

Title

The diagnostic accuracy of lung auscultation in adult patients with acute pulmonary pathologies: a meta-analysis.

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Supplementary Appendix C – Data analysis

A rough guide for classifying the diagnostic accuracy by using the Area Under the Curve (AUC) of a diagnostic test is the traditional academic point system by Tape, T.G.: excellent (0.90-1.0), good (0.80-0.90), fair (0.70-0.80), poor (0.60-0.70) or fail (0.50-0.60).(11) Diagnostic summary measures were obtained for the whole set of outcomes and index tests, as well as for the separate groups based on the pulmonary pathology. In addition, summary measures were obtained for different categories of breath sounds.

Generalized estimating equations were used to account for possible correlation between sensitivities (respectively specificities) for different index tests obtained in a single study. An identity link was used together with an exchangeable correlation structure. In case a categorical variable was found to be significantly associated with sensitivity (or specificity) pairwise comparisons were made between categories using a Bonferroni correction to take into account multiple testing.