

What guideline developers say about...

"Clinicians do not like a too structured process. They find formal appraisal form for study quality too tedious."

"Consideration of the clinical pathway and how tests fit in that pathway, that should have a more central role in the whole process"

The guideline development process

"We do try and present them in a PICO style although, as you said, it's not always relevant for diagnostic studies, it can be quite hard to try and force them into a PICO table"

"What does it mean to use this test are coming out more towards the end...in the beginning we're looking for test accuracy then in the end they want to know what does this mean for the patient and for me as a clinician? "

On going beyond test accuracy evidence

"At the end, you really end up with a big bulk of information on diagnostic accuracy and the rest it's really sparse"

"PICO is based on the fact that they just want a good instrument and attention is not paid to other outcomes at the start of the process"

"We need studies to determine directly the actual benefit or harms of medical testing."

"The (diagnostic) methodology is still not fully worked out and for that reason often not easily captured or understood by people who are not deeply involved in evidence based diagnostics"

"They (guideline panels) really don't capture the essence of diagnostics because it's not properly taught in medical schools"

On challenges and areas needing development

"For most of us this is a labour of love, we are extremely underfunded for the work we do"

"Getting better research means people need to be educated on how to do better research, that's a big issue, so we get the highest possible level of evidence"

These quotes are based on 10 in-dept interviews with guideline developers from various countries and in various fields of medical testing. Manuscript in preparation.



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