Using GRADE for healthcare recommendations based on diagnostic test accuracy data

Typical medical management questions include questions about diagnosis. Indeed, applying a diagnostic test or a diagnostic strategy to a patient or a population is an action with many similarities to other interventions. And although recommendations concerning diagnostic testing share the fundamental logic of recommendations for therapeutic and other interventions, such as screening, diagnostic questions also present unique challenges. In this presentation we will describe how systematic reviewers and guideline developers using GRADE assess and present the results and the quality of a body of evidence of diagnostic accuracy studies. We present an overview of the approach and review the presentation of results of a body of evidence for diagnostic test accuracy studies. We will also address how guideline developers may approach the link between diagnostic test accuracy data and presumed patient important outcomes to develop recommendations.