



<p>3. Will the resulting post-test probabilities affect our management and help our patient?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Could it move us across a test-treatment threshold?</li> <li>• Would our patient be a willing partner in carrying it out?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is an old clinical adage – don't order a test unless it will alter your management. With the ever-growing emphasis on cost, it is difficult to justify ordering a test that does not benefit the patient. Satisfying our curiosity is no longer considered an acceptable reason to order a test. Benefit can be defined as leading to a change in therapy or providing information regarding prognosis.</li> <li>• The patient must also be a willing partner after explaining the need for a test. Even though a test may provide valuable information to you as a clinician, the risk of performing the test may be unacceptable to the patient.</li> </ul>
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F:/deptdata/wpdocs/ama/critap/fall2000/how to review an article on diagnosis