Author's response to reviews

Title: Testing for hereditary thrombophilia: a retrospective analysis of testing referred to a national laboratory

Authors:

Brian R Jackson (brian.jackson@aruplab.com)
Kylan Holmes (kyle.holmes@aruplab.com)
Amit Phansalkar (amit.phansalkar@aruplab.com)
George M Rodgers (george.rogers@hsc.utah.edu)

Version: 3 Date: 31 January 2008

Author's response to reviews:

Dear Editor,

I appreciate the review feedback and have revised the manuscript accordingly as follows:

¿ ¿ ¿patients¿with INR<1.3 may also have acquired deficiency if warfarin is being initiated or was recently withdrawn, or if there is poor anticoagulant control.¿
(Referee 2)

Response: We added the following sentence to the Methods section: ¿The cutoff likely missed some patients on early anticoagulant therapy, inadequate doses, and recently discontinued therapy who could still have had altered protein C and/or protein S results despite an INR less than 1.3.¿

¿ ¿ ¿The authors do not state whether they recommend issuing results with statements such as ¿¿ í ¿¿ (Referee 2)

Response: We added the following statements to the very end of the Discussion section: ¿As a complementary approach, laboratories might consider incorporating some of this guidance into interpretive statements attached as footnotes to individual laboratory results. Such statements might include clarifying that the reference intervals are valid only for individual free of thrombosis and not on anticoagulant therapy.¿

¿ ¿ ¿brief summary of the current debate whether to test or not to test¿ (Referee 3)

Response: Added the following to the Discussion section, and added references 19-23: ¿Proposed indications for testing include family counseling (in the case of heritable defects) and clarification of etiology. Most authors advocate selective testing in young patients, those with a relevant family history and/or those with unusual or severe presentations, though specific recommendations differ by author.¿

Note that Referee 1 did not propose any specific revisions.
Thank you,
Brian Jackson