

Users' Guides to the Medical Literature: A Manual for Evidence-Based Clinical Practice, 3rd ed

>Diagnostic Tests

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BOX 18-1

Users' Guide for an Article About Interpreting Diagnostic Test Results

- How serious is the risk of bias?**

- Did participating patients constitute a representative sample of those presenting with a diagnostic dilemma?

- Did investigators compare the test to an appropriate, independent reference standard?

- Were those interpreting the test and reference standard blind to the other result?

- Did all patients receive the same reference standard irrespective of the test results?

- What are the results?**

- What likelihood ratios were associated with the range of possible test results?

- How can I apply the results to patient care?**

- Will the reproducibility of the test results and their interpretation be satisfactory in my clinical setting?

- Are the study results applicable to the patients in my practice?

- Will the test results change my management strategy?

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

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