

The STARD checklist consist of 25 items. Please, click on the description of the items for the rationale of the item and an example

| Section and Topic | Item | | On page |
|-----------------------------|------|---|---------|
| TITLE/ABSTRACT/ KEYWORDS | 1 | Identify the article as a study of diagnostic accuracy(recommend MeSH heading 'sensitivity and specificity'). | |
| INTRODUCTION | 2 | State the research questions or study aims, such as estimating diagnostic accuracy or comparing accuracy between tests or across participant groups. | |
| METHODS | | | |
| <i>Participants</i> | 3 | Describe the study population: The inclusion and exclusion criteria, setting and locations where the data were collected. | |
| | 4 | Describe participant recruitment: Was recruitment based on presenting symptoms, results from previous tests, or the fact that the participants had received the (evaluated) index tests or the (golden) reference standard? | |
| | 5 | Describe 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. | |
| | 6 | Describe data collection: Was data collection planned before the index test and reference standard were performed (prospective study) or after (retrospective study)? | |
| <i>Test methods</i> | 7 | Describe the reference standard and its rationale. | |
| | 8 | Describe technical specifications of material and methods involved including how and when measurements were taken, and/or cite references for index tests and reference standard. | |
| | 9 | Describe definition of and rationale for the units, cut-offs and/or categories of the results of the index tests and the reference standard. | |
| | 10 | Describe the number, training and expertise of the persons executing and reading the index tests and the reference standard. | |
| | 11 | Describe whether or not the readers of the index tests and reference standard were blind | |

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| | | (masked) to the results of the other test and describe any other clinical information available to the readers. | |
| <i>Statistical methods</i> | 12 | Describe methods for calculating or comparing measures of diagnostic accuracy, and the statistical methods used to quantify uncertainty (e.g. 95% confidence intervals). | |
| | 13 | Describe methods for calculating test reproducibility, if done. | |
| RESULTS | | | |
| <i>Participants</i> | 14 | Report when study was done, including beginning and ending dates of recruitment. | |
| | 15 | Report clinical and demographic characteristics of the study population (e.g. age, sex, spectrum of presenting symptoms, co morbidity, current treatments, recruitment centers). | |
| | 16 | Report 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). | |
| <i>Test results</i> | 17 | Report time interval from the index tests to the reference standard, and any treatment administered between. | |
| | 18 | Report distribution of severity of disease (define criteria) in those with the target condition; other diagnoses in participants without the target condition. | |
| | 19 | Report a cross tabulation of the results of the index tests (including indeterminate and missing results) by the results of the reference standard; for continuous results, the distribution of the test results by the results of the reference standard. | |
| | 20 | Report any adverse events from performing the index tests or the reference standard. | |
| <i>Estimates</i> | 21 | Report estimates of diagnostic accuracy and measures of statistical uncertainty (e.g. 95% confidence intervals). | |
| | 22 | Report how indeterminate results, missing responses and outliers of the index tests were handled. | |
| | 23 | Report estimates of variability of diagnostic accuracy between subgroups of participants, readers or centers, if done. | |
| | 24 | Report estimates of test reproducibility, if done. | |
| DISCUSSION | 25 | Discuss the clinical applicability of the study findings. | |