SUPPLEMENTARY APPENDIX

Supplementary Table | Detail of cases in cross-sectional studies and case series (Table 2 & 3) reporting on signs and symptoms of qRT-PCR-confirmed ZIKV co-infections.

Author	Location	Study		Age	Co- infecting agent	Other pathogens tested (negative)		WHO	O ZIKV si	gns or syn	nptoms		sig	reported ns or ptoms	Additional information
(year)		year	Sex	(y)			Rash	Fever	Arthralgia	Conjunctivitis	Myalgia	Headache	URT	GI symptoms	
Acevedo et al. (2017)	Ecuador	2016	F	54	СНІКУ	DENV; Gramstain, HSV-1/2/6, CMV, EBV, VZ, Toxo, MTB, enterovirus ^a	NR		NR	NR	NR		NR	NR	Lumbar pain Complications: Guillain-Barré Syndrome (EMG confirmed) ^c
Acevedo et al.(2017)	Ecuador	2016	М	44	СНІКУ	a	NR	•	•	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Acevedo et al.(2017)	Ecuador	2016	М	47	СНІКУ	a	NR	•	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	Sleep disturbance Complications: Tremors and walking difficulties. Tonic-clonic seizure, Encephalitis
Cabral- Castro et al.(2016)	Brazil	2015/ 16	F	28	СНІКУ	DENV	•	•			NR	NR	NR	•	Retro-ocular pain Complications: Post infection relapse with pruritic rash no fever
Mercado- Reyes et al. (2018) ^b	Colombia	2015/ 16	NR	47	СНІКУ	DENV				NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	Comorbidities: Hypertension, diabetes mellitus, obesity

															Complications: Neurological
															syndrome
															Outcome: Death
															Comorbidities: Hypertension,
															diabetes mellitus, chronic kidney
Mercado-		2015/													disease, chronic cardiac disease
Reyes et al.	Colombia	16	NR	78	CHIKV	DENV				NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	Complications: Neurological
(2018) ^b															syndrome
															Outcome: Death
Mercado-															Complications: Haemorrhagic
Reyes et al.	Colombia	2015/	NR	28	СНІКУ	DENV				NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	manifestations, Multi organ failure
(2018) b		16													Outcome: Death
															Infection in pregnancy
Mercado-	6 1 1:	2015/	_	22	61 111/1	DENN/	ND	NID	NB	NID	NB	NB	ND	NB	Complications: Intrauterine
Reyes et al.	Colombia	16	F	22	CHIKY	DENV	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	growth restriction, ancephaly
(2018) ^b															Outcome: Fetal death
Mercado-															Infection in pregnancy
	6 1 1:	2015/	F	22	61 111/1	DENN/	N ID	NID	ND	NID	NB	NB	ND	NB	Complications: absence of hear
Reyes et al.	Colombia	16	F	22	CHIKY	DENV	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	beat
(2018) b															Outcome: Fetal death
Metha		2015/													Complications: Guillain-Barré
et al.	Brazil	2015/	М	34	СНІКУ	DENV		NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	Syndrome (EMG confirmed) ^c
(2018)		16													Outcome: Full recovery
Metha		2015/													Complications: Myeloradiculitis
et al.	Brazil		М	65	CHIKV	DENV				NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	•
(2018)		16													Outcome: Full recovery
Sardi et <i>al</i> .	Brazil	2015	F	48	СНІКУ	DENV				П	_		NR		Complications: Severe arthralgia
(2016)	DI AZII	2013	Г	т0	CHIKY	DEINV			-	Ш	=	-	INIX	-	Outcome: Sequelae

Sardi et <i>al</i> . (2016)	Brazil	2015	F	40	СНІКУ	DENV	•	•	NR	•	•	NR	NR	NR	Painful posterior cervical lymph node measuring 5 mm Outcome: Full recovery
Alva-Urcia et al.(2016)	Peru	2016	NR	NR	DENV	NR	NR		NR						
Silva et <i>al.</i> (2019)	Brazil	2014/ 16	NR	NR	DENV	CHIKV	•	NR		NR	NR	•	NR		Retro-orbital pain
Estofolete et al.(2018)	Brazil	2016	F	63	DENV I	CHIKV				NR	•	•	NR	NR	NR
Estofolete et al.(2018)	Brazil	2016	М	27	DENV I	CHIKV			NR	NR		NR	NR	NR	NR
Estofolete et al.(2018)	Brazil	2016	F	64	DENV I	CHIKV	NR		NR						
Estofolete et al.(2018)	Brazil	2016	М	68	DENV I	CHIKV	NR			NR			NR	NR	Complications : Abrupt platelets decrease
Estofolete et al.(2018)	Brazil	2016	М	33	DENV I	CHIKV	NR		NR	NR			NR		Complications : Abrupt platelets decrease
Estofolete et al.(2018)	Brazil	2016	М	62	DENV I	CHIKV	NR		NR	NR			NR	NR	NR
Estofolete et al.(2018)	Brazil	2016	F	36	DENV I	CHIKV			NR	NR			NR	NR	NR
Estofolete et al.(2018)	Brazil	2016	М	25	DENV 2	CHIKV			NR				NR		NR
Estofolete et al.(2018)	Brazil	2016	F	39	DENV 2	CHIKV				NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Estofolete et al.(2018)	Brazil	2016	М	48	DENV 2	CHIKV							NR	NR	NR

Estofolete et al.(2018)	Brazil	2016	F	47	DENV 2	CHIKV		NR					NR		NR
Estofolete et al.(2018)	Brazil	2016	М	41	DENV 2	CHIKV	NR	NR		NR			NR		NR
Chia et al. (2017)	Singa-pore	2016	М	42	DENV 3	NR			NR				NR		NR
Chia et al. (2017)	Singa-pore	2016	F	45	DENV I	NR	•		NR	NR		NR	NR	•	Complications : Malaise, gingival bleeding
Chia et al. (2017)	Singa-pore	2016	М	40	DENV I	NR	•		•		•	NR	NR	•	NR
Chia et al. (2017)	Singa-pore	2016	М	15	DENV	NR				NR	NR			NR	Complications : Developed significant thrombocytopenia
Li et <i>al</i> . (2017)	Sing-apore	2016	М	15	DENV	CHIKV								NR	Bilateral knee pain Outcome: Full recovery
Acevedo et al.(2017)	Ecuador	2016	М	18	CHIKV, DENV	a	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR		NR	Complications: Guillain-Barré Syndrome (EMG confirmed) ^c
Acevedo et al.(2017)	Ecuador	2016	М	23	CHIKV, DENV	a	NR	Complications: Encephalitis Outcome: Death							
Acevedo et al.(2017)	Ecuador	2016	F	25	CHIKV, DENV	a	NR	•	NR	NR	NR	•	NR	•	Followed by generalized tonic- clonic seizure, ptosis of the eyelids, neck stiffness Complications: Meningitis
Acevedo et al.(2017)	Ecuador	2016	М	62	CHIKV, DENV	a	NR	•	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	Sweating, paraplegia, arreflexia, dyspnea, decreased muscular strength in arms Complications : Guillain-Barré Syndrome (EMG confirmed) ^c

Acevedo et al.(2017)	Ecuador	2016	F	28	CHIKV HIV, Toxo	a	NR	•	NR	NR	NR	•	NR	NR	Complications: Meningitis
						DENV, YFV,									Infection in third trimester of
Souza		2015/1				SLEV, ILHV,									pregnancy
Costa et al.	Brazil	2015/1	F	35	MAYV	ROCV, WNV,	NR	Outcome: Newborn presented							
(2019)		6				EEEV,WEEV,									without any congenital
						VEEV									abnormalities

[■] Reported to be present; □ Reported not to be present; Not reported (NR); Upper Respiratory Tract (URT) symptoms: pharyngitis, sore throat, cough, pharyngeal congestion, adenopathy; Gastro-intestinal (GI) symptoms: nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, constipation, stomach ache; Zika virus (ZIKV); Chikungunya virus (CHIKV); Dengue virus (DENV); Herpes simplex virus (HSV); Cytomegalovirus (CMV); Varizella zoster (VZ); Toxoplasma gondii (Toxo); Mycobacterium tuberculosis (MTB); Mayaro virus (MAYV); Yellow fever virus (YFV); West Nile virus (WNV); Saint Louis Encephalitis virus (SLEV); Rocio virus (ROCV); Ilheus virus (ILHV); East, West, Venezuelan equine encephalitis virus (EEV,WEEV,VEEV), Electromyography testing (EMG); a tested for DENV; Gram-stain; HSV-1/2/6; CMV; EBV; VZ; Toxo; MTB; enterovirus. b Details were only reported on five fatal ZIKV/CHIKV cases. c Electromyography testing (EMG).

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Supplementary Table 2 Details of study populations in cohort studies, cross-sectional studies, and case series (n = 20 studies).

Author (year)	Study population	Details of study population as described in publication
Acevedo et al. (2017)	Cases with neurological symptoms and suspected arbovirus infections	Cases with neurological symptoms and/ or concern for acute arboviral infections without case definition.
Alva-Urcia et al. (2016)	AFI cases	Cases who arrived to Internal Medicine-Pediatrics outpatient clinics with AFI (greater than or equal to 38°C axillary temperature in the previous 7 days) along with one or more of the following symptoms: headache, muscle pain, retro-ocular pain, joint pain, nausea, low appetite, vomiting, dizziness, abdominal pain, diarrhea, chills, rash, photophobia, sore throat, cough, pallor, rhinorrhea, dyspnea, jaundice, cough, conjunctival injection, dysuria or convulsions; no cases with an identifiable source of infection, such as sinusitis, pneumonia, acute otitis media and acute upper respiratory tract infections, among others.
Azeredo et al. (2018)	Suspected arbovirus infections	Cases with fever and rash during acute phase of infection (up to the 7th day after disease onset) followed by at least two of the following signals and symptoms: headache, myalgia or arthralgia, conjunctivitis, pruritus, retro-orbital pain and prostration were recruited as suspicion of arboviral infection.
Ball et al. (2018)	AFI cases	Cohort of school children of acute undifferentiated febrile illness (AFI).AFI defined as cases with fever and/or fever on presentation in a child with no obvious source of infection (ie, no respiratory symptoms, symptoms of urinary tract infection, or diagnostic criteria for malaria or typhoid).
Brasil et al. (2016)	Pregnant women with rash	Pregnant women with a rash that had developed in the previous 5 days.
Cabral-Castro et al. (2016)	Suspected DENV infections	Suspected DENV cases without case definition.
Carrillo-Hernandez et	Suspected arbovirus	Cases with febrile syndrome compatible with ZIKV, CHIKV and DENV infection, and in the acute phase of the disease, i.e., fever for no
al. (2018)	infections	more than seven days.
Charlys da Costa et al. (2017)	Suspected arbovirus infections with rash	Cases with exanthemous illness symptoms compatible with ZIKV, CHIKV and DENV infection.
Chia et al. (2017)	Suspected ZIKV infections	Suspected ZIKV cases with fever, maculopapular rash, and any of the following: arthralgia, myalgia, headache, or non-purulent conjunctivitis.

AFI cases	Cases notified as suspected ZIKV, CHIKV and DENV cases with National Surveillance System of Public Health (SINAN) of Brazil.								
Suspected ZIKV	Cases with macular or papular rash and two or more of the following signs and symptoms: fever or conjunctival hyperemia without secretion								
infections	and pruritus, polyarthralgia or joint edema								
Cues acted anhayimin	Suspected DENV cases: fever, abdominal pain, vomiting, bleeding of the mouth, hemorrhage, volume of urine, breathing difficulties, feeling								
•	cold, and suspected Zika cases presence of macular or papular rash with two or more of following signs and symptoms: fever								
Infections	or conjunctival hyperemia without secretion.								
Suspected ZIKV	Suspected ZIKV cases with fever, maculopapular rash, and any of the following: arthralgia, myalgia, headache, and non-purulent conjunctivitis.								
infections	Suspected ZIKV cases with lever, macdiopapdial rash, and any of the following, all thraigha, myalgia, headache, and non-purificing conjunctivitis.								
	Cases had to be older the age of 5 years and have fever or history of fever for less than 72 h, clinical symptoms were supposed to be								
Suspected arbovirus	consistent with possible dengue, i.e., suspicion of dengue and/or undifferentiated fever in a patient from a dengue endemic area however								
infections	with no signs of severe disease. Cases were not included if there were localized features suggesting an alternative diagnosis, e.g., pneumonia,								
	otitis, etc.								
Suspected arbovirus	Cases with suspected ZIKV, CHIKV and DENV infections, which was reported to the National Surveillance System of Public Health								
infections	(SIVIGILA) of Colombia.								
Cases with neurological									
symptoms and suspected	Cases with an acute neurological condition associated with a suspected ZIKV infection, as identified by fever, arthralgia or rash illness in the								
ZIKV infections	preceding three months.								
Suspected arbovirus									
infections	Cases with rash, conjunctivitis, and/or joint pain with or without fever or headache were examined further.								
AVI and of qRT-PCR									
ZIKV+ infections	Acute viral illness without case definition, and positive ZIKV qRT-PCR result.								
Suspected arbovirus	Constitution and TWO CHRO of DENNI Constitution								
infections	Cases with suspected ZIKV, CHIKV and DENV infections.								
Suspected arbovirus	Constitution of TIVY CHIVY and Jos DENIVinterior								
	Cases with suspected ZIKV, CHIKV, and/or DENV infections.								
	Suspected ZIKV infections Suspected arbovirus infections Suspected ZIKV infections Suspected arbovirus infections Suspected arbovirus infections Cases with neurological symptoms and suspected ZIKV infections Suspected arbovirus infections AVI and of qRT-PCR ZIKV+ infections Suspected arbovirus infections Suspected arbovirus infections								

Acute Febrile Illness (AFI); Acute Viral illness (AVI); Zika virus (ZIKV); Chikungunya virus (CHIKV); Dengue virus (DENV);

Supplementary Appendix 1. Literature Search Strategy: Search terms for each database

Pubmed:

cziko OR zika OR "Zika Virus" [Mesh] OR "Zika Virus Infection" [Mesh] OR bacterial" OR bacterial Infections" [Mesh] OR bacterial" OR bacterial VOR bacterial Infections" [Mesh] OR "parasite Diseases" [Mesh] OR "parasite Diseases" [Mesh] OR "parasite infections" OR parsite OR parasitic OR parasitical OR parásite OR TORCH OR "Toxoplasmosis" [Mesh] OR toxoplasm* OR "Syphilis" [Mesh] OR sifilis OR syphilis OR "Rubella" [Mesh] OR rubéol* OR rubel* OR "Cytomegalovirus" [Mesh] OR citomegalovirus OR cytomegalovirus OR cytomegalovirus OR cytomegalovirus OR "Herpes Simplex" [Mesh] OR herpes OR herp* OR "Simplexvirus" [Mesh] OR "Trematode Infections" [Mesh] OR tremat* OR trématode* OR "Filariasis" [Mesh] OR Filari* OR "Onchocerciasis" [Mesh] OR Onchocerciasis OR Oncocercos* OR "Schistosoma" [Mesh] OR schisto* OR "Helminths" [Mesh] OR helmin* OR "Rabies" [Mesh] OR rabi* OR raiva OR rage OR "Trachoma" [Mesh] OR trachom* OR tracoma OR "Yaws" [Mesh] OR yaws OR bouba OR pian OR "Leprosy" [Mesh] OR leprosy OR lepra OR lèpre OR "Chagas disease" [Mesh] OR chiananiasis" [Mesh] OR leishmania* OR "Taeniasis" [Mesh] OR Taenia* OR "Echinococcus" [Mesh] OR echinoc* OR échinoc* OR equinococo OR "Neurocysticercosis" [Mesh] OR "West Nile Virus" [Mesh] OR "neglected tropical" OR denv OR dengue OR "Dengue Virus" [Mesh] OR chikv OR chikungunya OR "Chikungunya Virus" [Mesh] OR wav OR "west nile virus" OR "West Nile Virus" [Mesh] OR "St. Louis encephalitis virus" OR slev OR "Kunjin virus" OR "Murray Valley encephalitis virus" OR mvev OR "Usutu virus" [Mesh] OR "Usutu virus" OR usuv OR "Encephalitis Viruses, Tick-Borne Encephalitis Virus da imunodeficiencia humana" OR "virus da imunodeficiencia adquirida" OR "virus da imunodeficiencia humana" OR "virus da imunodeficiencia adquirida" OR "virus da imunodeficiencia humana" OR "virus da imunodeficiencia adquirida" OR "virus da imunodeficiencia humana" OR "virus da imunodeficiencia adquirida" OR "virus da imunodeficiencia humana" OR "virus da imunodeficiencia OR "Raterovirus [Mesh] OR norovirus OR "R

Web of Science:

(zikv OR zika OR "Zika Virus" [Mesh] OR "Zika Virus Infection" [Mesh]) AND (coinfec* OR (co infec*) OR co-infec* OR Coinfection [Mesh] OR "Bacterial Infections" [Mesh] OR bacterial* OR bacteria* OR bacteria* OR bacteria* OR bacteria* OR bacteria* OR parasitic Diseases [Mesh] OR "parasite infections" OR parasitic OR parasitic OR parasitical OR parasi

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toxoplasm* OR "Syphilis" [Mesh] OR sifilis OR syphilis OR Rubella [Mesh] OR rubéol* OR rubéol* OR rytomegalovirus [Mesh] OR citomegalovirus OR cytomegalovirus OR cytomegalovirus OR cytomegalovirus OR cytomegalovirus OR cytomegalovirus OR "Herpes Simplex" [Mesh] OR herpes OR herp* OR Simplexvirus [Mesh] OR "Trematode Infections" [Mesh] OR tremat* OR trematode* OR Filariasis [Mesh] OR Filaria* OR On Concorciasis [Mesh] OR on Concorciasis (Mesh] OR children on Concorcia

Embase:

(zikv OR zika) AND (coinfec* OR "co infection" OR "co infections" OR (co-infec*) OR bacterial* OR bacteria* OR bacteria* OR bacteria* OR bacteria* OR parasite infections" OR parasite OR parasite OR parasite OR TORCH OR toxoplasm* OR sifilis OR syphilis OR rubeol* OR rubel* OR citomegalovirus OR cytomegalovirus OR cytomegalovirus OR herpes OR herp* OR tremat* OR trematode* OR Filari* OR Onchocerciasis OR Oncocercos* OR schisto*OR helmin* OR rabi* OR raiva OR rage OR trachom* OR tracoma OR yaws OR bouba OR pian OR leprosy OR lepra OR lepre OR chagas OR leishmani* OR Taenia* OR echinoc* OR echinoc* OR equinococo OR "neglected tropical" OR denv OR dengue OR chikv OR chikungunya OR wnv OR "west nile virus" OR yfv OR "Yellow fever virus" OR "Japanese Encephalitis Virus" OR jev OR "St. Louis encephalitis virus" OR slev OR "Kunjin virus" OR "Murray Valley encephalitis virus" OR mvev OR "Usutu virus" OR usuv OR "Tick-Borne Encephalitis Viruses" OR tbev OR "Rift Valley fever virus" OR rvfv OR hiv OR "human immunodeficiency virus" OR "virus da imunodeficiencia humana" OR "virus da inmunodeficiencia adquirida" OR "virus da inmunodeficiencia humana" OR AIDS OR "respiratory viral infection"

OR RSV OR influenza OR Adenov* OR adenovirus OR enterov* OR enterovirus OR Tuberculos* OR astrovirus OR norovirus OR rotavirus OR giardias* OR giard* OR "Amebiasis" OR ameb* OR amoebiasis OR amibiase)

LILACs:

((tw:(zikv)) OR (tw:(zika))) AND ((tw:(co-infec*)) OR (tw:(co-infec*)) OR (tw:(bacteria*)) OR (tw:(bacteria*)) OR (tw:(bacteria*)) OR (tw:(parasite infections")) OR (tw:(parasite infections")) OR (tw:(parasite)) OR (tw:(pa

Supplementary Appendix 2. Oxford Centre for Evidence-based Medicine – Level of Evidence. Table replicated from: https://www.cebm.net/2009/06/oxford-centre-evidence-based-medicine-levels-evidence-march-2009/ [11].

Level	Therapy /	Prognosis	Diagnosis	Differential	Economic and decision
	Prevention,			diagnosis /	analyses
	Aetiology / Harm			symptom	
				prevalence study	
la	SR (with	SR (with	SR (with	SR (with	SR (with
	homogeneity*) of	homogeneity*) of	homogeneity*) of	homogeneity*) of	homogeneity*) of Level
	RCTs	inception cohort	Level I diagnostic	prospective	I economic studies
		studies; CDR"	studies; CDR" with	cohort studies	
		validated in different	Ib studies from		
		populations	different clinical		
			centres		
lb	Individual RCT	Individual inception	Validating** cohort	Prospective	Analysis based on
	(with narrow	cohort study with >	study with good" " "	cohort study with	clinically sensible costs
	Confidence	80% follow-up; CDR"	reference	good follow-	or alternatives;
	Interval"¡)	validated in a single	standards; or CDR"	up****	systematic review(s) of
		population	tested within one		the evidence; and
			clinical centre		including multi-way
					sensitivity analyses
lc	All or none§	All or none case	Absolute SpPins and	All or none case	Absolute better-value
		series	SnNouts" "	series	or worse-value
					analyses " " " "
2a	SR (with	SR (with	SR (with	SR (with	SR (with
	homogeneity*) of	homogeneity*) of	homogeneity*) of	homogeneity*) of	homogeneity*) of Level
	cohort studies	either retrospective	Level >2 diagnostic	2b and better	>2 economic studies
		cohort studies or	studies	studies	
		untreated control			
		groups in RCTs			
2b	Individual cohort	Retrospective cohort	Exploratory**	Retrospective	Analysis based on
	study (including	study or follow-up of	cohort study with	cohort study, or	clinically sensible costs
	low quality RCT;	untreated control	good" " " reference	poor follow-up	or alternatives; limited
	e.g., <80% follow-	patients in an RCT;	standards; CDR"		review(s) of the
	up)	Derivation of CDR"	after derivation, or		evidence, or single
		or validated on split-	validated only on		studies; and including
		sample§§§ only	split-sample§§§ or		multi-way sensitivity
			databases		analyses
2c	"Outcomes"	"Outcomes" Research		Ecological studies	Audit or outcomes
	Research;				research
	Ecological studies				

3a	SR (with		SR (with	SR (with	SR (with
	homogeneity*) of		homogeneity*) of	homogeneity*) of	homogeneity*) of 3b
	case-control		3b and better	3b and better	and better studies
	studies		studies	studies	
3b	Individual Case-		Non-consecutive	Non-consecutive	Analysis based on
	Control Study		study; or without	cohort study, or	limited alternatives or
			consistently applied	very limited	costs, poor quality
			reference standards	population	estimates of data, but
					including sensitivity
					analyses incorporating
					clinically sensible
					variations.
4	Case series (and	Case series (and poor	Case-control study,	Case series or	Analysis with no
	poor quality	quality prognostic	poor or non-	superseded	sensitivity analysis
	cohort and case-	cohort studies***)	independent	reference	
	control studies§§)		reference standard	standards	
5	Expert opinion	Expert opinion	Expert opinion	Expert opinion	Expert opinion
	without explicit	without explicit	without explicit	without explicit	without explicit critical
	critical appraisal,	critical appraisal, or	critical appraisal, or	critical appraisal,	appraisal, or based on
	or based on	based on physiology,	based on	or based on	economic theory or
	physiology, bench	bench research or	physiology, bench	physiology, bench	"first principles"
	research or "first	"first principles"	research or "first	research or "first	
	principles"		principles"	principles"	

By homogeneity we mean a systematic review that is free of worrisome variations (heterogeneity) in the directions and degrees of results between individual studies. Not all systematic reviews with statistically significant heterogeneity need be worrisome, and not all worrisome heterogeneity need be statistically significant. As noted above, studies displaying worrisome heterogeneity should be tagged with a "-" at the end of their designated level.

- " Clinical Decision Rule. (These are algorithms or scoring systems that lead to a prognostic estimation or a diagnostic category.)
- i See note above for advice on how to understand, rate and use trials or other studies with wide confidence intervals.
- Met when all patients died before the Rx became available, but some now survive on it; or when some patients died before the Rx became available, but none now die on it.
- By poor quality cohort study we mean one that failed to clearly define comparison groups and/or failed to measure exposures and outcomes in the same (preferably blinded), objective way in both exposed and non-exposed individuals and/or failed to identify or appropriately control known confounders and/or failed to carry out a sufficiently long and complete follow-up of patients. By poor quality case-control study we mean one that failed to clearly define comparison

groups and/or failed to measure exposures and outcomes in the same (preferably blinded), objective way in both cases and controls and/or failed to identify or appropriately control known confounders.

- \$\$\ Split-sample validation is achieved by collecting all the information in a single tranche, then artificially dividing this into "derivation" and "validation" samples.
- " " An "Absolute SpPin" is a diagnostic finding whose Specificity is so high that a Positive result rules-in the diagnosis. An "Absolute SnNout" is a diagnostic finding whose Sensitivity is so high that a Negative result rules-out the diagnosis.
- "i" Good, better, bad and worse refer to the comparisons between treatments in terms of their clinical risks and benefits.
- """ Good reference standards are independent of the test, and applied blindly or objectively to applied to all patients. Poor reference standards are haphazardly applied, but still independent of the test. Use of a non-independent reference standard (where the 'test' is included in the 'reference', or where the 'testing' affects the 'reference') implies a level 4 study.
- """ Better-value treatments are clearly as good but cheaper, or better at the same or reduced cost. Worse-value treatments are as good and more expensive, or worse and the equally or more expensive.
- ** Validating studies test the quality of a specific diagnostic test, based on prior evidence. An exploratory study collects information and trawls the data (e.g. using a regression analysis) to find which factors are 'significant'.
- By poor quality prognostic cohort study we mean one in which sampling was biased in favour of patients who already had the target outcome, or the measurement of outcomes was accomplished in <80% of study patients, or outcomes were determined in an unblinded, non-objective way, or there was no correction for confounding factors.
- Good follow-up in a differential diagnosis study is >80%, with adequate time for alternative diagnoses to emerge (for example I-6 months acute, I 5 years chronic)