

Levels of Evidence

(cf. Sackett et al.)

	Treatment, Prevention	Prognosis	Diagnostic Tests, Assessments	Economic Evaluation
I	Systematic review of well-designed RCTs OR N-of-1 studies	Systematic review of inception cohort studies	Systematic review of diagnostic studies	Systematic review of high quality economic studies
II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Properly designed RCT/s • Non-randomized trials, single group pre-post, time series, or cohort study 	Cohort studies	Comparison of diagnostic test and reference standard in consecutive sample of patients	Individual economic study comparing all outcomes against costs
III	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case-control study • Well designed non-experimental descriptive studies 		Comparison of diagnostic test and reference standard in random sample of patients	Analysis comparing limited outcomes with cost
IV	Case series	Case series	Diagnostic study without reference standard	Analysis without accurate cost measurement
V	Expert Opinion			