

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



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AN EMPIRICAL ASSESSMENT OF BIVARIATE METHODS FOR META-ANALYSIS OF TEST ACCURACY



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 as test positives (sensitivity) and individuals with no disease as test negatives (specificity). Additional accuracy metrics, such as the area under the receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve, the diagnostic odds ratio, or the Q statistic (the point on the ROC curve where sensitivity equals specificity), are often reported in primary studies. Individual studies of test accuracy tend to be small and are often conducted in diverse settings. Systematic reviews of medical test studies offer a natural framework for evidence synthesis. When the aim is to increase precision or quantitatively assess the impact of study-level characteristics on test sensitivity or specificity,...

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