

EVALUATING DIAGNOSTICS | GENERAL PRINCIPLES

APPENDIX 1 | STANDARDS FOR REPORTING OF DIAGNOSTIC ACCURACY (STARD) CHECKLIST

Section and topic	Item #		On page #
Title/abstract/keywords	1	Identify the article as a study of diagnostic accuracy (recommended MeSH heading 'sensitivity and specificity').	<input type="checkbox"/>
Introduction	2	State the research questions or study aims, such as estimating the diagnostic accuracy or comparing accuracy between tests or across participant groups.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Methods		Describe:	
Participants	3	The study population: the inclusion and exclusion criteria, the setting and the locations where the data were collected.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	4	Participant recruitment: was the recruitment based on presenting symptoms, results from previous tests, or the fact that the participants had received the index tests or the reference standard?	<input type="checkbox"/>
	5	Participant sampling: was the study population a consecutive series of participants defined by the selection criteria in items 3 and 4? If not, specify how participants were further selected.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	6	Data collection: was data collection planned before (prospective study) or after (retrospective study) the index test and reference standard were performed?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Test methods	7	The reference standard and its rationale.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	8	Technical specifications of the material and methods involved, including how and when the measurements were taken, and/or cite references for the index tests and reference standard.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	9	Definition of, and rationale for, the units, cut offs and/or categories of the results of the index tests and the reference standard.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	10	The number, training and expertise of the persons executing and reading the index tests and the reference standard.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	11	Whether or not the readers of the index tests and reference standard were blind to the results of the other test and describe any other clinical information available to the readers.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Statistical methods	12	Methods for calculating or comparing measures of diagnostic accuracy, and the statistical methods used to quantify uncertainty (e.g. 95% confidence intervals).	<input type="checkbox"/>
	13	Methods for calculating test reproducibility, if done.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Results		Report:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Participants	14	When the study was done, including the start and end dates of recruitment.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	15	The clinical and demographic characteristics of the study population (e.g. age, sex, spectrum of presenting symptoms, co-morbidity, current treatments and recruitment centres).	<input type="checkbox"/>
	16	The number of participants satisfying the criteria for inclusion that did or did not undergo the index tests and/or the reference standard; describe why participants failed to receive either test (a flow diagram is strongly recommended).	<input type="checkbox"/>
Test results	17	Time interval from the index tests to the reference standard, and any treatment administered inbetween.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	18	Distribution of severity of disease (define criteria) in those with the target condition; other diagnoses in participants without the target condition.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	19*	A cross tabulation of the results of the index tests (including indeterminate and missing results) by the results of the reference standard.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	20	Any adverse events from performing the index tests or the reference standard.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Estimates	21	Estimates of diagnostic accuracy and measures of statistical uncertainty (e.g. 95% confidence intervals).	<input type="checkbox"/>
	22	How indeterminate results, missing responses and outliers of the index tests were handled.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	23	Estimates of variability of diagnostic accuracy between subgroups of participants, readers or centres, if done.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	24	Estimates of test reproducibility, if done.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	25	Discuss the clinical applicability of the study findings.	<input type="checkbox"/>

* This entry has been modified from the original.