**APPRAISING AN ARTICLE ON DIAGNOSIS**

**Clinical Scenario**

A 20-year-old female patient consults at the Family Medicine Clinic for vaginal discharge without any other symptom. On taking her history, she discloses that she engages in occasional sex with her boyfriend but claims that she has had only one lifetime partner. She read in a magazine article that Trichomonas is the most common sexually transmitted disease. Anxious that she is suffering from this condition, she wants a rapid test to rule in this disease so she can be treated immediately.

You call a friend who owns a diagnostic laboratory to ask for the turnaround time for vaginal cultures. During your short conversation, your friend tries to convince you to instead try a new test he is presently evaluating. The test is a rapid test for using an immunochromatographic dipstick assay. Being skeptic, you searched Pubmed for an article and found one entitled “Use of an Immunochromatographic Assay for Rapid Detection of Trichomonas vaginalis in Vaginal Specimens” published in the journal of clinical microbiology, Feb. 2005, p. 684–687.

1. Read the article and…
   1. Decide if it provides a direct answer to the clinical question you ask,
   2. Appraise validity using the validity guides,
   3. Appraise the results of the study,
   4. Assess its applicability to your specific patient, and
   5. Calculate patient-specific results.
2. Decide if you would use the test for your patient.