

This worksheet assists in the critical appraisal of studies investigating the characteristics of a diagnostic test, such as accuracy, sensitivity, specificity, likelihood ratios, etc. A diagnostic test is not just limited to laboratory or radiological studies but also includes 'tests' performed as part of the physical exam. If you need assistance answering any of the questions see <http://www.uchsc.edu/ebm>.

DIAGNOSIS WORKSHEET

I. Study Basics

1. Citation (aka article reference):
2. Study Objective:
3. Study population (important inclusion & exclusion criteria):
4. Study setting
5. Study Design/method:
6. Diagnostic test being evaluated:
7. Gold standard or reference test:
8. Statistical method/test for primary endpoint:
9. Power (This should be discussed in the Statistical Analysis section of the paper. If not, indicate 'not discussed'.)
10. Did the study sponsors or investigators have an interest in the study's results?

II. Are the results of this diagnostic study valid?

1. Was there an independent, blind comparison with a reference ("gold") standard of diagnosis?
2. Did the patient sample include an appropriate spectrum of patients to whom the diagnostic test will be applied in clinical practice?
3. Did the results of the test being evaluated influence the decision to perform the reference standard?