**Rating of Recommendations**

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| **Level A rating** (established as useful/predictive or not useful/predictive) requires at least one convincing class I study or at least two consistent, convincing class II studies. |
| **Level B rating** (established as probably useful/predictive or not useful/predictive) requires at least one convincing class II study or overwhelming class III evidence. |
| **Level C rating** (established as possibly useful/predictive or not useful/predictive) requires at least two convincing class III studies. |

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| **Class I**: A prospective study in a broad spectrum of persons with the suspected condition, using a "gold standard" for case definition, where the test is applied in a blinded evaluation, and enabling the assessment of appropriate tests of diagnostic accuracy. |
| **Class II**: A prospective study of a narrow spectrum of persons with the suspected condition, or a well-designed retrospective study of a broad spectrum of persons with an established condition (by "gold standard") compared to a broad spectrum of controls, where test is applied in a blinded evaluation, and enabling the assessment of appropriate tests of diagnostic accuracy. |
| **Class III**: Evidence provided by a retrospective study where either persons with the established condition or controls are of a narrow spectrum, and where test is applied in a blinded evaluation. |
| **Class IV**: Any design where test is not applied in blinded evaluation OR evidence provided by expert opinion alone or in descriptive case series (without controls). |