



Eviscore Foundation Course

Module 3 – APPRAISE

Worksheet 3B : Diagnostic Test Study Appraisal

Estimated Time: 20–30 minutes

Difficulty: ★★☆☆ Foundation

Name: _____

Date: _____

Article Title: _____

Learning Objectives

After completing this worksheet, you should be able to:

- Identify a diagnostic accuracy study.
 - Assess whether the study is trustworthy.
 - Interpret the main findings.
 - Decide whether the diagnostic test is applicable in your clinical practice.
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Before You Begin

Use a diagnostic accuracy study selected by your instructor or identified during your literature search. Read the Abstract before completing this worksheet.

PART 1 – Identify the Study

What diagnostic test was evaluated?

What condition or disease was being diagnosed?

What was the reference (gold standard) test?

What type of study is this?

- ☐ Diagnostic Accuracy Study
 - ☐ Cohort Study
 - ☐ Randomized Controlled Trial
 - ☐ Case-Control Study
 - ☐ Unsure
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PART 2 – Can I Trust This Study?

Answer the following questions.

Did the study compare the test with an appropriate reference (gold standard)?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not Reported

Were all participants evaluated using both the new test and the reference standard?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not Reported

Was the test evaluated in patients similar to those seen in routine clinical practice?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

Were the test methods described clearly?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not Reported

Overall

Do you think this study is reasonably trustworthy?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Partly
- ☐ No

Why?

PART 3 – What Did the Study Find?

What was the main result?

According to the authors, how well did the test perform?

Was the new test better, similar, or worse than the reference standard?

- ☐ Better
 - ☐ Similar
 - ☐ Worse
 - ☐ Unclear
-

PART 4 – Can I Apply This Test?

Think about your own clinical setting.

Would this test be available where you work?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

Is the test practical for routine use?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

Would the test result influence your clinical decision?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

Would you consider using this diagnostic test?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Maybe
- ☐ No

Explain your decision.

PART 5 – My Evidence Summary

Clinical Question

Diagnostic Test

Disease

Main Finding

Can I Trust This Study?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Partly
- ☐ No

Would I Use This Test?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Maybe
- ☐ No

Reflection

Which part of this appraisal was most challenging?

- ☐ Understanding the study design
- ☐ Understanding the test results
- ☐ Judging trustworthiness
- ☐ Deciding whether the test applies to my patients
- ☐ Other

Self-Assessment

- ☐ I can recognize a diagnostic accuracy study.
- ☐ I understand why a reference standard is important.
- ☐ I can summarize the main findings.
- ☐ I can decide whether the test may be useful in my practice.

Evidence Pearl

A new diagnostic test should not be adopted simply because it is new. First ask: Was it compared with an appropriate reference standard, and will it improve patient care in my clinical setting?

Faculty Notes (Instructor Version)

Suggested Discussion Points

Guide learners using three questions:

1. **Can I trust this study?**
 - Was there an appropriate reference standard?
 - Did all participants receive both tests?
 - Were the methods clearly described?

2. **What did the study find?**
- What disease was evaluated?
 - How did the new test perform compared with the reference standard?
 - Were the findings clinically meaningful?
3. **Can I apply this test?**
- Is the test available in my setting?
 - Would the result change patient management?
 - Is the test practical and acceptable for my patients?
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Common Beginner Mistakes

- Assuming every new test is better than the existing test.
 - Ignoring whether the study used an appropriate reference standard.
 - Confusing a diagnostic study with a therapy study.
 - Focusing only on the authors’ conclusions instead of the actual findings.
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Diagnostic Decision Box

Question	Yes	No	Unsure
Is the study trustworthy?	☐	☐	☐
Is the test clinically useful?	☐	☐	☐
Is the test available in my setting?	☐	☐	☐
Would I use this test?	☐	☐	☐

This gives learners a concise, structured summary of their appraisal and reinforces the three fundamental questions taught throughout the EviScore Foundation Course: Can I trust it? What did it find? Can I apply it?
