

Correction

The article "Users' guides to the surgical literature: how to use an article about a diagnostic test" by Drs. Archibald, Bhandari and Thoma and the Evidence-Based Surgery Working Group, in the February 2001 issue of the Journal (pages 17–23) contains a number of errors as follows.

- (1) On page 21, middle column the sentence that begins "Using this as the new pre-test ... using the LR of an uncertain FNAB of 5.7 (Table 3) is about 22%." should read "Using this as the new pre-test ... using the LR of an uncertain FNAB of 0.6 (Table 3) is about 3%." This result means that 1 of 33 patients who have thyroidectomy in this scenario will benefit by having their cancer treated.
- (2) Page 21, Table 3, footnote "Likelihood ratio of cancer when FNAB is read as negative = $1.1 (3/38)/(89/126)$: 3% of these are cancer." should read "Likelihood ratio of cancer when FNAB is read as negative = $0.1 (3/38)/(89/126)$: 3% of these are cancer."
- (3) Page 22, left column, second paragraph, the sentence "Set your ruler at 20% on the right column and use the upper and lower reported LRs for the uncertain result for FNAB in the literature, noted as 7.6 and 1.1." should read "Set your ruler at 20% on the right column and use the upper and lower reported LRs for the uncertain result for FNAB in the literature, noted as 0.6 and 3.2." This gives the lower and upper limits for the pre-test chance that the patient has cancer as 9% and 28%.

An executive summary of this paper containing the correct numbers can be obtained from the author: archibs@mcmaster.ca