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# Department of Health + NIHR

## Four Diagnostic Evidence Co-operatives (DEC)

➔ Facilitate development clinically relevant IVDs

- Interactions with industry
- DEC-specific themes

### Diagnostic Evidence Co-operatives: NHS organisations and clinical themes

**NIHR Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust DEC**  
Generating high quality evidence on protein and cellular biomarker-based IVDs for the clinical management of musculoskeletal, urological, liver and colorectal diseases and oncology  
[www.leeds.dec.nihr.ac.uk](http://www.leeds.dec.nihr.ac.uk)

**NIHR Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust DEC**  
Generating high quality evidence for new diagnostics tests for cancer, cardiovascular, liver, musculoskeletal and respiratory diseases, stroke, genetics, infections and transplantation  
[www.newcastle.dec.nihr.ac.uk](http://www.newcastle.dec.nihr.ac.uk)

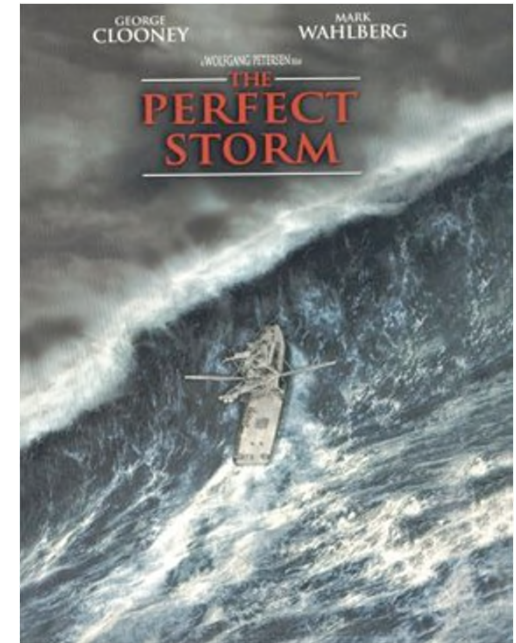
**NIHR Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust DEC**  
Generating high quality evidence for primary care IVDs across a range of common diseases and improving "bench to bedside" processes to implement IVDs into primary care  
[www.oxford.dec.nihr.ac.uk](http://www.oxford.dec.nihr.ac.uk)

**NIHR Imperial College Healthcare NHS DEC**  
Generating high quality evidence for point-of-care *in vitro* diagnostic tests for gut health, primary and general care, respiratory disease, infectious disease, metabolic medicine, cardiovascular disease, cancer, women's health and paediatrics  
[www.london.dec.nihr.ac.uk](http://www.london.dec.nihr.ac.uk)



# General Practice– the “perfect storm” for innovation in diagnostic tests

- ‘Front door’ to NHS
- Multiple lab tests
- Ageing population
- Multi-morbidity
- Chronic disease management
- Cost-containment – reducing unnecessary referrals
- Misdiagnosis malpractice
- Little current use of IVDs



# Oxford DEC strategy

- Theme 1: New and emerging diagnostic technologies
  - Theme 2: Unmet diagnostic test needs in primary care
  - Theme 3: Rapid testing to improve decision-making in community care
  - Theme 4: Patient, carer & professional attitudes to implementing IVDs in primary care
  - Theme 5: Improved methods for deriving and translating evidence for diagnostic tests
- Industry liaison programme

# Diagnostics industry collaborations



- Monthly meetings
  - New diagnostic technology
- Industry support service
  - Evidence reports
  - Needs assessment
  - Laboratory accuracy studies
  - Clinical field studies
  - Joint bids for funding



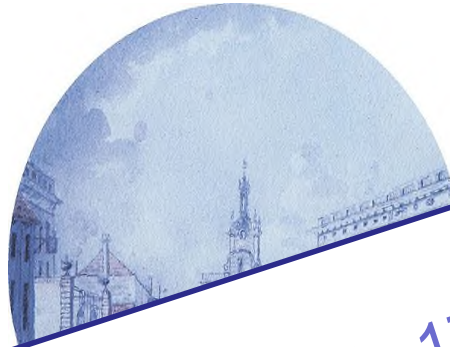
# Goals for this course



# Evidence and policy decisions



# Evidence and policy decisions



Coffee was forbidden in Sweden in 1794 and again in 1822.

**83+**

**83**



# 'Industry-research-clinical-commissioning' disconnect

Available IVDs & technical capabilities.

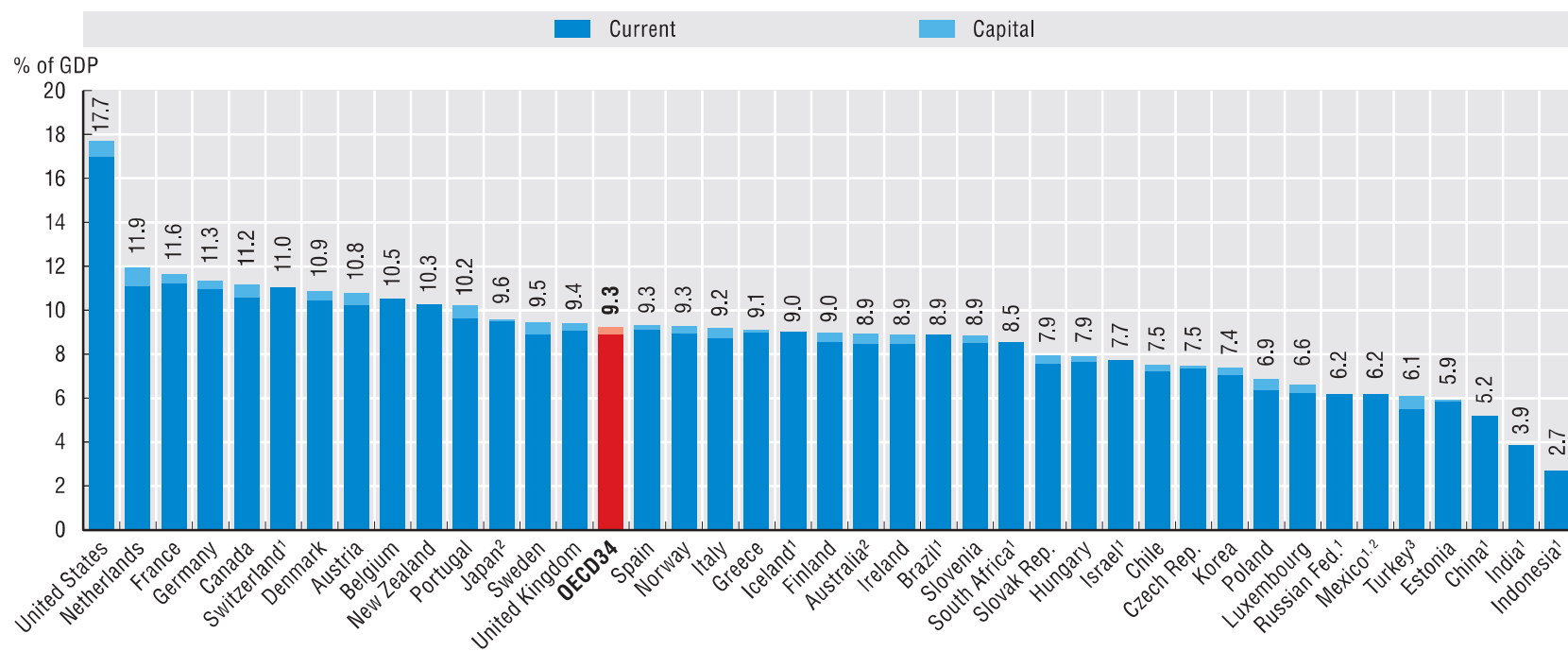
Accuracy/ease/size/speed/range/bundling



Current clinical practice.  
Minimal test dissemination  
and adoption in primary  
care



# Health is priceless



# From health question to evidence

- Could the test be accurate?
- Is the test accurate in real patients?
- Are patients better off with the test?
- At what costs?

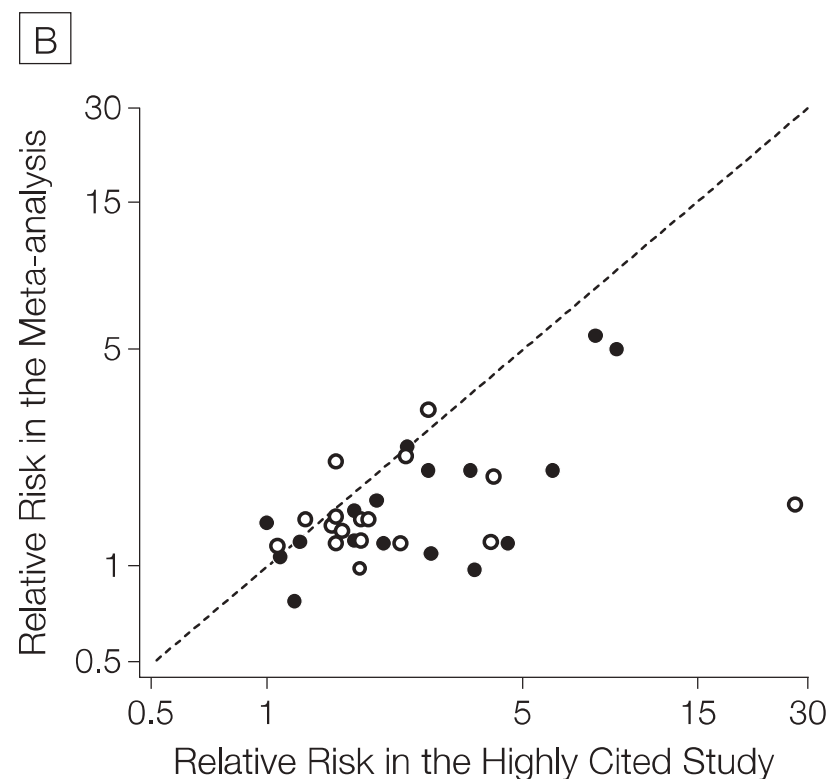
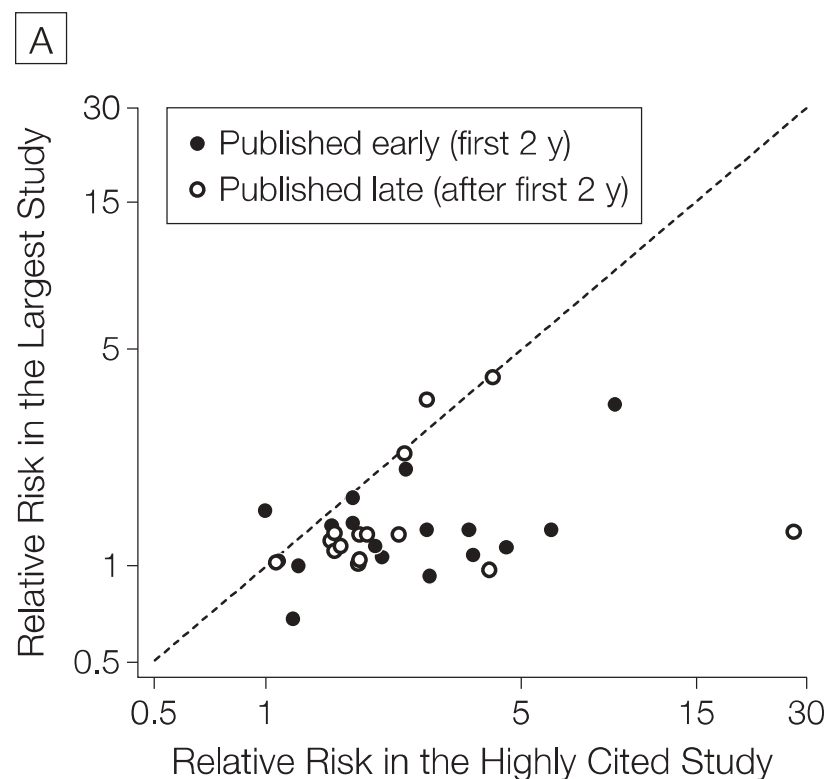
# The winner's curse





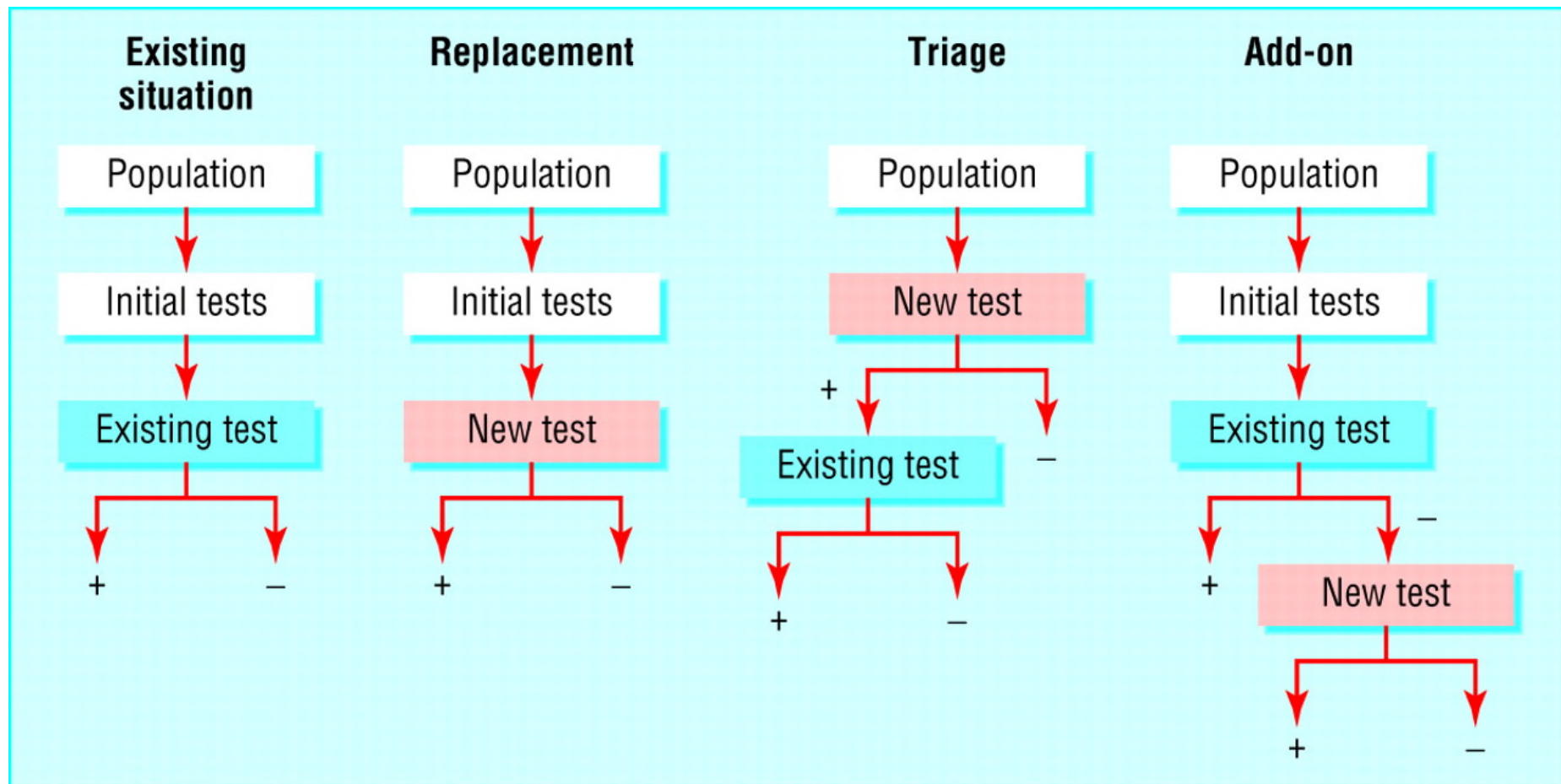
# Ioannidis JAMA 2011

**Figure.** Relative Risks in the Highly Cited Studies vs the Corresponding Largest Studies and in the Highly Cited Studies vs the Corresponding Meta-analyses



Statistically significant 'positive' results are

- More likely to be published
  - **publication bias**
- More likely to be published rapidly
  - **time lag bias**
- More likely to be published in English
  - **language bias**
- More likely to be cited by others
  - **citation bias**

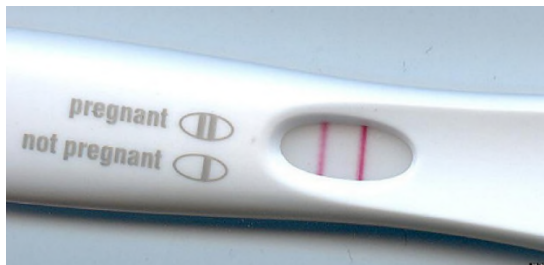


**Bossuyt, P. M et al. BMJ 2006;332:1089-1092**

Copyright ©2006 BMJ Publishing Group Ltd.

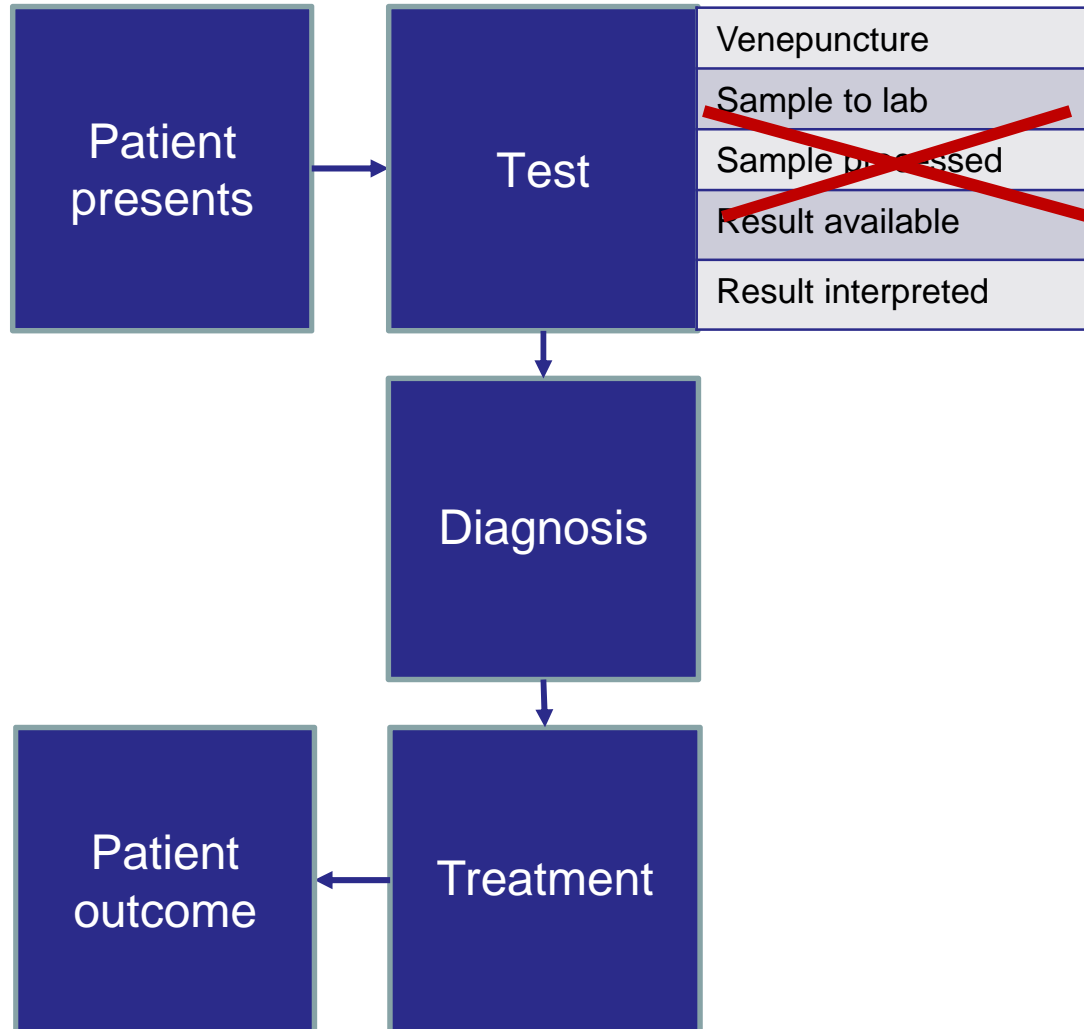
# Point-of-care tests

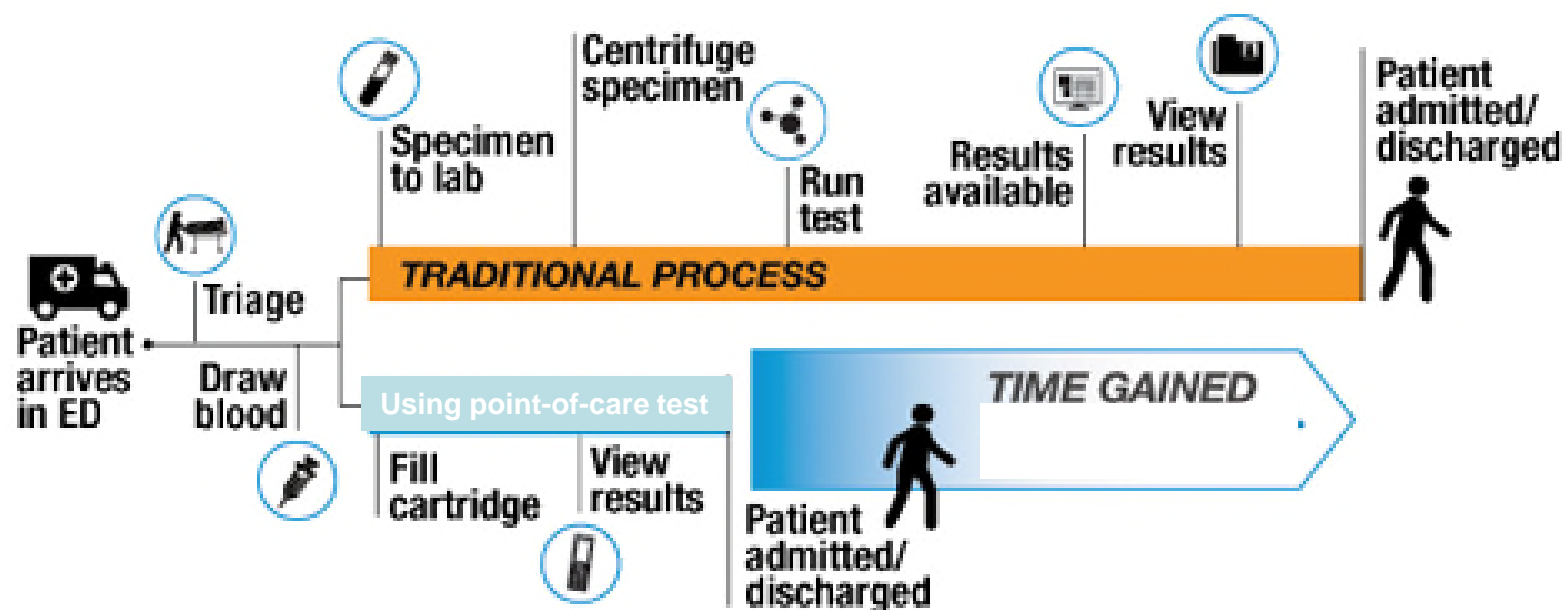
- At the bedside of the patient / in the doctor's surgery / in the patient's home
- Single test - miniature labs - handheld ultrasound
- Results rapidly available





# Changes the diagnostic process





# Randomised controlled trial evidence

**TABLE 13** Successful discharge home (primary outcome)

	PoC [n (%)]	SC [n (%)]
Successfully discharged	358 (32)	146 (13)
Not successfully discharged	767 (68)	972 (87)

## *Reason for no successful discharge*

In hospital 4 hours after arrival and no decision has been made to discharge

Initially discharged but re-attended with major adverse event

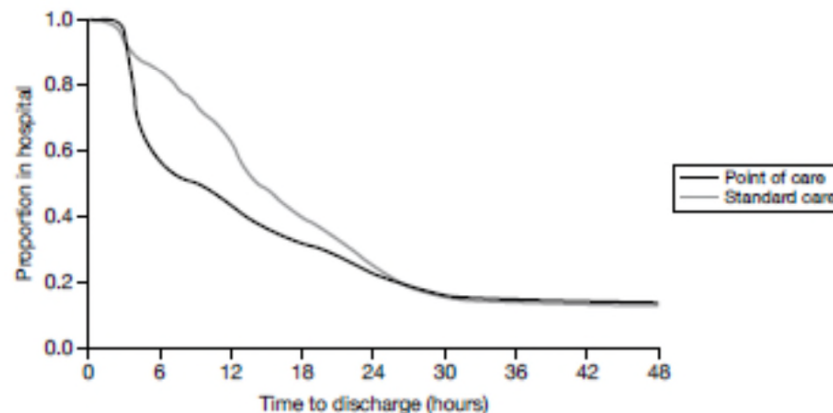
## *Discharge success by initial status*

Initially discharged

Not in hospital at 4 hours

In hospital at 4 hours; decision made to discharge

PoC, point of care; SC, standard care.



**FIGURE 3** Duration from arrival to discharge from hospital (all centres).

Goodacre S 2011. RATPAC trial: point-of-care cardiac markers in the ED for patients with chest pain.

# Time-related effects

## **Process outcomes**

- Faster throughput
- Waiting times target
- Repeat consultations for lab result

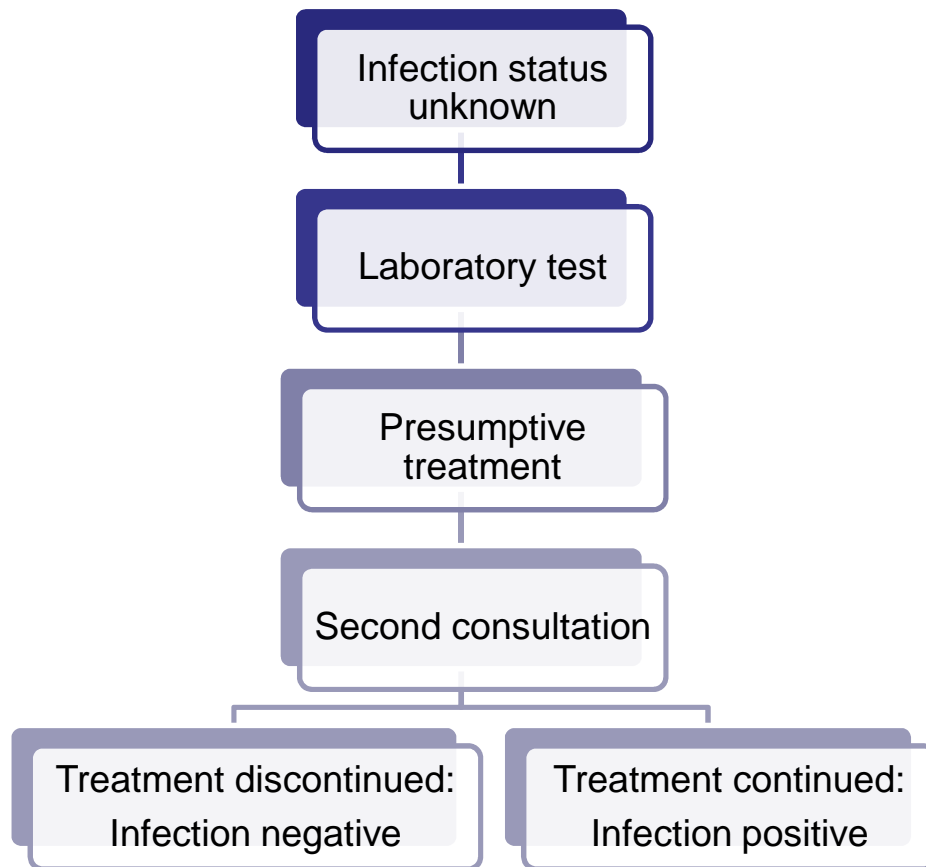
## **Patient outcomes**

- Faster diagnosis
- Faster treatment
- Patient satisfaction

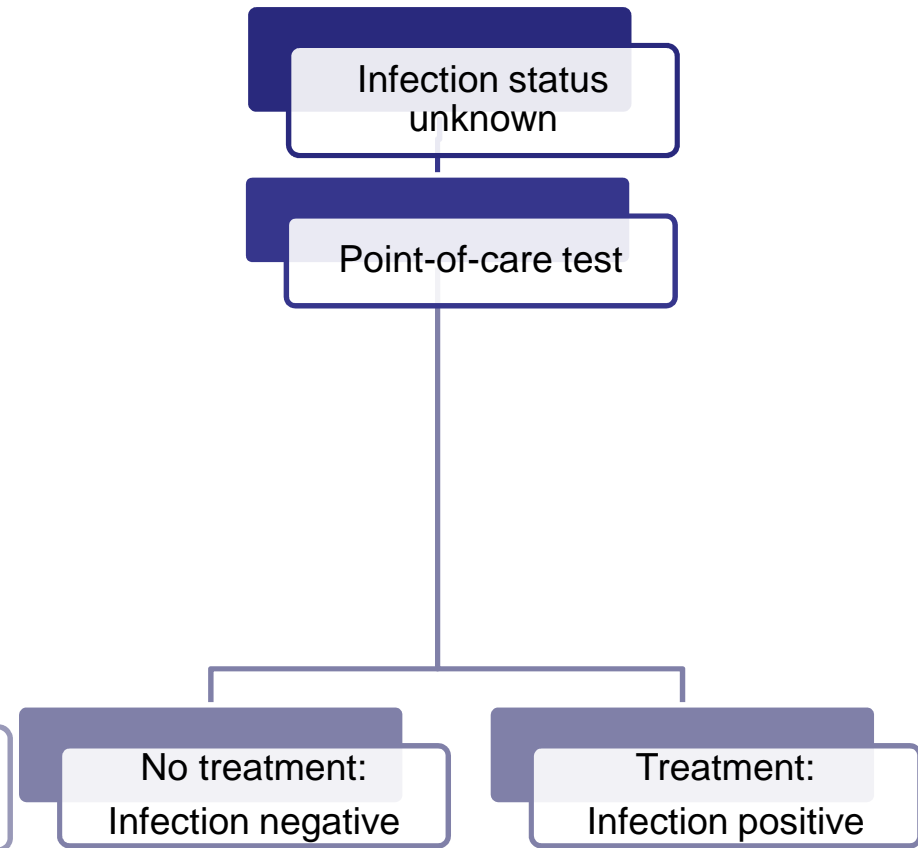


# Time-related downstream effects

Chlamydia and gonorrhoea  
– usual care pathway



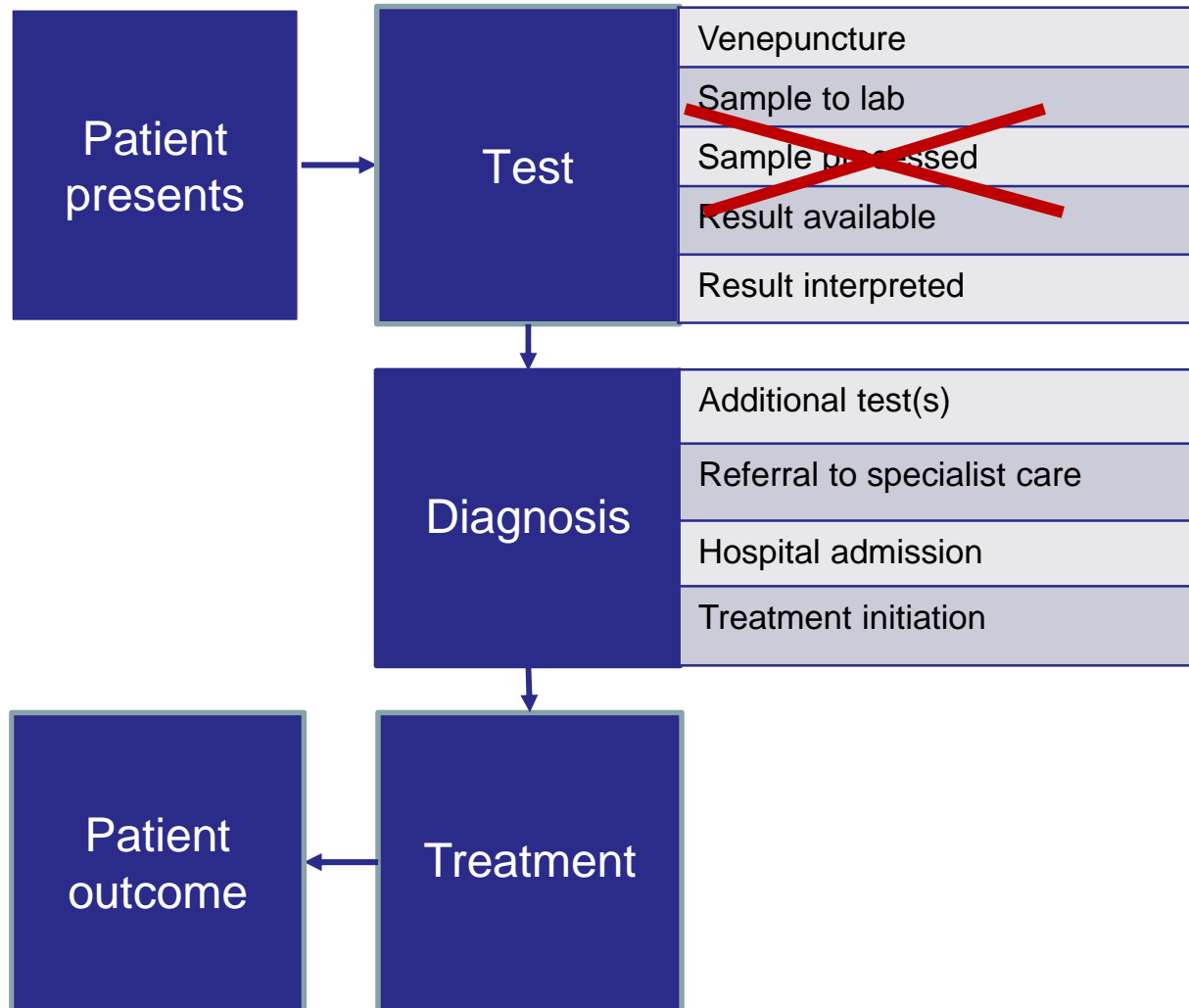
Chlamydia and gonorrhoea  
– point-of-care pathway



# Is it just about time?



# Changes the diagnostic process

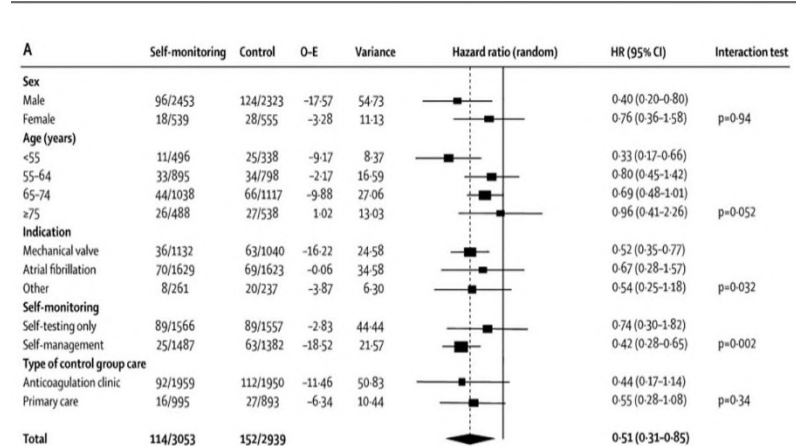


# Changes to clinical pathway

- Shift from primary care to patient's home

## INR self-management

➔ Way tests are used changes



Heneghan C 2012: Self-monitoring of oral anticoagulation



# Changes to clinical pathway

- Shift from secondary to primary care

➔ Impact on referrals to next level of care

- BNP for suspected heart failure
- Modelling of costs:
  - 40% reduction in referral to cardiology outpatient departments
  - 25-40% cost-saving
  - NICE estimated whole pathway saving of £3.8 million
- In reality:
  - Echocardiography referrals went up

# Spectrum effects

Test threshold lowers:

- More easily available
  - More people get tested
- Less invasive
  - Different people get tested

This will lead to:

- Lower prevalence of target condition
  - ➔ More false positives
- Less or differently selected population
  - ➔ Spectrum shift
  - ➔ Different treatment efficacy

# Changes to clinical pathway

- Point-of-care test fills clinical gap:
  - ‘Classic’ lab test too slow to have impact
  - Point-of-care test in new patient group → Effects on patient outcome unknown

**Table 3** Effects of interventions on antibiotic prescribing at index consultation and antibiotic prescribing and reconsultation follow-up

Variables	Intervention groups		Control groups		P value†
	No of patients	Percentage (crude 95% CI*)	No of patients	Percentage (crude 95% CI*)	
C reactive protein test:	n=227		n=204		
Antibiotics at index consultation	70	30.8 (21.8 to 39.8)	108	52.9 (43.0 to 62.8)	0.02
Antibiotics at days 1 to 28	102	44.9 (35.2 to 54.6)	119	58.3 (48.5 to 68.1)	<0.01
Reconsultation within 28 days	79	34.8 (28.3 to 41.3)	62	30.4 (23.8 to 37.0)	0.50

Cals J 2009. Point-of-care testing for C-reactive protein on antibiotic use in lower respiratory tract infections.

# Direct impact on patient

- Less invasive
  - Less adverse events from testing
- Treatment adherence
- Anxiety
- Sense of control



“We wanted to make the stress test as realistic as possible.”

# Direct impact on clinician

- Direct result=direct interpretation
  - No time to think
  - More certainty
  - Enhanced confidence
- Clinical practice effects
  - Fewer re-consultations
  - Undermining of clinical expertise
- Patient-clinician relationship
  - Opportunity for shared decision making
  - Better communication

# Implications for research

- Different or new spectrum of patients
    - Diagnostic accuracy?
    - Treatment efficacy?
  - Different place in clinical pathway
    - Downstream effects healthcare resources?
  - Direct effects on patient outcome
    - Adverse events?
    - Patient satisfaction?
- ➔ Complex intervention:
- Modelling - linked evidence approach
  - Randomised controlled trial



# In conclusion

- Diagnostic tests used for a variety of purposes
- Evaluation should take a wider system approach
  - Effects on patient
  - Effects on clinician
  - Effects on healthcare system

# Thank you!

## **McHUMOR** by T. McCracken



"Off hand, I'd say you're suffering from an arrow through your head, but just to play it safe, I'm ordering a bunch of tests."