



RATING SCALE

ARTICLE ON DIAGNOSIS

Use the following rating scale to answer the questions below:

<u>Rating Scale:</u>	N/A	Not applicable
	0	No
	1	Unclear/ Possibly
	2	Yes

	Rating
Methods	
Did the patient sample include an appropriate spectrum of patients to whom the diagnostic test will be applied in clinical practice? <i>Was the source of the study population described?</i> <i>Was the stage / severity of disease well defined?</i> <i>Were patients at a uniform point in this stage?</i>	
Was there “diagnostic uncertainty”? <i>Were all patients ‘very likely’ to have the disease (spuriously inflates sensitivity and specificity becomes unreliable)? OR</i> <i>Were all patients ‘very unlikely’ to have the disease (spuriously inflates specificity, and sensitivity becomes unreliable)?</i>	
Were the methods for performing the test described in sufficient detail to permit replication? <i>Is the technique of the diagnostic test and its “cutoffs” similar to what is available at my institution?</i> <i>Was the test applied in an independent, blind fashion to all patients?</i>	
Was there an independent, blind comparison with a reference (“gold”) standard of diagnosis?	
Was the reference standard applied to all patients, regardless of the diagnostic test result?	
What were the results and are they important?	
What were the overall results of the study? How precise were the results? Sensitivity, Specificity, Likelihood ratios 95% CIs	
Will the results help me in caring for my patients?	
Were additional factors that might modify the test result allowed for? <i>e.g. age, sex, disease stage</i>	
Is the diagnostic test available, affordable and accurate and precise in my institution?	
Are the results applicable to my patient?	
Will the results change my management?	
Will patients be better off as a result of the test?	
Total	

Comments: