

Summary of Risk of Bias Domains and Applicability for ADHD Diagnosis in Adults

Risk of Bias Domains:

1. Patient Selection:

- Summarizes whether patient selection in studies could introduce bias, such as through non-consecutive or non-random sampling, case-control designs, or problematic exclusions.

2. Index Test:

- Evaluates the potential bias in the conduct or interpretation of diagnostic tests, including how results were interpreted without knowledge of the reference standard and any thresholds or cut-offs used.

3. Reference Standard Quality:

- Assesses the quality and reliability of the reference standard used for diagnosis, such as clinical diagnoses or tools like ADHD-specific instruments.

4. Flow and Timing:

- Examines aspects related to the study flow, such as participant screening processes, recruitment methods, and timing of diagnostic assessments before treatment initiation.

Applicability Considerations:

1. Setting:

- Considers whether studies were conducted in primary care settings versus specialty care or telehealth environments, affecting generalizability to adult populations.

2. Population Characteristics:

- Differentiates between studies focusing on different patient characteristics like sex, age, cultural background, and comorbidities, which influence the applicability of findings.

3. Diagnostic Tools:

- Assesses the validity and reliability of tools used for diagnosis, such as self-reports, clinician-administered assessments, or multi-modal combinations, ensuring tools are applicable to adult populations.

4. Study Design:

- Evaluates the impact of study designs, including diagnostic accuracy studies, case series, and pre-post studies, on the strength and generalizability of evidence.

5. Language and Publication Bias:

- Acknowledges potential biases from excluding non-English publications and consolidating data from multiple sources to ensure transparency.

This structured approach ensures clarity in understanding potential biases and factors affecting the applicability of evidence for diagnosing ADHD in adults.