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08/11/2023

Dear Colleague,

Neutrophil function – respiratory burst assay – update to reports

Effective from 20th November 2023 we are updating the information reported within our neutrophil function respiratory burst assay (DHR). Please note that there is no change to our method of analysis; this update solely affects the information presented in order to provide an improved report layout.

New reports

- We will no longer be reporting MFI results as these have no utility for either the diagnosis or monitoring of patients.
- We will continue reporting stimulation index (SI) for both control and patient.
- We will continue to provide an interpretative result and explanatory comments.
- We will now also report the percentage of neutrophils bursting (i.e. ideally 100%) for both patient and control.
- If an abnormal population of neutrophils is present, this will also have a stimulation index and a percentage reported.

These changes will enable straightforward comparisons between patient and control and better monitoring of patients with neutrophil populations showing abnormal respiratory burst, particularly post-transplant/gene therapy. The new reports will ultimately enable cumulative viewing of population percentages. However, as a new test code will now be in use, results on the new report cannot be viewed cumulatively with results from the old style report.

Please note there are no changes to the way you request a neutrophil function test. However, external laboratories may prefer to update their local LIMS to accommodate the new report layout and we are happy to send you some examples of the new report layout should this be helpful to you.

We would be grateful if you could share this letter with colleagues and please contact us if you have any questions regarding the above changes.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Hennessy'.

Lauren Hennessy
Consultant Clinical Scientist
Clinical Lead for Immunology & Neuroimmunology Laboratory