



# An Empirical Assessment of Bivariate Methods for Meta-Analysis of Test Accuracy

By U. S. Department of Health and Human Services

CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform. Paperback. Book Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. Paperback. 100 pages. Dimensions: 11.0in. x 8.5in. x 0.2in. Medical tests are used every day for guiding diagnosis, predicting the future course of disease, and guiding treatment selection. The effects of tests on clinical outcomes are indirect, through their influence on physicians diagnostic thinking and treatment decisionmaking. Comparative studies of testing versus no testing that can answer the overarching question of test effectiveness (clinical utility) are rarely performed. Because of this, assessment of medical tests often relies only on the evaluation of test accuracy, or test performance, typically measured by sensitivity and specificity (clinical validity of tests). Even when studies of clinical utility are available, systematic reviews of test performance are an important component of any comprehensive evidence assessment of a medical test. In most cases tests are used to classify patients into two mutually exclusive and exhaustive groups (test positive and test negative) positive test results indicate that patients are more likely to have the condition of interest and should be targeted for additional diagnostic investigation or considered for therapeutic intervention. In such cases, test accuracy can be expressed as the ability to identify individuals with disease...



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