Potentially relevant studies identified and screened for retrieval from electronic search n=1406

Citations excluded at initially screening (inappropriate study design, population, test, reference standard) n=1357

Studies retrieved for more detailed evaluation n=49

Studies excluded after examination of full manuscript n=32
- Review article or technique summary only n=12
- Index test results not reported separately for our population n=1
- Inability to construct a 2 by 2 table n=9
- Index test not specific to lymph nodes n=2
- Duplicate publication n=1
- Letter only n=2
- Predictors for LN involvement only n=4
- Unable to determine index test used n=1

Studies included in review n=18 *
- Sentinel node biopsy n=9
- Magnetic resonance imaging n=4
- Computer tomography n=5
- Ultrasound scan n=1

* One study evaluated more than one test

The reference list for excluded studies is available from the corresponding author