

A Worksheet for Articles about Diagnostic Tests

I. DETERMINING RELEVANCE

A. What is the disease being addressed? _____

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|--|-----|-----------|
| Clinician
Consideration | 1. Will this information, if true, have a <i>direct</i> bearing on the health of your patients and is it something they will care about? | Yes | No (stop) |
| | 2. Is the problem addressed by the diagnostic test common to your practice and is the test available to you? | Yes | No (stop) |
| | 3. Will this information, if true, require you to <i>change your current practice</i> ? | Yes | No (stop) |

II. DETERMINING VALIDITY

B. *Description of the tests:*

- Is the new test **reasonable**? What are its **limitations**? *(stop)*

- Is the **reference (gold) standard** appropriate? YES (if yes, describe) NO *(stop)*
EXPLAIN: _____
- Did all participants receive **both** the new test and the reference test? YES NO *(stop)*
- Were the results of the test interpreted without knowledge (**blinded**) of the reference test result and vice versa? YES NO

C. *Study Population:*

- Were the patients enrolled randomly or consecutively? YES NO
- 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 = $\frac{a}{a+c}$ _____

c. P.P.V. = $\frac{a}{a+b}$ _____

b. Specificity = $\frac{d}{b+d}$ _____

d. N.P.V. = $\frac{d}{d+c}$ _____

		DISEASE	
		+	-
TEST	+		
	-	a c	b d

2. Calculate the **prevalence** of disease in the study

$\frac{a+c}{a+b+c+d}$

3. How does this compare to your practice? _____