

Haematology Performances - Cycle 25

To assist you to interpret our Haematology EQA, please read this letter carefully.

We have linked up with Randox to give you a better data base and specific instrument comparisons than before. However, the two graphs we now print seem to be causing some confusion.

In general, labs should use the INSTRUMENT STATS, the Levey-Jennings graph on the right hand side of the report, to check performances provided:

- The data numbers are adequate, i.e. preferably greater than 16
- The SD is low, indicating a single set of data results. As a rough rule of thumb, the SD of the instruments should be approximately half that of the Method Stats.

The OVERALL STATS graph on the left hand side of the report is presented to show you the total number of results we receive for each analyte, and to show you how different your instrument is from all other instruments for our QC sample.

If you have a bias on the OVERALL STATS but no bias on the INSTRUMENT STATS, then ignore the OVERALL STATS as the bias is due to your instrument treating our sample differently to other instruments.

We are working to give you the best service possible. Be assured that our samples are labelled correctly to all participating labs. The problem outlined before did not affect the integrity of either the samples themselves, or prevent every lab receiving the same samples with the same labels. Some Advia users were sent replacement boxes, to assist with their quality assessment. They are now being sent new boxes, to prevent further confusion.

Currently we are also working on the bar charts at the beginning of the report, which reflect poor or acceptable performance. These reflect performance on the OVERALL STATS and this will be corrected to reflect INSTRUMENT STATS performance as a matter of urgency. If your performance looks acceptable on the INSTRUMENT STATS, but you are classified as POOR, please request reprinted reports and we will send them as soon as this error has been rectified.

Please call Thistle QA if you have any further queries or questions regarding the Haematology FBC programme.

Dr Jim McCulloch
July 2007