

Worksheet for Using an Article About Assessing Diagnostic Tests

University of Alberta EBM Toolkit

CITATION:

ARE THE RESULTS OF THE STUDY VALID?

1. Was there an independent, blind comparison with a reference standard?

Yes No Can't Tell

- Is reference standard used acceptable?
- Were both reference standard and test applied to all patients?

2. Did the patient sample include an appropriate spectrum of patients to whom the diagnostic test will be applied in clinical practice?

Yes No Can't Tell

3. Did the results of the test being evaluated influence the decision to perform the reference standard?

Yes No Can't Tell

- "Verification" or "work-up" bias?

4. Were the methods for performing the test described in sufficient detail to permit replication?

Yes No Can't Tell

- Preparation of patient?

- Performance of test?

- Analysis and interpretation of results?

5. Overall, are the results of the study valid?

Yes No Can't Tell

WHAT WERE THE RESULTS?

1. Are likelihood ratios for the test results presented or data necessary for their calculation provided?

Yes No Can't Tell

- How big or small is this LR?

WILL THE RESULTS HELP ME IN CARING FOR MY PATIENTS?

1. Will the reproducibility of the test result and its interpretation be satisfactory in my setting?

Yes No Can't Tell

2. Are the results applicable to my patient?

Yes No Can't Tell

- Similar distribution of disease severity?
- Similar distribution of competing diseases?
- Compelling reasons why the results should not be applied?

3. Will the results change my management?

Yes No Can't Tell

- Test and treatment thresholds?
- High or low LR's?

4. Will patients be better off as a result of the test?

Yes No Can't Tell

- Is target disorder dangerous if left undiagnosed?
- Is test risk acceptable?
- Does effective treatment exist?
- Information from test will lead to change of Management beneficial to patient?