From “to Treat or Not to Treat” to “How to Treat”: Managing Chronic Health Conditions with Dynamic Treatment Strategies

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Abstract: Dynamic treatment strategies are increasingly used for management of chronic diseases. With dynamic treatment strategies, treatment at each time is not static but depends on the patient’s evolving clinical characteristics. A growing number of clinical guidelines recommend the use of dynamic treatment strategies to modify treatment, but evidence supporting these guidelines is suboptimal due to constraints of resources, methodology, and data availability. With advances in methods and increasing availability of electronic data collected as part of routine healthcare delivery, this is an exciting time. We can evaluate these strategies in real-world settings and provide evidence for clinical practice. Dr. Li’s talk will share insights from her work in patients with end-stage renal disease to discuss research on comparative effectiveness and safety studies of complex treatment strategies using electronic healthcare databases.