

Appendix

Search strategy used to identify papers for inclusion

Search strategy for interpretations paper on clinical signs in meningitis

1. Mening*[Title/Abstract]

AND

2. Neck stiffness[Title/Abstract] OR nuchal rigidity[Title/Abstract] OR neck flexion[Title/Abstract] OR forward flexion[Title/Abstract] OR Kernig's[Title/Abstract] OR Brudzinski's[Title/Abstract] OR neck rotation[Title/Abstract] OR lateral rotation[Title/Abstract] OR jolt accentuation[Title/Abstract]

AND

3. Sensitivity OR specificity OR predictive value OR likelihood ratio OR diagnostic performance OR diagnostic accuracy

Exclusion criteria:

- Study population restricted to participants over the age of 16, or no sub-group analysis performed for patients under the age of 16.
- No quantitative evaluation of the diagnostic performance of clinical signs of meningitis

16 papers were identified by this search strategy, of which six were eligible for inclusion after exclusion criteria were applied.