

## CHECKLIST FOR DIAGNOSTIC STUDIES

P	What setting did the population come from?	
	Was eligibility determined? Did this involve any other tests, or any of the tests in the study? If retrospective was selection related to the target disorder, or test data?	
	How were people selected from those eligible? Consecutive or random? What percentage participated?	
EC	What is the test being assessed? Has enough detail been given to replicate it?	
	What 'gold standard' test has been used for comparison? Has enough detail been given to replicate it?	
	Have people applying the tests been trained and how good is their performance likely to be?	
O	What criteria are used to report the test categories? If based on a continuous measurement, how has the cut-off point been decided?	
T	When was the test carried out in relation to the reference standard?	

R	Are the populations well described and are those selected representative of them? Would it be possible to replicate the population from the information given?	
	Was there a subgroup of patients who did not receive one or other of the tests?	
Alloc	Has the study been performed on an appropriate spectrum of patients?	
Adj	Has the reference standard been applied to all and interpreted blind of the test result?	
	Are there factors that differ between those with and without the disorder that might affect the accuracy of the test results (eg obesity)? Have the results been stratified for any difference?	
Acc	Is the prevalence of the disorder in the study population similar to that expected?	
Mb	Were the tests assessed blind of each other?	
Mo	Has the test been described in enough detail?	
	Is the test safe, acceptable and affordable?	

	RESULTS	
	Can a 2 x 2 table be constructed? How have the results been presented?	
	How likely are these to be due to chance? Have p values been given	
	Has a confidence interval been calculated and what does that imply?	
	Will the reproducibility of the test and its interpretation be satisfactory in my setting?	
	Are the results applicable to my population?	
	Who has funded the study and is this likely to have biased the results?	
	Will the results change patient management?	
	Will the use of the test benefit the patient?	
	Are there fundamental flaws, sufficient to discount the study conclusion?	