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Chapter 2. Diagnostic Studies

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. If a diagnostic study has high sensitivity, this indicates:
   A. A high percentage of persons with the given condition will have a positive result
   B. A high percentage of persons without the condition will have inconclusive results
   C. A high likelihood of normal results in persons without a given condition
   D. A low percentage of persons with the given condition will have an abnormal result

   ANS: A
   Sensitivity refers to the percentage of patients who have the disease or condition who will test positive with the test. The more sensitive a test, the greater the probability that a patient with the disease will test positive and the better the test is at identifying persons with the disease, i.e., true positives. The higher the sensitivity, the less likely the test will have false negatives for the condition.

   PTS: 1

2. If a diagnostic study has high specificity, this indicates:
   A. A low percentage of healthy individuals will show a normal result.
   B. A high percentage of healthy individuals will show a normal result.
   C. A high percentage of individuals without the disorder have a false positive result.
   D. A low percentage of individuals with a disorder will show an abnormal result.

   ANS: B
   Specificity refers to the percentage of patients without the disease or condition who will test negative. The more specific a test, the greater the probability that a patient without the disease or condition will test negative; thus it better detects those without the disease, i.e., a true negative. A high specificity test is helpful in confirming a diagnosis because false positives are less likely.

   PTS: 1

3. Positive predictive values are based on:
   A. Statistics of patients who tested positive on a specific test
   B. Statistics of patients who tested negative on a specific test

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C. Patients with a confirmed diagnosis of a target condition
D. Statistics from one laboratory setting

ANS: A
Positive predictive values (PPV) and negative predictive values (NPV) are based exclusively on populations who either tested positive (PPV) or tested negative (NPV). They often better reflect the value of a positive or negative finding in a general population.

PTS: 1

4. Choosing Wisely is:
A. A mnemonic to guide selection of imaging studies
B. An initiative to minimize overutilization of tests and treatments
C. A standard reference range published annually
D. A summary of descriptions of key diagnostic tests

ANS: B

The Choosing Wisely initiative is designed to minimize resource utilization, specifically for costly and overused tests and treatments. This program provides dozens of evidence-based laboratory recommendations submitted by numerous specialty organizations.

PTS: 1

5. The Appropriateness Criteria is
A. A mnemonic to guide selection of CT scans
B. Provides resources to optimize selection of appropriate laboratory studies
C. Provides resources to optimize selection of appropriate imaging studies
D. Describes the risks and values associated with varied diagnostic tools

ANS: C
The ACR-AC provides evidence-based guidance to optimize selection of the most appropriate imaging for specific presentations.

Commented [CE1]: Author: Will the reader understand the meaning of ACR-AC without a definition? Copy editor

PTS: 1

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6. Important consideration in ordering laboratory studies include:ANS: D

A. Will this contribute to the diagnosis, prognosis, or treatment of considered condition
B. Is the study consistent with evidence-based recommendations
C. Are there existing results available that would be sufficient to consider
D. All of the above

Box 2.3 lists the following considerations before ordering laboratory studies:

- Contribution to diagnosis, prognosis, treatment
- Impact on patient care
- Absence of other sufficient results in current or previous order
- Appropriate given any retesting intervals
- Test acknowledged by clinicians as significant
- Tests consistent with guidelines and recommendations

PTS: 1

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