

Evaluating Diagnosis Articles

Name:

Date:

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Reference	
ASK a clinical question	
Describe the patient you saw and the question they prompted. Use the PICO format.	P- I- C- O-
ACQUIRE the evidence	
How did you find your article? Describe your search strategy.	
APPRAISE the article	
Are the results valid?	
Was the diagnostic test evaluated in a Representative spectrum of patients (like those in whom it would be used in practice)?	<i>It is ideal if the diagnostic test is applied to the full spectrum of patients - those with mild, severe, early and late cases of the target disorder. It is also best if the patients are randomly selected or consecutive admissions so that selection bias is minimized.</i>
Did the clinicians face diagnostic uncertainty?	
Was there blind comparison with the reference (gold) standard (in both experimental and control groups).	<i>the reference standard and the index test being assessed should be applied to each patient independently and blindly. Those who interpreted the results of one test should not be aware of the results of the other test.</i>
Did the results of the test being evaluated influence the decision to perform the reference (gold) standard?	<i>The gold standard may be invasive or expensive and so not applied to all patients. Ideally, in a study it should be applied to all equally.</i>
What are the results?	
What likelihood ratios were associated with the range of possible test results?	<i>You may also see sensitivity, specificity, positive and negative predictive values. Likelihood ratios, while not as often calculated, are more clinically relevant. Luckily you can calculate them from sensitivity and specificity.</i>
How precise was the estimate of the treatment effect?	<i>What are the confidence intervals?</i>

How can I apply the results to patient care?	
Will the reproducibility of the test result and its interpretation be satisfactory in my clinical setting?	<i>The article should have sufficient description of the test to allow its replication and also interpretation of the results.</i>
Are the results applicable to the patient in my practice?	
Will the results change my management strategy?	
Will patients be better off as a result of the test?	
APPLY the results	
Did what you learned change how you practice?	
What limitations do you see in this paper?	
Follow-up on your patient. What happened to them?	<i>Track them in the electronic medical record (if they were admitted) or call them (if they went home).</i>
What did you think of this process?	