

Supplemental table 1: Covariates considered in meta-regression

Covariate	Definition	Values
<i>Criteria describing study quality</i>		
Representative spectrum?	Was the spectrum of patients representative of the patients who will receive the test in practice? Refers to QUADAS item No 1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • No or unclear
Acceptable reference standard?	Is the reference standard likely to correctly classify the target condition? Refers to QUADAS item No 3.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • No or unclear
Partial verification avoided?	Did the whole sample or a random selection of the sample, receive verification using a reference standard of diagnosis? Refers to QUADAS item No 5.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • No or unclear
Differential verification avoided?	Did patients receive the same reference standard regardless of the index test result? Refers to QUADAS item No 6.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • No or unclear
Incorporation avoided?	Was the reference standard independent of the index test (i.e. the index test did not form part of the reference standard)? Refers to QUADAS item No 7.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • No or unclear
Details execution index test?	Was the execution of the index test described in sufficient detail to permit replication of the test? Refers to QUADAS item No 8.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • No or unclear
Index test results blinded?	Were the index test results interpreted without knowledge of the results of the reference standard? Refers to QUADAS item No 10.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • No or unclear
Reference standard results blinded?	Were the reference standard results interpreted without knowledge of the results of the index test? Refers to QUADAS item No 11.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • No or unclear
Withdrawals explained?	Were withdrawals from the study explained? Refers to QUADAS item No 14.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • No or unclear
<i>Criteria describing clinical characteristics of patients and study methods</i>		
Reference diagnosis/ Case definition	Case definition of coronary heart disease used in the study.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coronary heart disease • Acute coronary syndrome • Myocardial infarction • Major cardiac event
Reference	Reference standard used in the study to establish the	Coronary

standard	reference diagnosis.	angiography Cardiac computed tomography <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perfusion scintigraphy • Magnetic resonance imaging • Combination (e.g. clinical findings, ECG findings, cardiac enzymes) • Clinical course • Cardiac enzymes 												
Setting	In which setting was the study conducted?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospital • practice • paramedics • not reported 												
Patients selected?	Were patients preselected by a clinician based on the probability of coronary heart disease before recruitment?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • yes • no • mixed • not reported 												
Definite sick excluded?	Were patients excluded if the diagnosis of coronary heart disease was obvious at time of recruitment?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • yes • no • not reported 												
Pain acute – intermediate?	Did the included patients present with acute or intermediate/ chronic chest pain?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • acute • intermediate/ chronic • mixed • not reported 												
Prevalence of reference disease	Was the prevalence of the disease low, medium, or high? For each reference diagnosis separate strata were defined. <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto; border: none;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Coronary heart disease</th> <th>Myocardial infarction/ acute coronary syndrome</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>low</td> <td>< 20 %</td> <td>< 6 %</td> </tr> <tr> <td>medium</td> <td>20-50 %</td> <td>6-15%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>high</td> <td>> 50 %</td> <td>> 15 %</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Coronary heart disease	Myocardial infarction/ acute coronary syndrome	low	< 20 %	< 6 %	medium	20-50 %	6-15%	high	> 50 %	> 15 %	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • low • medium • high • not reported
	Coronary heart disease	Myocardial infarction/ acute coronary syndrome												
low	< 20 %	< 6 %												
medium	20-50 %	6-15%												
high	> 50 %	> 15 %												
Study size	≤200													

	>200	
Date of publication	<1998 ≥1998	