Reviewer's report

Title: Clinical Utility of Antinuclear Antibody Tests in Children

Version: 1 Date: 28 June 2004

Reviewer: Deborah Rothman

Reviewer's report:

General
The easy availability of ANA testing has become both the bane and the bread and butter of the pediatric rheumatologist. McGhee and co-authors have demonstrated once again that mindless laboratory testing can never replace a careful history and physical exam. They have confirmed the work of others showing that SLE is almost uniformly associated with high titer ANA's. This paper can also be quoted to reassure families and referring physicians that low titer ANA's can be ignored in most cases. I thank the authors for making my job just a little bit easier.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
I would be interested in learning if any of the children diagnosed with SLE had abnormal CBC's at the time of referral.

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What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
None