

DIAGNOSTIC TEST APPRAISAL FORM**SCREENING AND TEST EVALUATION PROGRAM**

(<http://www.health.usyd.edu.au/step/>)

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The form should also be acknowledged if it is used in an amended way or has been used as the basis for the development of another set of criteria

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You can use this form to appraise an article on a study of the diagnostic accuracy of one or more tests.

The first set of questions are designed to help you judge whether this article applies to your decision problem. If this is not the case, you can skip the other sections, which deal with the validity and the actual results.

Throughout, the term "tests" is used to refer to both "index test" and "comparator".

**Look for answers in the following sections of the paper
 A: Abstract I: Introduction M: Methods R: Results D: Discussion**

I. Are the results of the study APPLICABLE to your decision problem?

1. Is the research question addressed appropriate to decisions you face? (Consider whether the index test is being used as a replacement, incremental, or triage)				I M
Yes	No	Unclear	Comment:	
2. Is the target condition appropriate?				M
Yes	No	Unclear	Comment:	
3. Are these tests replicable in your situation?				M
Yes	No	Unclear	Comment:	
4. Are the criteria for inclusion appropriate (population, prior tests)? Were the tests evaluated in an appropriate spectrum of patients?				M R
Yes	No	Unclear	Comment:	

II. Are the results of the study VALID?

5. Were eligible patients identified before the tests and reference standard were applied?				M R
Yes	No	Unclear	Comment:	
6. Is the reference standard likely to correctly classify the target condition?				
				M R
Yes	No	Unclear	Comment:	
7. Were the tests independent of (i.e. not incorporated in) the reference standard?				
				M
Yes	No	Unclear	Comment:	
8. Were the same clinical data available when test results were interpreted as would be available when the test is used in practice?				
				M
Yes	No	Unclear	Comment:	
9. Were test results interpreted without knowledge of the results of other tests ?				
				M
Tests:	Yes	No	Unclear	
Reference standard:	Yes	No	Unclear	
Comment:				
10. Did <i>all</i> patients (or a random selection) receive verification using a reference standard of diagnosis?				
				R
Yes	No	Unclear	Comment:	
% not verified:.....				
11. Did patients receive the <i>same</i> reference standard regardless of the test result?				
				M R
Yes	No	Unclear	Comment:	
% verified using a different method:				

<p>12. Was the time period between index test and reference standard short enough to be reasonably sure that the target condition did not change between the two tests? Were patients not treated in between? M R</p>			
Yes	No	Unclear	Comment:
<p>13. Were uninterpretable and/or intermediate test results reported? R</p>			
Yes	No	Unclear	Comment:
<p>% index test results were uninterpretable/intermediate:</p> <p>% reference standard results were uninterpretable/intermediate:</p>			
<p>14. Were withdrawals from the study explained? R</p>			
Yes	No	Unclear	Comment:
<p>% withdrawals:</p>			
<p>15. If two or more tests are compared, were they assessed independently of each other on all patients (or in randomly allocated patients)? M R</p>			
Yes	No	Unclear	Comment:

III. What were the results?

16. Recalculate the appropriate expressions of diagnostic accuracy from the data presented.

A R D

(Use a table)