## A Worksheet for Articles about Diagnostic Tests

### I. DETERMINING RELEVANCE

#### A. What is the disease being addressed?

1. **Clinician Consideration**
   - **Will this information, if true, have a direct bearing on the health of your patients and is it something they will care about?**
     - Yes
     - No (stop)
   - **Is the problem addressed by the diagnostic test common to your practice and is the test available to you?**
     - Yes
     - No (stop)
   - **Will this information, if true, require you to change your current practice?**
     - Yes
     - No (stop)

### II. DETERMINING VALIDITY

#### B. Description of the tests:

1. **Is the new test reasonable? What are its limitations?**
   
2. **Is the reference (gold) standard appropriate?**
   - **YES** (if yes, describe)
   - **NO** (stop)

   **Explain:**

3. **Did all participants receive both the new test and the reference test?**
   - **YES**
   - **NO** (stop)

4. **Were the results of the test interpreted without knowledge (blinded) of the reference test result and vice versa?**
   - **YES**
   - **NO**

#### C. Study Population:

1. **Were the patients enrolled randomly or consecutively?**
   - **YES**
   - **NO**

2. **Does the study population generalize to your practice?**
   - **YES**
   - **NO**

   (Consider the spectrum of patient characteristics, co-morbidities, and clinical presentation)
   - **Explain:**

#### D. Test Characteristics:

1. **What are the sensitivity, specificity and predictive values of the test?**

   a. **Sensitivity** = \( \frac{a}{a+c} \)
   
   b. **Specificity** = \( \frac{d}{b+d} \)
   
   c. **P.P.V.** = \( \frac{a}{a+b} \)
   
   d. **N.P.V.** = \( \frac{d}{d+c} \)

2. **Calculate the prevalence of disease in the study**
   - \( \frac{a+c}{a+b+c+d} \)

3. **How does this compare to your practice?**

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