Reviewer's report

Title: Measurement of Fractionated Plasma Metanephrines for Exclusion of Pheochromocytoma: Can Specificity be Improved by Adjustment for Age?

Version: 1 Date: 6 December 2004

Reviewer: Paulo J Nogueira

Reviewer's report:

General

-----1. In this paper question is clearly posed. The idea is simple and it makes one think why wasnâ€™t it tried before (I am assuming that it hasnâ€™t â€” This is not my field!).

2. Methods are sound. Methods description is good, clear and sufficiently detailed.

3. Data seems well controlled but I had some doubts when reading about it. It is clear that some individuals have the characteristics and it wasnâ€™t absolutely clear to me that the individuals without the disease were known as not having the disease.

5. Discussion and conclusions are adequate, but if these results will be reproduced other questions will obviously emerge, why not control for other variables such as sex, body mass index, etc. (Iâ€™m not sure which variables to propose). The authors do not discuss it in any detailed way only adjust for age.

6. I like the title. Authors Left some space for critical discussion of their results and did not for an ultimate deadline approach. Good.

7. The writing is very good.

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

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

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

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:
I declare that I have no competing interests