

CRITICAL REVIEW FORM: DIAGNOSTIC TEST II - ARTICLES 4 & 5**Citations:**

4. Rutten JHW, Steyerberg EW, Boomsma F, et al; N-terminal pro-brain natriuretic peptide testing in the emergency department: Beneficial effects on hospitalization, costs, and outcome, American Heart Journal 2008; 156: 71-77
5. Schneider HG, Lam L, Lokuge A, et al; B-Type Natriuretic Peptide Testing, Clinical Outcomes, and Health Services Use in Emergency Department Patients With Dyspnea, Annals of Internal Medicine 2009; 150: 365-371.

Guide		Comments
I	Are the results valid?	
A Did experimental and control groups begin the study with a similar prognosis?		
1	Were patients randomized?	
2	Was randomization concealed?	
3	Were patients analyzed in the groups to which they were randomized?	
4	Were patients in the treatment and control groups similar with respect to known prognostic factors?	
B Did experimental and control groups retain a similar prognosis after the study started?		
1	Were 5 important groups (patients, caregivers, collectors of outcome data, adjudicators of outcome, data analysts) aware of group allocation?	
2	Aside from the experimental intervention, were groups treated equally?	
3	Was follow-up complete?	

II	What are the results?	
1	How large was the treatment effect?	
2	How precise was the treatment effect?	
III	How can I apply the results to my patient care?	
1	Were the study patients similar to my patient?	
2	Were all patient-important outcomes considered?	
3	Are the likely benefits worth the potential harms and costs	