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CC/VL

Dear Service User

The CCP antibody test, a more specific marker for rheumatoid arthritis in comparison to rheumatoid factor, is a test that was introduced into the immunology laboratory in Edinburgh some years ago.

The reference range adopted by the laboratory at the time of its introduction was different to that quoted by the manufacturer for this test, and also different to the reference range used by other immunology laboratories in the UK, that use the same assay / test.

In an effort to harmonise practice throughout Scotland (and the UK), we looked into this by doing a comparative study, with the results that we generate in Edinburgh compared to other external laboratories who are using the same testing platform. We found that our data showed good correlation with external testing. In line with this observation, and with the aim to harmonise practice across immunology laboratories in Scotland, we have therefore adapted our reference range to reflect wider practice, and what is recommended by the assay manufacturers.

Previous reference range: 0 – 4.8 U/ml = negative

New reference range: 0 - <7 U/ml = negative, 7 – 10 U/ml = equivocal, >10 U/ml = positive.

The change in reference range and our reporting of these results is reflected on all the results reports that are generated from the laboratory. We have also indicated when this change was effective from in the laboratory (11/06/18) on all the reports that we send out.

I hope this addresses any queries or concerns you may have had regarding this test and our recent change in quoted reference ranges. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact our laboratory.

With kind regards,

Dr Charu Chopra
Consultant Immunologist

Mrs Gemma Ruck
Clinical Immunology
Laboratory Manager

Mr Symon Lockhart
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