

Superego Cafe online course: www.criticalappraisal.com

Checklist - Diagnosis: 3 pages, updated 08 March 2008.

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Critical appraisal of diagnostic studies

[CAxxx refers to the online presentation that will help you answer the question]

Methodology

Was the test applied an appropriate spectrum of patients?	CA130
Were the diagnostic test results compared to the gold standard test results?	CA620
Was the comparison with the gold standard test blind and independent?	CA140 CA180

Results

Is the new diagnostic test valid?	CA190
Is the new diagnostic test reliable?	CA190

Complete this 2x2 table (CA620)		Outcome by gold standard		Totals
		positive	negative	
New diagnostic test result	positive	a	b	a+b
	negative	c	d	c+d
	Totals	a+c	b+d	a+b+c+d

What is the sensitivity and specificity?	CA620
What are the positive and negative predictive values?	CA620

What are the likelihood ratios for positive and negative results?	CA620
What are the pre-test & post-test probabilities?	CA620

Applicability

Is the new diagnostic test acceptable to your patients?	CA620
Is the diagnostic test available, affordable, accurate and precise in your setting?	
Will the post-test probabilities affect your management and help your patient?	CA620
Would the consequences of the test help your patient?	

If you are presenting this critical appraisal of a diagnostic study to an audience, please download the PowerPoint template that accompanies [CA620](#).