

Appendix 3: Assessment of whether studies of sentinel node biopsy (30 studies), positron emission tomography (8 studies), magnetic resonance imaging (23 studies) or computed tomography (31 studies) met the QUADAS and STARD criteria*

Criterion	No. of studies that did or did not meet criterion			
	Yes	No	Unclear	NA
Consecutive or random recruitment	36	15	44	—
Prospective data collection	79	11	5	—
Whole or random sample verification	58	35	2	—
Reporting of clinical demographics	14	81	—	—
Reporting of disease stage	85	10	—	—
Time period between index test and reference standard \leq 4 weeks†	62	5	28	—
Index test described in adequate detail†	39	53	3	—
Reference standard described in adequate detail	31	62	2	—
Interpretation of index test results without knowledge of reference standard results	29	2	64	—
Interpretation of reference standard results without knowledge of index test results	2	—	—	93
Reporting of uninterpretable test results	9	13	—	73
Explanation of study withdrawals†	25	4	—	66

Note: NA = not applicable.

*QUADAS = quality assessment of diagnostic accuracy studies, STARD = standards for reporting of diagnostic accuracy.^{ref nums}

†Criterion has significant effect on diagnostic performance. See Table 1 of the article, available at www.cmaj.ca/cgi/content/full/178/7/855.