Diagnosis

Notes about learning and teaching about Diagnosis:

1. This is a CORE subject area, so we suggest that you make sure to spend some time reading and becoming comfortable with issues to pertaining to articles about Diagnosis. Largely this entails learning to love rather than fear the 2x2 table and likelihood ratios.

2. Terms pertaining to the Diagnosis.

Reading and teaching about diagnosis can be great fun, however it is one of the areas that many feel uncomfortable with. In order to get comfortable with these methods and the vocabulary that goes with them, we would like you to look for the following terms in your reading:

- Reference Standard
- Sensitivity
- Specificity
- Likelihood ratio
- Pre-test probability
- Post-test probability
- Test threshold
- Treatment (or action) threshold

(Note: you may also read about positive and negative predictive value, but we prefer that you think in terms of likelihood ratio...)

Duke Program on Teaching Evidence-Based Practice