PRISMA 2020 Checklist

Section and Topic	Item #	Checklist item	Location where item is reported
TITLE			
Title	1	Identify the report as a systematic review.	Title page: title identifies the article as a systematic review.
ABSTRACT			
Abstract	2	See the PRISMA 2020 for Abstracts checklist.	Structured Abstract (Background/ Methods/ Results/Conclusions) including a declaration about PRISMA conformity
INTRODUCTION			
Rationale	3	Describe the rationale for the review in the context of existing knowledge.	Introduction (Section 1: diagnostic delay; need for non-invasive biomarkers; rationale for menstrual effluent).
Objectives	4	Provide an explicit statement of the objective(s) or question(s) the review addresses.	Introduction (end of Section 1: "The aim of this systematic review was...').
METHODS			
Eligibility criteria	5	Specify the inclusion and exclusion criteria for the review and how studies were grouped for the syntheses.	Methods: Section 2.4 (Eligibility criteria) and Section 2.6 (grouping for syntheses).
Information sources	6	Specify all databases, registers, websites, organisations, reference lists and other sources searched or consulted to identify studies. Specify the date when each source was last searched or consulted.	Methods: Section 2.2 (databases and dates searched; date of the last search provided – 30/11/25).
Search strategy	7	Present the full search strategies for all databases, registers and websites, including any filters and limits used.	Methods: Section 2.2 (PubMed, EBSCOhost, Semantic Scholar; no filters/ no language limits).
Selection process	8	Specify the methods used to decide whether a study met the inclusion criteria of the review, including how many reviewers screened each record and each report retrieved, whether they worked independently, and if applicable, details of automation tools used in the process.	Methods: Section 2.3 (screening by two reviewers, third evaluators, PRISMA flow Figure 1, no automation tools).
Data collection process	9	Specify the methods used to collect data from reports, including how many reviewers collected data from each report, whether they worked independently, any processes for obtaining or confirming data from study investigators, and if applicable, details of automation tools used in the process.	Methods: Section 2.5 (data extraction by two reviewers, discrepancies resolved by discussion/ PDF cross-checking).
Data items	10a	List and define all outcomes for which data were sought. Specify whether all results that were compatible with each outcome domain in each study were sought (e.g. for all measures, time points, analyses), and if not, the methods used to decide which results to collect.	Methods: Section 2.5 (outcomes: diagnostic accuracy metrics: AUC, sensitivity, specificity, cut-offs/thresholds).
	10b	List and define all other variables for which data were sought (e.g. participant and intervention characteristics, funding sources). Describe any assumptions made about any missing or unclear information.	Methods: Section 2.5 (study/population characteristics, collection/processing details, analytical methods, mechanistic domains, clinical implications).
Study risk of bias assessment	11	Specify the methods used to assess risk of bias in the included studies, including details of the tool(s) used, how many reviewers assessed each study and whether they worked independently, and if applicable, details of automation tools used in the process.	Methods: Section 2.5 (QUADAS-2 for diagnostic studies, NIH-inspired approach for mechanistic studies) and Appendix Table A1.
Effect measures	12	Specify for each outcome the effect measure(s) (e.g. risk ratio, mean difference) used in the synthesis or presentation of results.	Methods: Section 2.5 (AUC, sensitivity, specificity, thresholds) and Results Table 2.
Synthesis methods	13a	Describe the processes used to decide which studies were eligible for each synthesis (e.g. tabulating the study intervention characteristics and comparing against the planned groups for each synthesis (item #5)).	Methods: Section 2.6 (predefined categories for diagnostic vs mechanistic syntheses).

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	13b	Describe any methods required to prepare the data for presentation or synthesis, such as handling of missing summary statistics, or data conversions.	Methods: Section 2.6 (structured qualitative synthesis; no data conversions described).
	13c	Describe any methods used to tabulate or visually display results of individual studies and syntheses.	Methods: Section 2.6 (tabulation in Tables 1-3; PRISMA flow Figure 1).
	13d	Describe any methods used to synthesize results and provide a rationale for the choice(s). If meta-analysis was performed, describe the model(s), method(s) to identify the presence and extent of statistical heterogeneity, and software package(s) used.	Methods: Section 2.6 (structured qualitative synthesis; meta-analysis not appropriate).
	13e	Describe any methods used to explore possible causes of heterogeneity among study results (e.g. subgroup analysis, meta-regression).	Not applicable (no formal heterogeneity analysis/ no meta-analysis).
	13f	Describe any sensitivity analyses conducted to assess robustness of the synthesized results.	Not applicable (no sensitivity analyses; no meta-analysis conducted).
Reporting bias assessment	14	Describe any methods used to assess risk of bias due to missing results in a synthesis (arising from reporting biases).	Table A1. Risk of bias and quality assessment of included studies
Certainty assessment	15	Describe any methods used to assess certainty (or confidence) in the body of evidence for an outcome.	Not assessed.
RESULTS			
Study selection	16a	Describe the results of the search and selection process, from the number of records identified in the search to the number of studies included in the review, ideally using a flow diagram.	Methods: Section 2.3 and Figure 1 (PRISMA 2020 flow diagram).
	16b	Cite studies that might appear to meet the inclusion criteria, but which were excluded, and explain why they were excluded.	Methods: Section 2.3 (reasons for 12 exclusions).
Study characteristics	17	Cite each included study and present its characteristics.	Results: Section 3.1 and Table 1 (General characteristics of included studies).
Risk of bias in studies	18	Present assessments of risk of bias for each included study.	Methods: 2.5 Risk of bias and methodological quality assessment, Results: Section 3.1 and Appendix Table A1 (risk-of-bias summary).
Results of individual studies	19	For all outcomes, present, for each study: (a) summary statistics for each group (where appropriate) and (b) an effect estimate and its precision (e.g. confidence/credible interval), ideally using structured tables or plots.	Results: Tables 1–3 and Appendix Table A2 (diagnostic studies without ROC metrics).
Results of syntheses	20a	For each synthesis, briefly summarise the characteristics and risk of bias among contributing studies.	Results: Sections 3.1–3.3; Appendix Table A1.
	20b	Present results of all statistical syntheses conducted. If meta-analysis was done, present for each the summary estimate and its precision (e.g. confidence/credible interval) and measures of statistical heterogeneity. If comparing groups, describe the direction of the effect.	Not applicable (no statistical syntheses/meta-analysis; see Methods Section 2.6).
	20c	Present results of all investigations of possible causes of heterogeneity among study results.	Not applicable (no heterogeneity investigations performed).
	20d	Present results of all sensitivity analyses conducted to assess the robustness of the synthesized results.	Not applicable (no sensitivity analyses performed).
Reporting biases	21	Present assessments of risk of bias due to missing results (arising from reporting biases) for each synthesis assessed.	Appendix: Table A2. “Diagnostic studies without ROC-derived accuracy metrics”
Certainty of evidence	22	Present assessments of certainty (or confidence) in the body of evidence for each outcome assessed.	Not applicable.

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DISCUSSION			
Discussion	23a	Provide a general interpretation of the results in the context of other evidence.	Discussion: Section 4 (overview + context, in particular Sections 4.1–4.3).
	23b	Discuss any limitations of the evidence included in the review.	Discussion: Section 4.4 (Strengths and Limitations)
	23c	Discuss any limitations of the review processes used.	Discussion: Section 4.4 (Strengths and Limitations)
	23d	Discuss implications of the results for practice, policy, and future research.	Discussion: Sections 4.3 and 4.5; Conclusions Section 5.
OTHER INFORMATION			
Registration and protocol	24a	Provide registration information for the review, including register name and registration number, or state that the review was not registered.	Methods: Section 2.1 (Protocol and registration; not registered in PROSPERO with justification).
	24b	Indicate where the review protocol can be accessed, or state that a protocol was not prepared.	Methods: Section 2.1 (methods defined a priori; protocol not publicly available).
	24c	Describe and explain any amendments to information provided at registration or in the protocol.	Not applicable/ no amendments.
Support	25	Describe sources of financial or non-financial support for the review, and the role of the funders or sponsors in the review.	Funding: End matter: “This research received no external funding”.
Competing interests	26	Declare any competing interests of review authors.	Conflicts of Interest: End matter: “The authors declare no conflicts of interest”.
Availability of data, code and other materials	27	Report which of the following are publicly available and where they can be found: template data collection forms; data extracted from included studies; data used for all analyses; analytic code; any other materials used in the review.	Data Availability Statement: End matter: “Not applicable (the work is a review of the referenced literature)”.

From: Page MJ, McKenzie JE, Bossuyt PM, Boutron I, Hoffmann TC, Mulrow CD, et al. The PRISMA 2020 statement: an updated guideline for reporting systematic reviews. BMJ 2021;372:n71. doi: 10.1136/bmj.n71.
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