, will not load. While the game can be played offline, one would never find out if one's suspected diagnosis and thinking processes were correct – this leaves little to be gained. An inconvenience of the app is that units for some of the investigation results are not the units New Zealand students and clinicians will be familiar with, e.g. platelet count is displayed as number/mm³ instead of x10⁹/L.

Overall, this is an excellent app. I would recommend downloading this app for any medical student with an Apple or Android product, especially senior students who should understand and relate better to the content, as they have more clinical experience. It can act as both a revision tool prior to one's exams or as a teaching tool during medical, surgical, O&G and paediatric attachments. The slogan for the Medical Joyworks company is 'making medicine fun' and they have certainly achieved their goal with *Prognosis: Your Diagnosis*.

