M8120 INFORMATICS FOR EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE
Critical Analysis of A Report of a Diagnostic or Screening Test


Are the results of the study valid?

1. What diagnostic tests were being evaluated?
2. Was there an independent, blind comparison with a reference (gold standard)? If so, what was the gold standard test?
3. Who was the sample?
4. What were the inclusion and exclusion criteria?
5. Did the patient sample include an appropriate spectrum of patients to whom the diagnostic test will be applied in clinical practice? How or how not?
6. Were the methods for performing the tests described in sufficient detail to permit replication? How or how not?

What are the results?

7. Are likelihood ratios for the tests presented? If not, what data is necessary to calculate the likelihood ratios and is it included?
8. Which test(s) had the lowest false positive rate(s)?

Will the results help me in caring for my patient?

9. What would you tell the patient who received a negative test result using Murex suds in response to the question: Do I have HIV?

10. What would you tell the patient who received a positive test result using EIA on a preserved urine specimen in response to the question: Do I have HIV?