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therapeuticseducation.org

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- ✓ Entire salary comes through the UBC Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences - also some legal/educational work

- ✓ I have received no honorarium or research money from the drug industry in the last 25 or so years



- ✓ iOS apps (iPad/iPhone) KidneyCalc and MyStudies - mystudies.org

- ✓ Premium podcast subscription Best Science (BS) Medicine podcast - therapeuticseducation.org



A cartoon illustration of Homer Simpson standing on a stack of wooden barrels in a bar. He is holding a glass of beer and smiling. A crowd of diverse cartoon characters is gathered around him, also holding glasses of beer. The background shows a bar interior with a red wall and a blue door.

EXPLAIN THE CAUSE OF THE “PROBLEM”
AND SUGGEST A “SOLUTION”

“To alcohol! The cause of... and solution to... all of life's problems”

PLUGS[®] Summit 2017:

Can Hospitals, Labs, IT experts and the Insurance Industry
Work Together to Improve Lab Test Utilization?

Just a few of the diagnoses that are solely or partially lab-based dependent

| | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| Acid-Base Disorders | Celiac Sprue | Folic Acid or B9 Deficiency | Inhalation anthrax | Nephrotic Syndrome | SLE |
| Acidosis and Alkalosis | Cervical Cancer | Food and Waterborne Illness | Inherited Copper Toxicity | Neural Tube Defects | Small Cell Lung Cancer |
| Acidosis/Alkalosis | CF | Food Poisoning | Insulin Resistance | Neuropathy | Spina bifida |
| aCL Syndrome | CFIDS | Fungal Infections | Insulin Resistance Syndrome | NHL | Spinal dysraphism |
| ACS | CFS | Gastroenteritis | Iron Overload Disease | Non-Hodgkin lymphoma | Spinal Meningitis |
| Acute DIC | CHF | Gluten-Sensitive Enteropathy | Iron Storage Disease | Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer | SSc |
| Acute Idiopathic Polyneuritis | Chlamydia | Gonorrhea | Jaundice | Nontuberculous Mycobacteria | Stable angina |
| Acute Inflammatory Demyelinating | Chronic Fatigue and | Gout | JIA | Nontuberculous Mycobacteria Infections | Staph |
| Polyneuropathy | Immune Dysfunction Syndrome | Gouty Arthritis | JRA | NTD | Staph aureus |
| Acute Kidney Injury | Chronic Fatigue Syndrome | Graves Disease | Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis | NTM | Staph Infections |
| Acute Myocardial Infarct | Chronic Kidney Disease | GSE | Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis | OA | Staph Infections and Methicillin-Resistant |
| Acute Renal Failure | Chronic Thyroiditis | Guillain-Barré Syndrome | Keratoconjunctivitis Sicca | Obesity Syndrome | Staphylococcus aureus |
| AD | Circumscribed Scleroderma | H1N1 | Kidney Disease | Osteoarthritis | Staphylococcus aureus |
| Addison Disease | Cirrhosis | H3N2 | Lactase Deficiency | Osteoarthritis | STDs |
| Adrenal Insufficiency | CKD | H5N1 | Lactose Intolerance | Osteoporosis | Stein-Leventhal Syndrome |
| Adrenal Insufficiency and Addison Disease | Coagulopathy | H7N9 | Landry's Ascending Paralysis | Ovarian Cancer | Sticky Blood Syndrome |
| AKI | Cobalamin Deficiency | Hashimoto Thyroiditis | LE | PA | STIs |
| Albuminuria | Colon Cancer | HBP | Lead Poisoning | Pancreatic Cancer | Stomach Flu |
| Alcohol dependence | Colorectal Cancer | HD | Leukemia | Pancreatic Diseases | Stroke |
| Alcoholism | Community-Acquired Pneumonia | Healthcare-Associated Pneumonia | Limited Cutaneous Scleroderma | Pancreatic Insufficiency | Subacute Cutaneous Lupus |
| Allergies | Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia | Heart Attack | Linear Scleroderma | Pancreatitis | Swine Flu |
| Alzheimer Dementia | Congenital Alactasia | Heart Attack and Acute Coronary Syndrome | Liver Disease | Parathyroid Cancer | Syndrom X |
| Alzheimer Disease | Congestive Heart Failure | Heart Disease | Lobar Pneumonia | Parathyroid Diseases | Syphilis |
| AMI | Conn Syndrome | Heart Failure | Localized Scleroderma | PCOS | Systemic Exertion Intolerance Disease |
| Anemia | Consumption Coagulopathy | Hematuria | Lower Respiratory Tract Infection | Pelvic Inflammatory Disease | Systemic Lupus Erythematosus |
| Anencephaly | Copper Storage Disease | Hemochromatosis | Lung Cancer | Peptic Ulcer | Systemic Scleroderma |
| Angitis | CREST | Hemoglobin Abnormalities | Lung Diseases | PID | Systemic Sclerosis |
| Angina | Crohn Disease | Hemoglobin Barts | Lupus | Pituitary Disorders | TB |
| Angina pectoris | Cushing Syndrome | Hemoglobin C Disease | Lupus Anticoagulant Syndrome | Plasma Cell Dyscrasia | Testicular Cancer |
| Ankylosing Spondylitis | Cutaneous anthrax | Hemoglobin E Disease | Lupus Erythematosus | Plasma Cell Myeloma | Thalassemia |
| Anthrax | CVD | Hemoglobin S | Lyme Disease | Plasma Cell Neoplasm | Thrombophilia |
| Anticardiolipin Antibody Syndrome | Cystic Fibrosis | Hemoglobin Variants | Lymphocytic Thyroiditis | Plasmacytoma | Thyroid Cancer |
| Antiphospholipid Antibody Syndrome | Degenerative Joint Disease | Hemoglobinopathies | Lymphoma | Plasmacytoma of Bone | Thyroid Diseases |
| Antiphospholipid Syndrome | Dehydration | Hepatic Disease | Malabsorption | Pneumonia | Toxemia |
| aPL Syndrome | Dermatosclerosis | Hepatitis | Malaria | Polycystic Ovary Syndrome | Toxic Diffuse Goiter |
| APLS | Diabetes | Hepatolenticular Degeneration | Malignancy | Porphyria | Travelers' Diseases |
| APS | Diabetes mellitus | Hereditary Persistence of Fetal Hemoglobin | Malignant tumor | Post-infectious Arthritis | Trich |
| ARF | Diarrhea | Herpes | Malnutrition | Pre-eclampsia | Trichomonas |
| Arteritis | DIC | Herpes Zoster | MDS | Pregnancy | Trichomoniasis |
| Arthritis | Diffuse Cutaneous Scleroderma | High Blood Pressure | ME | Pregnancy-induced Hypertension | Trisomy 21 |
| AS | Diffuse Thyrotoxic Goiter | HIV | Melanoma | Presenile Dementia | Tuberculosis |
| Asthma | Disaccharidase Deficiency | HIV Infection and AIDS | Meningitis and Encephalitis | Primary Aldosteronism | Types of Liver Disease |
| Atypical Mycobacteria | Discoid Lupus | HL | Meningococcal Meningitis | Primary Hyperaldosteronism | Ulcerative Colitis |
| Atypical Pneumonia | Disseminated Intravascular Coagulation | Hodgkin Disease | Menopause | Prinzmetal's angina | Unstable angina |
| Autoimmune Diseases | Disseminated Intravascular Coagulopathy | Hodgkin Lymphoma | Metabolic Syndrome | Prostate Cancer | Urinary Tract Infection |
| Autoimmune Thyroiditis | Disseminated Lupus Erythematosus | Hospital-Acquired Pneumonia | MG | Protein in urine | UTI |
| Avian Flu | DJD | HPFH | MI | Proteinuria | Vaginal Infection |
| Bacillus anthracis infection | Double Pneumonia | HPV | Morphea | RA | Vaginitis and Vaginosis |
| Bacterial Arthritis | Down Syndrome | Hughes Syndrome | MOTT | Reactive Arthritis | Vaginitis/Vaginosis |
| Bacterial Vaginosis | Drug-induced Lupus | Huntington Disease | MPDs | Reaven Syndrome | Variant angina |
| Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia | DS | Huntington's Chorea Disease | MPNs | Renal Disease, Kidney Failure | Vasculitis |
| Benign Prostatic Hypertrophy | Dysmetabolic Syndrome | Hypercoagulable Disorders or States | MRSA | Rheumatoid Arthritis | VD |
| Biological Warfare | Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever | Hyperparathyroidism | MS | Rheumatoid Spondylitis | Venereal Diseases |
| Bioterrorism Agents | Ebola Virus Disease | Hypersensitivity | Multiple Myeloma | Sarcoidosis | Vitamin B12 and Folate Deficiencies |
| Bleeding Disorders | Ebola Virus Infection | Hypertension | Multiple Sclerosis | SCD | Vitamin B12 Deficiency |
| Blood in the urine | Encephalitis | Hyperthyroidism | Myalgic Encephalomyelitis | Scleroderma | Vitamin K Deficiency |
| Bone Marrow Disorders | End Stage Renal Disease | Hypoparathyroidism | Myasthenia Gravis | SEID | Vulvovaginitis |
| Borrelia burgdorferi Infection | Endocrine Syndromes | Hypothyroidism | Mycobacteria other than tuberculosis | Seizure Disorder | Walking Pneumonia |
| Borrelia mayonii Infection | Endocrine System and Syndromes | IBD | Mycoses | Sepsis | West Nile Virus |
| BPH | Epilepsy | Icterus | Myelocoele | Septic Arthritis | Wilson Disease |
| Breast Cancer | ESRD | Infectious Arthritis | Myelodysplasia | Sexually Transmitted Diseases | WNV |
| CAH | EVD | Infectious Polyneuritis | Myelodysplastic Syndrome | Sexually Transmitted Infections | Wound and Skin Infections |
| Cancer | Excessive Clotting Disorders | Infertility | Myelomenigeoceles | Shingles | |
| Candidiasis | Extraosseous Plasmacytoma | Inflammatory Bowel Disease | Myeloproliferative Disorders | Sicca Syndrome | |
| Carbohydrate Intolerance | Fibromyalgia | Influenza | Myeloproliferative Neoplasms | Sickle Cell Anemia | |
| Cardiovascular Disease | Flu | Influenza A | Myocardial Infarct | Sickle Cell Disease | |
| Celiac Disease | Folate Deficiency | Influenza B | Neonatal Lupus | Sjögren Syndrome | |

“It is commonly thought that laboratory tests provide two-thirds to three-fourths of the information used for making medical decisions. If so, test results had better tell the truth about what is happening with our patients.”

Clinica Chimica Acta 2004;346:3-11



If you're not sick you just haven't had enough tests
Robert Rangno, MSc, MD

New Rule Grants Patients Direct Access to Lab Results

By Melinda Beck

Feb. 3, 2014 1:05 p.m. ET

Clinical laboratories must give patients access to their own lab-test results upon request, without going through the physician who ordered them, according to a new federal rule announced Monday by the Department of Health and Human Services.

PROBLEM #1

It's typically the same report that goes to health care providers

PROBLEM #2

Many health care providers don't appreciate the key nuances of "lab" tests

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my Information



my Reports

Browse your available reports, view your results or print personal copies for your files.

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my Analytics

Perform trending of your results.

[View my result trends](#)

my Account

Change your email address, password or security questions. Register another person to your account or merge accounts.

[View my account](#)

Patient Information Show More Patient Details

Patient: LLOYD, TESSA JANE ELSWITHA
PHN: Phone: Lab No:

| Flags | Results | Reference Range | Units |
|-------|---------|-----------------|-------|
|-------|---------|-----------------|-------|

General Comments

General Information

This Standing Order will expire on 25-JUN-2017. If this Standing Order is still required, please provide your patient with a new laboratory requisition prior to this date.

Hematology



Differenti

MY THESIS

*“For much in medicine, we **knowingly sell preeminent precision** even though we all know in our heart of hearts we can only **deliver educated estimates**.*

*I believe most patients would be **very understanding** about this imprecision if we were just more **open about it**.”*

-James McCormack, Pharm D (1959 - hopefully not soon)

“We also CAN’T be precise
about the imprecision”

1. I am speaking in general, and do realise there are always some exceptions
2. I am presenting concepts
3. I will be providing ball-park estimates

Two Problems with Faking Precision



FALSE BELIEFS


BELIEF #1 - the good/bad thresholds are relatively black and white

BELIEF #2 -when the numbers change these changes are real

These beliefs can potentially lead to inappropriate feelings
of fear, happiness, frustration, confusion...

Both in patients AND clinicians

Sources of Imprecision



Lab
Error

Analytic
variation

Biologic
variation

Actual LAB errors

Lab
Error

0.3%



- ~60% pre-analytical
- ~15% analytical
- ~25% post analytical

Table 1. Laboratory errors in stat testing.

| Defects: detection steps | Defects found | |
|--|---------------|--------------|
| | No. | Frequency, % |
| Preanalytical | | |
| Specimen collected from infusion route | 3 | 1.9 |
| Sample contaminated | 1 | 0.6 |
| Tube filling error | 21 | 13.1 |
| Empty tube | 11 | 6.9 |
| Inappropriate container | 13 | 8.1 |
| Nonrefrigerated sample | 3 | 1.9 |
| Missing tube | 5 | 3.1 |
| Digoxin test timing error | 1 | 0.6 |
| Patient identification error | 14 | 8.8 |
| Request procedure error | 12 | 7.5 |
| Data communication conflict | 6 | 3.8 |
| Physician's request order missed | 3 | 1.9 |
| Order misinterpreted | 2 | 1.3 |
| Check-in not performed (in the Laboratory Information Systems) | 4 | 2.5 |
| Subtotal | 99 | 61.9 |
| Analytical | | |
| Instrument-caused random error | 3 | 1.9 |
| Analytical inaccuracy not recognized | 21 | 13.1 |
| Subtotal | 24 | 15 |
| Postanalytical | | |
| Results communication breakdown | 32 | 20 |
| Lack of communication within laboratory | 3 | 1.9 |
| TAT excessive | 2 | 1.3 |
| Subtotal | 37 | 23.1 |

Clinical Chemistry 2007;53:1338-42

Dispensing errors ~1-2%

Measurement Landscape

Assuming no pre-analytic issues - timing/labelling etc

Population-based reference intervals

Analytic
variation

Analytical Variation
CVA - analytical variation

Biologic
variation

Biological Variation
CVI - within subject
CVG - between subject

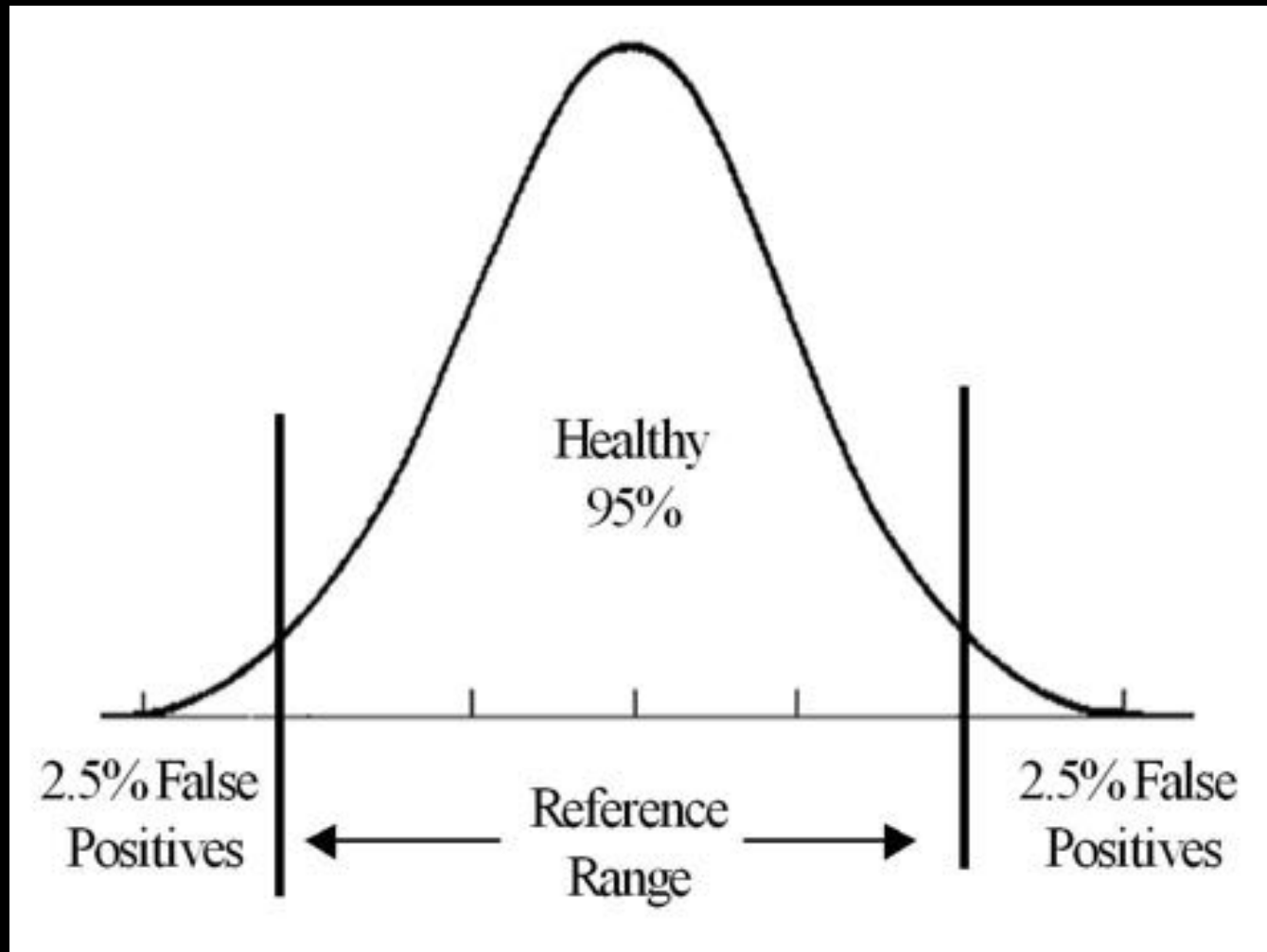


Reference change values (RCV)

Population-based reference intervals

Population-based reference intervals

The interval/range where 95% of healthy people fall



Lab results report
exact numbers

BUT

Every test result is
really only a range
that hopefully includes
the true result
*+/- 1-2% up to
+/-20-30% or more*

| Number of Tests Ordered | Probability of at Least One Abnormal Test |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 1 | 5% |
| 2 | 10% |
| 5 | 23% |
| 10 | 40% |
| 15 | 54% |
| 20 | 64% |

When we do tests, typically
we are wondering

1. what are the results NOW, and/or
2. have they changed from PREVIOUS
measurements



Analytic
variation

Biologic
variation

Every “measurement”
will be “different”

1. Analytic variability
2. Biologic variability

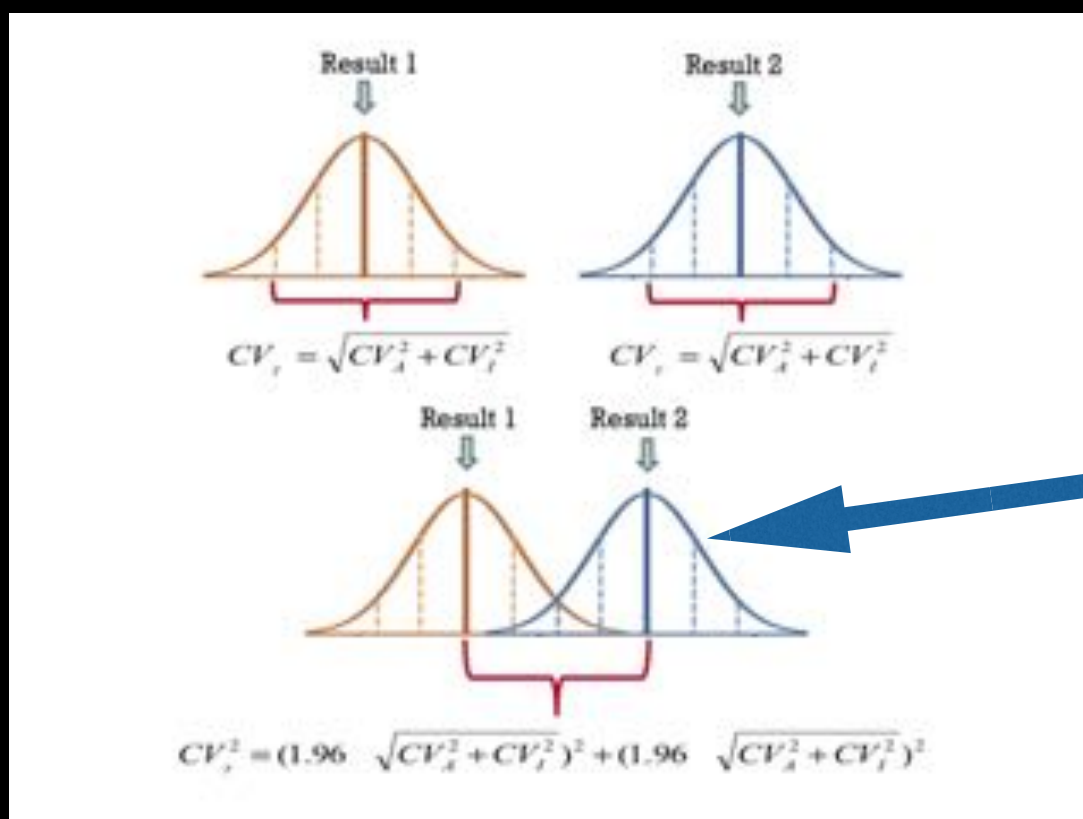
Reference Change Values (RCV)

a tool for assessment of the significance of differences
in serial results from an individual

Reference Change Values

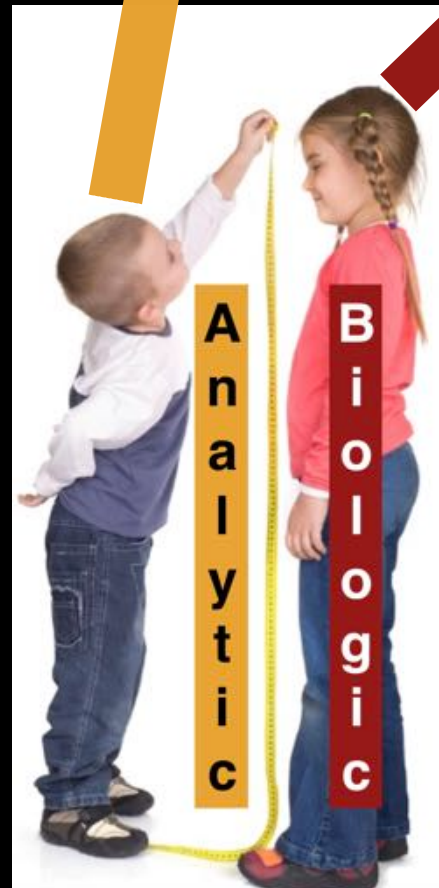
Used with SERIAL results to help deal with the analytic imprecision and **biologic variation**

Coefficients of Variation (total) = analytic PLUS biologic variation



MINIMUM DIFFERENCE between two consecutive results which needs to be EXCEEDED in order for one to state a STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT change has taken place

$$RCV = \sqrt{2} * 1.96 * \sqrt{(CV_{Analytical}^2 + CV_{Intraindividual}^2)}$$



How good, analytically speaking,
does a “test” need to be

“The analytical CV (CVA) should be
less than one-half the average within-
subject biological variation (CVI)”



When it is, the CVA has almost
no impact on the RCV - the
RCV is pretty much determined
by the CVI

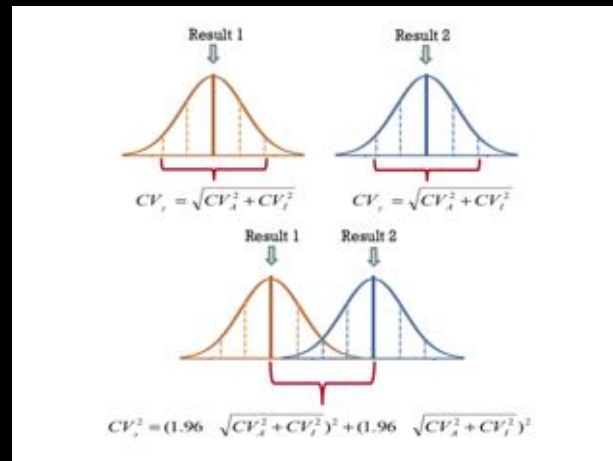


Reference Change Values

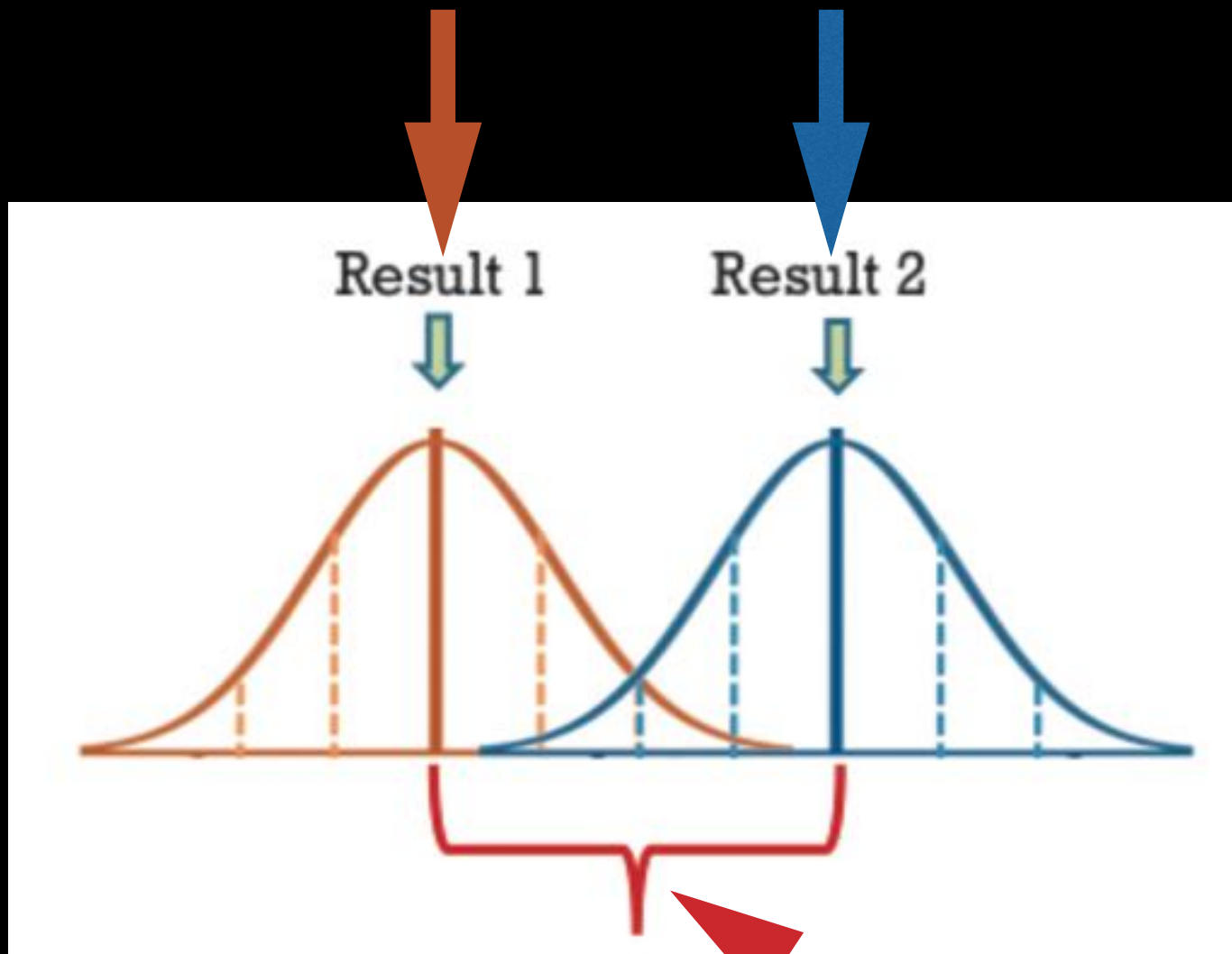
findings of a “significant difference” JUST means we are ruling out that the difference seen is due to chance

NOT

THAT THE **MAGNITUDE** OF THE DIFFERENCE SEEN IS THE **ACTUAL MAGNITUDE** OF THE DIFFERENCE



We believe these two results are different



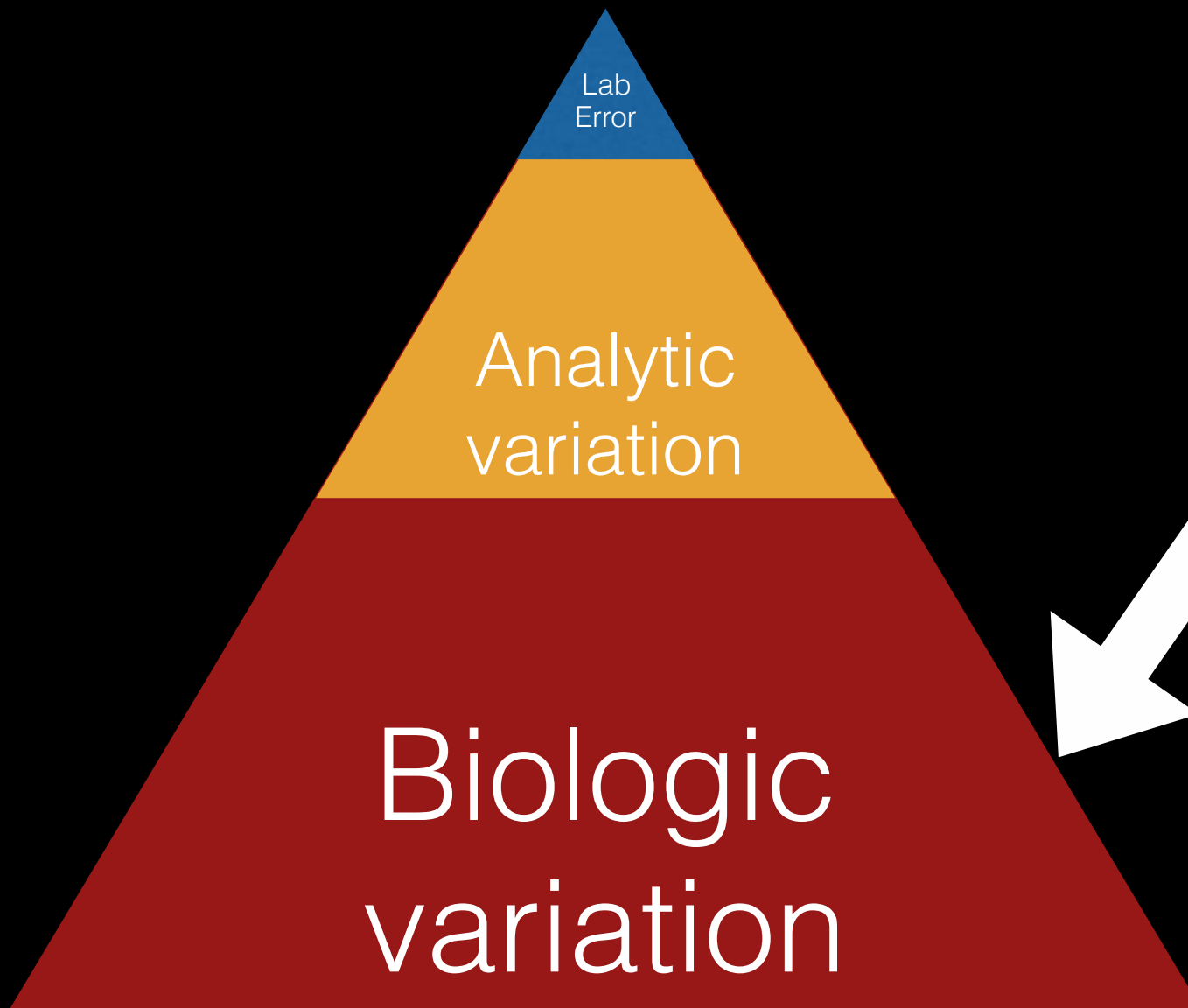
can't necessarily quantify this difference with any precision

What about multiple measurements?

Table 1. RCV using multiple estimates of the initial and new set points, expressed as a fraction of traditional RCV from two singleton measurements.

| | | Number of results estimating initial set point | | | | |
|---|---|--|------|------|------|------|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Number of results estimating new set point | 1 | 1.00 | 0.87 | 0.82 | 0.79 | 0.77 |
| | 2 | 0.87 | 0.71 | 0.65 | 0.61 | 0.59 |
| | 3 | 0.82 | 0.65 | 0.58 | 0.54 | 0.52 |
| | 4 | 0.79 | 0.61 | 0.54 | 0.50 | 0.47 |
| | 5 | 0.77 | 0.59 | 0.52 | 0.47 | 0.45 |

with 4 measurements before and 4 afterwards
(vs 1 before and 1 after)
you can lower the RCV by 50%



This is the
problem
and it is
NOT fixable,
it is only
KNOWABLE



“Houston, we’ve had a problem here”

Jack Swigert and James Lovell

Cholesterol Glucose





Cholesterol

2016 Canadian Cardiovascular Society Guidelines for the Management of Dyslipidemia for the Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease in the Adult

“In individuals with a modified FRS of 5%-9%,
yearly monitoring could be used to evaluate
change in risk”

AACE 2017 Guidelines

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF CLINICAL ENDOCRINOLOGISTS AND
AMERICAN COLLEGE OF ENDOCRINOLOGY
GUIDELINES FOR MANAGEMENT OF DYSLIPIDEMIA AND PREVENTION
OF CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE

“Lipid status should be re-assessed **6 weeks after therapy initiation**
and again at **6-week intervals** until the treatment goal is achieved.”

“While on stable lipid therapy, individuals should be tested at **6-to
12-month intervals**”

Monitoring Cholesterol Levels: Measurement Error or True Change?

Paul P. Glasziou, MBBS, PhD; Les Irwig, MBBS, PhD; Stephane Heritier, PhD; R. John Simes, MBBS, MD; and Andrew Tonkin, MBBS, MD, for the LIPID Study Investigators

Background: Cholesterol level monitoring is a common clinical activity, but the optimal monitoring interval is unknown and practice varies.

Objective: To estimate, in patients receiving cholesterol-lowering medication, the variation in initial response to treatment, the long-term drift from initial response, and the detectability of long-term changes in on-treatment cholesterol level ("signal") given short-term, within-person variation ("noise").

Design: Analysis of cholesterol measurement data in the LIPID

of variation, 7%) to 0.60 mmol/L (23 mg/dL) (coefficient of variation, 11%), but it took almost 4 years for the long-term variation to exceed the short-term variation. This slow increase in variation and the modest increase in mean cholesterol level, about 2% per year, suggest that most of the variation in the study is due to short-term biological and analytic variability. Our calculations suggest that, for patients with levels that are 0.5 mmol/L or more (≥ 19 mg/dL) under target, monitoring is likely to detect many more false-positive results than true-positive results for at least the first 3 years after treatment has commenced.

Ann Intern Med 2008;148:656-61

VARIATION

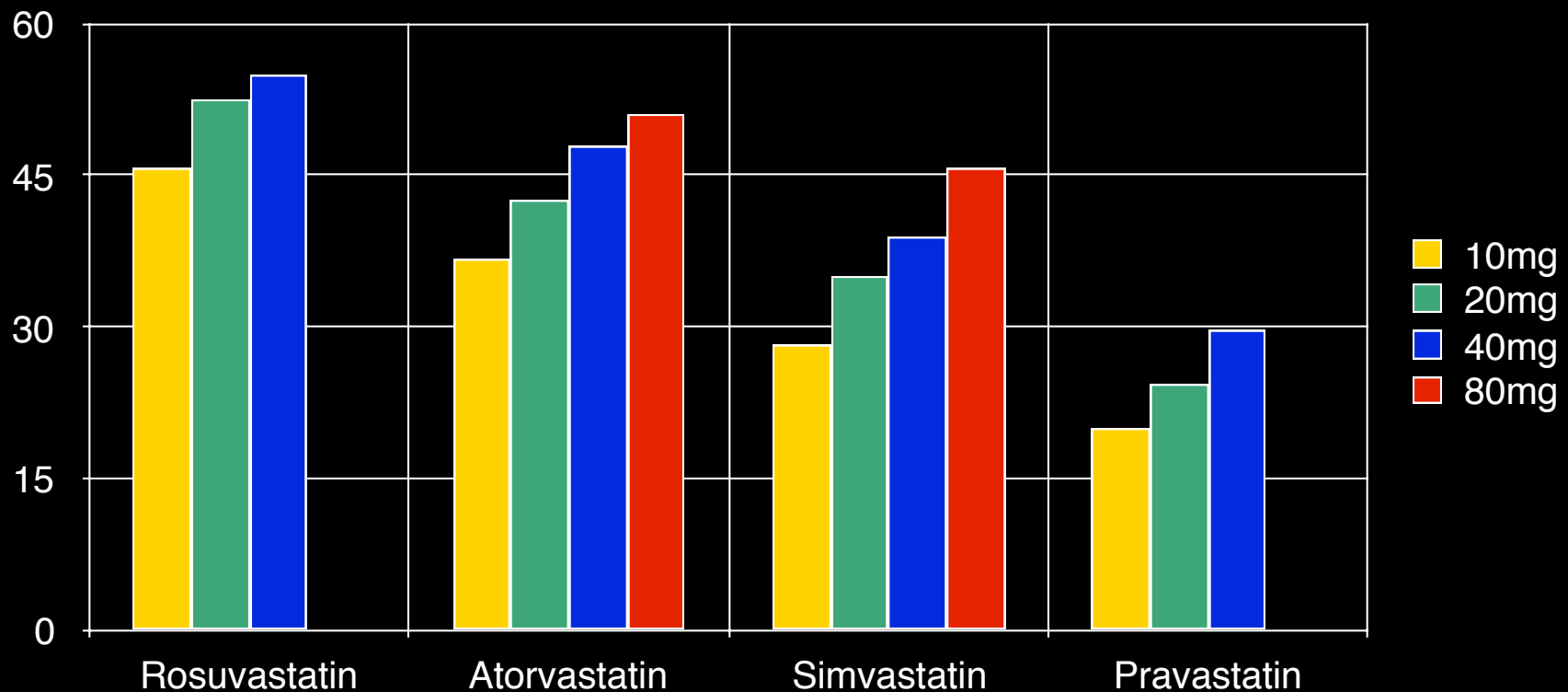
Total chol ~ - 0.80 to 0.80 mmol/L (~30 mg/dL)

LDL chol ~ - 0.5 to 0.5 mmol/L (~20 mg/dL)

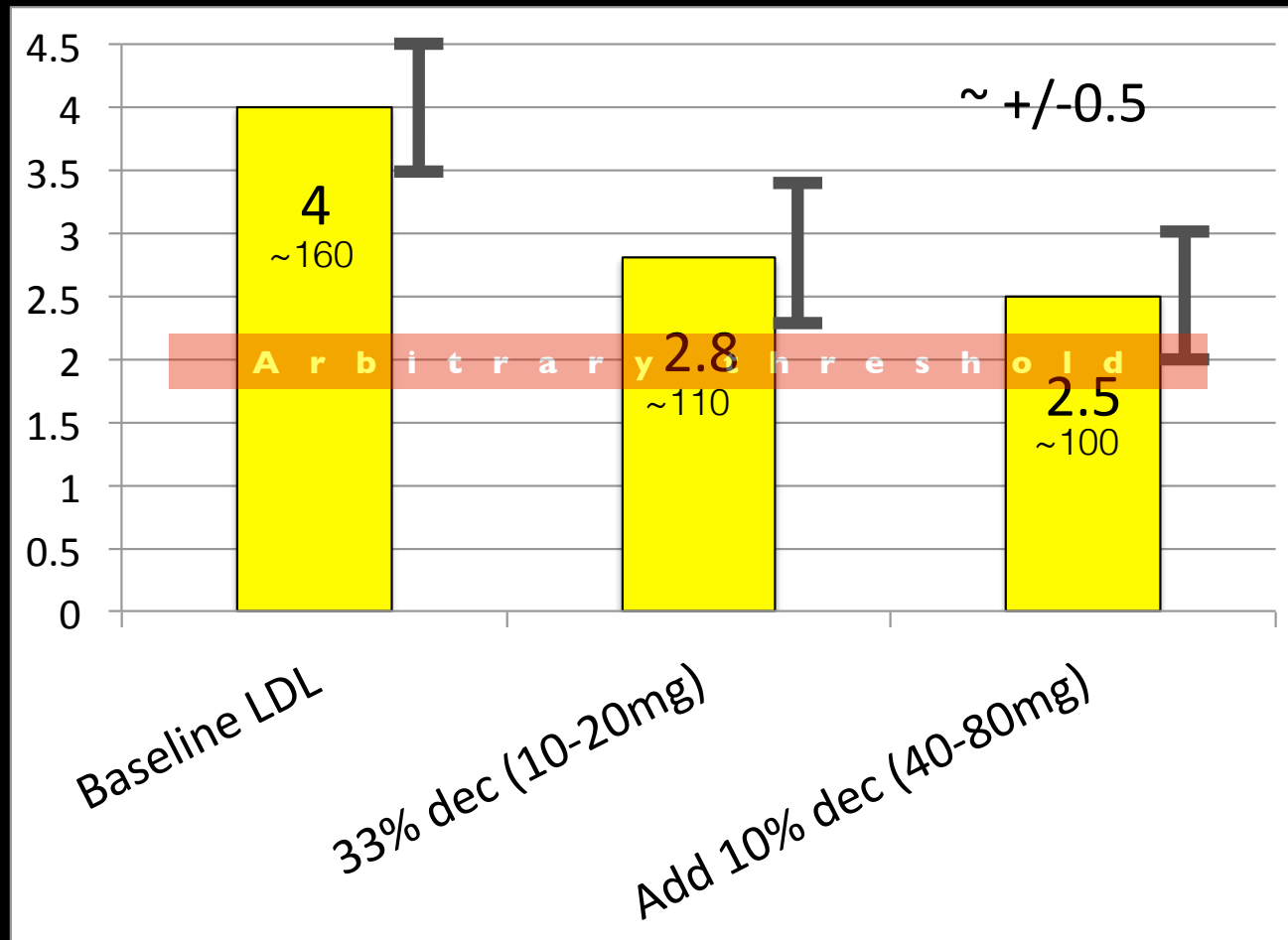
Average increase in cholesterol is 0.5-1%/year

“After initial change only measure every
3-5 years”

DOSE increases do not lead
to proportional EFFECT increases
% reduction in LDL cholesterol



LDL cholesterol - 2 mmol/L ~80mg/dL



RESEARCH

When to remeasure cardiovascular risk in untreated people at low and intermediate risk: observational study

BMJ 2013; 346 doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bmj.f1895> (Published 3 April 2013)

Cite this as: *BMJ* 2013;346:f1895

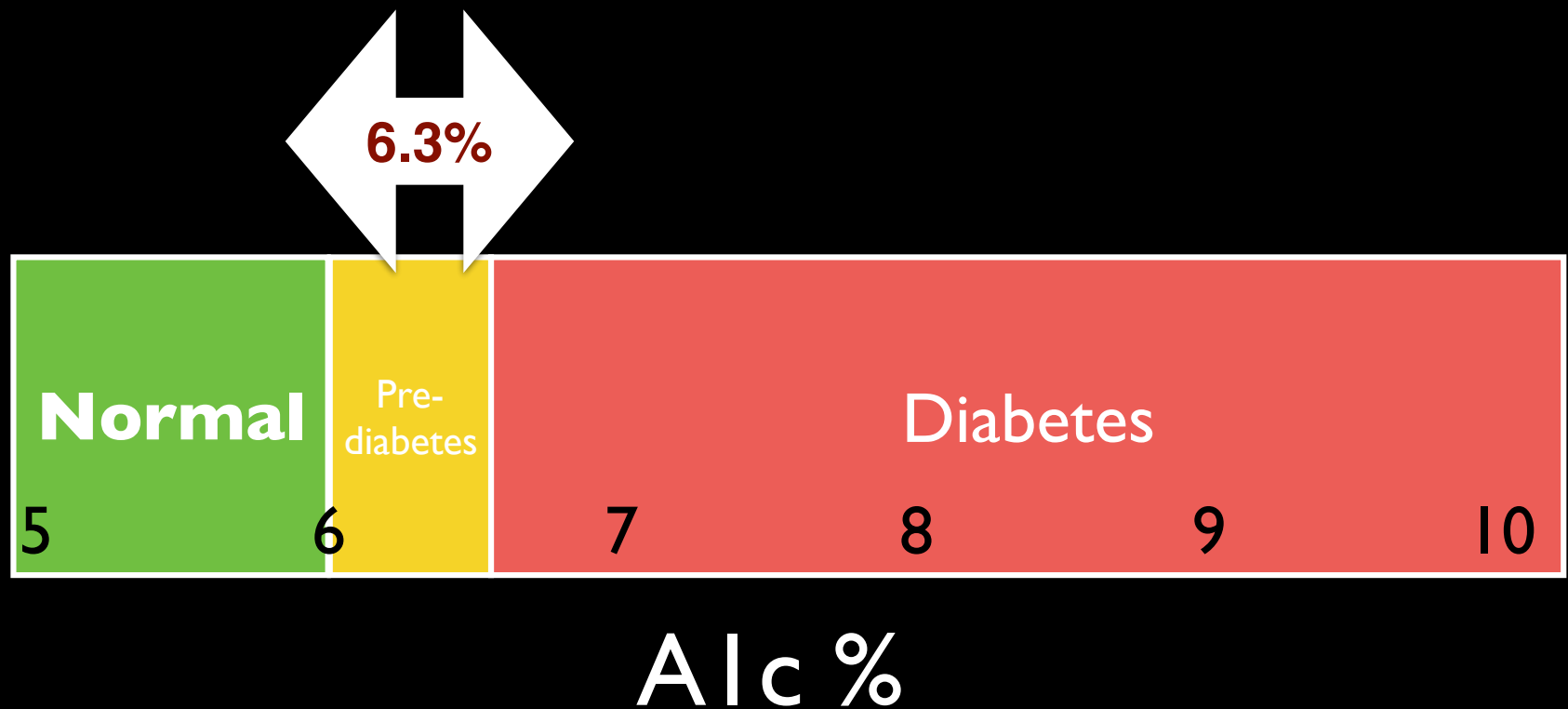
“Repeat risk estimation before 8-10 years is not warranted for most people initially not requiring treatment”



Glucose

Precisely Imprecise

What an A1c result really means



Typical A1c change seen
with a medication
= 0.7% ↓

Seasonal variation 0.2-0.5%
Higher in the winter

Am J Epi 2004;161:565-74

Yet another IMPORTANT issue for measurements of glucose, cholesterol, blood pressure and bone density

These are RARELY measures of any disease

They are simply RISK FACTORS

They should be presented in the context of the risk of developing important clinical outcomes - heart attacks, strokes, ESRD etc

The Absolute CVD Risk/Benefit Calculator

Framingham

Heart attacks + angina/coronary insufficiency + heart failure + strokes + intermittent claudication

QRISK[®]2-2014

Heart attacks + strokes

ACC/AHA ASCVD

CHD death + nonfatal heart attacks + fatal/nonfatal strokes

Age

65 years

Gender

☒ Male ☐ Female

Smoker

Yes ☒ No

CVD risk is reversed after 5-10 years of no smoking

Diabetes

Yes ☒ No

Systolic Blood Pressure

160 mmHg

Blood pressure should be prior to drug treatment

120 mmHg is used for baseline risk

On treatment for BP

Yes ☒ No

Total Cholesterol

6 mmol/L

Cholesterol should be prior to drug treatment

3 mmol/L is used for baseline risk

[Click to change to mg/dL](#)

HDL Cholesterol

1.5 mmol/L

HDL should be prior to drug treatment

1.3 mmol/L is used for baseline risk

Family History of Early CHD

0 %

Relative Benefit: 30%

Benefit often has nothing to do with the effect on the surrogate marker. At present, you can only select one intervention at a time.

Physical Activity

Mediterranean Diet vs Low fat

Vitamin/Omega-3 supplements

BP meds (not atenolol/doxazosin)

Harm Of Intervention

- Types of side effects vary between drugs
- Having to stop drug due to intolerability NNH 10
- Inconvenience of surrogate remeasurements
- Drug Cost

Low-mod intensity statins

High intensity statins

Fibrates

Niacin

Ezetimibe

Metformin

Sulfonylureas

Insulins

Glitazones

GLPs

DPP-4s

Meglitinides

SGLT2

Smoking Cessation

ASA

[Benefit Estimate Details](#)

Risk Time Period

10 years



| | | |
|-----|-------|--|
| | 74.0% | No event |
| | 18.2% | Total with an event |
| | 7.8% | Number who benefit from treatment |
| NNT | 13 | Number needed to treat |
| | 15.8% | Baseline events using baseline factors alone |
| | 2.4% | Additional events "caused" by risk factors |

As with all risk calculators, calculated risk numbers are +/- 5% at best. [More information](#)

Print Report

1. Calculate ballpark 10-yr risk of CVD - BP, chol, diabetes
2. Make estimate of benefit based on the best available evidence
3. Gives a list of adverse effects to discuss

cvdcalculator.com

Now What?!!



“The obscure we see eventually.
The completely obvious, it seems,
takes longer.”

Edward R Murrow 1908-1965



The Problem
is
NOT Fixable,
it is
Only
KNOWABLE

Bottom Line



Embrace our “nudity”

Just the facts, Ma'am

Should we...

Openly explain and present lab variability - YES

Openly discuss the potentially black and white things about lab variability - ABSOLUTELY

Continue to use words like low, medium, high, significant - NO, NO, NO, NO

Use a 95% or a 90% or an 85% significance threshold - UNKNOWABLE

Get hung-up on the fact the evidence-base isn't perfect - NO - USE THE BEST AVAILABLE EVIDENCE

Care who is the driver of change - WHOEVER CAN DO IT RIGHT

Report SDs, levels of significance, error bars - IN GENERAL, NO

Discuss the variability or the exceptions to the rule - OF COURSE

Be OK with “ball parking” - WELCOME TO HEALTH CARE

Care if improved lab reporting improves patient outcomes - IT'S REALLY ABOUT DECISIONS AND THE “TRUTH”

Believe it is just the “other” lab's problem not ours - THAT'S ADORABLE

If I was the boss of “LAB” result reporting

All of this could be done today

Shift from a laboratory perspective to a patient-centered viewpoint

Using **BALLPARK** estimates

ALWAYS provide the imprecision

Provide MUCH more definitive guidance

Stop using terms like low, medium, high or significant

If they are “risk factor” measurements then they should only be provided with “risk” estimates

Do not do a test without discussion of a pre-test probability and then provide a post-test probability

Make many tests more “inconvenient”?



The magnitude of the imprecision around routinely ordered medical measurements*

| MEASUREMENT | Chloride Sodium Osmolality | Albumin Bone density Calcium Hematocrit Hemoglobin HbA1c INR MCH MCV Total protein Systolic BP | Creatinine Globulins Glucose Magnesium pCO2 Potassium PTT Total cholesterol T4 | AST Alkaline phosphatase BUN HDL LDH LDL Phosphorous Platelets Rheumatoid factor Testosterone Uric acid WBC | GGT Neutrophils PSA Vitamin D | Aldosterone ALT Bilirubin Folate Iron Lactate Triglycerides TSH Vitamin B12 |
|---|----------------------------------|--|--|--|--|---|
| Approximate +/- range for a single measurement | ~1-3% | ~3-7% | ~7-15% | ~15-30% | ~30-50% | ~>50% |
| The magnitude of the change required between two serial measurements so one can be reasonably confident there has been a change** | ~2-5% | ~5-10% | ~10-20% | ~20-40% | ~40-60% | ~>60% |

* based on the analytic and biologic variation

** also known as the reference change value

Data collated primarily from here - <https://www.westgard.com/biodatabase1.htm>
 but some also taken and confirmed from a few other sources - numbers rounded off for ease of use
 James McCormack BSc (Pharm), Pharm D - therapeuticseducation.org

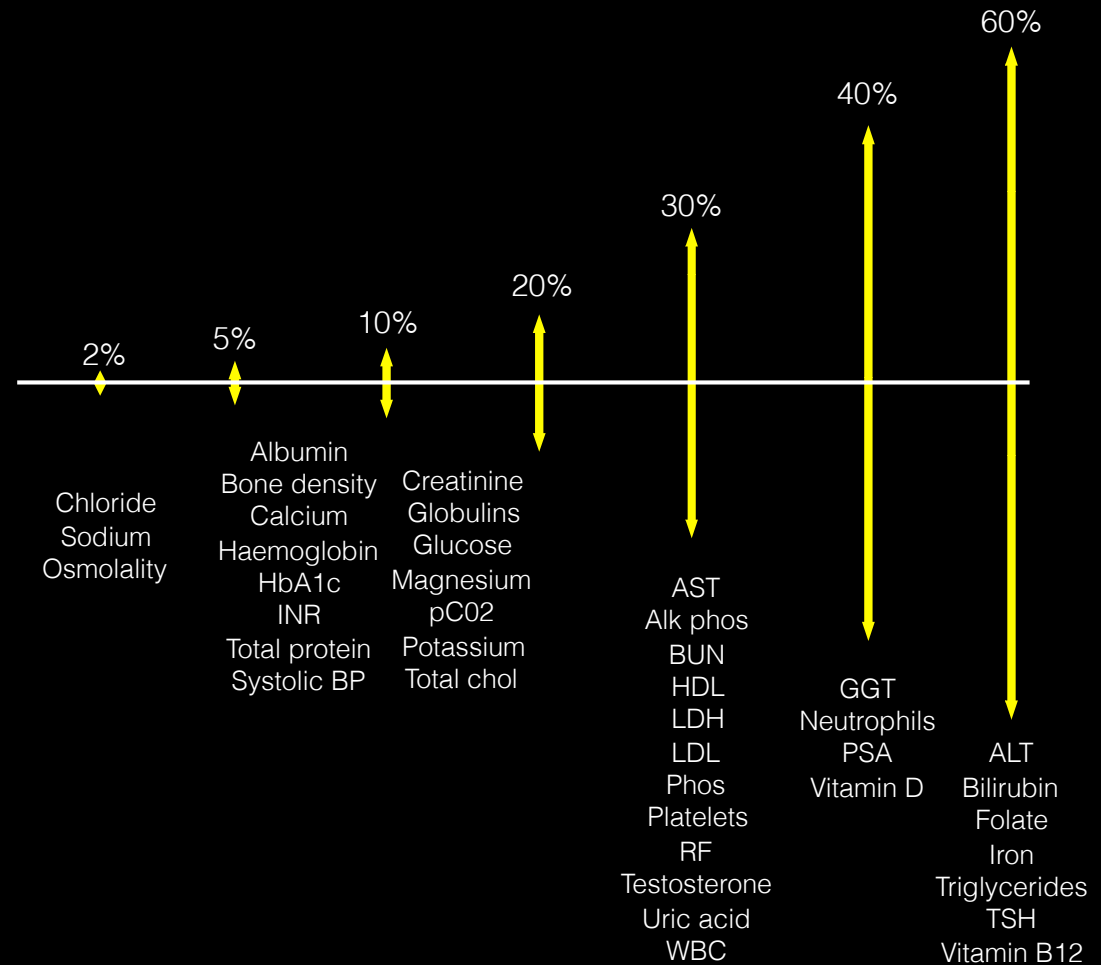


~WHAT CHANGE
IN HEIGHT CAN
YOU PICK UP IF
THE "HOM" RCV WAS...

RCV 2% - 5'11" - 6'1"
RCV 5% - 5'10" - 6'2"
RCV 10% - 5'9" - 6'3"
RCV 20% - 5'6" - 6'6"
RCV 30% - 5'0" - 7'0"
RCV 40% - 4'6" - 7'6"
RCV 60% - 4'0" - 8'0"



6'
TALL



It's all about the presentation



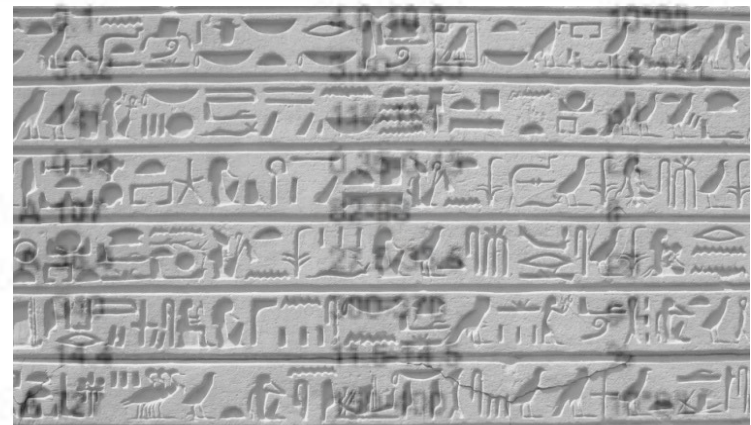
Close

☐ Show More Patient Details

Lab No:

| Reference Range | Units |
|-----------------|-------|
|-----------------|-------|

This Standing Order will expire on 25-JUN-2017. If this Standing Order is still required, please provide your patient with a new laboratory requisition prior to this date.



Patient Information Show More Patient Details

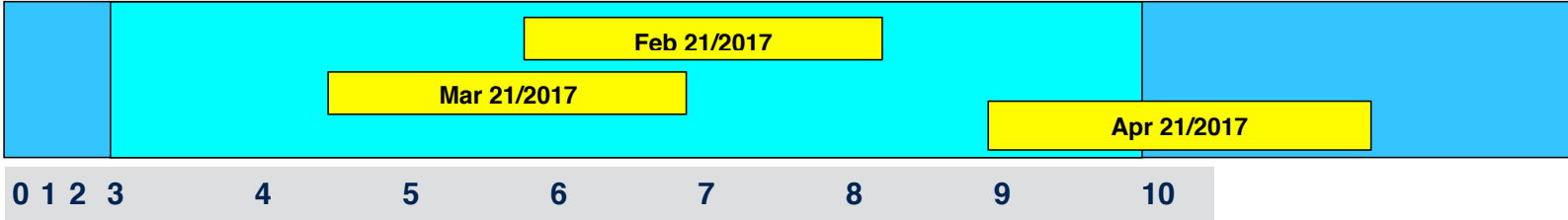
Patient: LLOYD, TESSA JANE ELSWITHA
PHN: [REDACTED] Phone: [REDACTED] Lab No: [REDACTED]

Flags Results Reference Range Units

General Comments Because of lab test and human variation, lab tests results can only be provided within a range

YOUR TRUE RESULTS ARE LIKELY SOMEWHERE IN THE RANGE INDICATED BY THE YELLOW STRIP

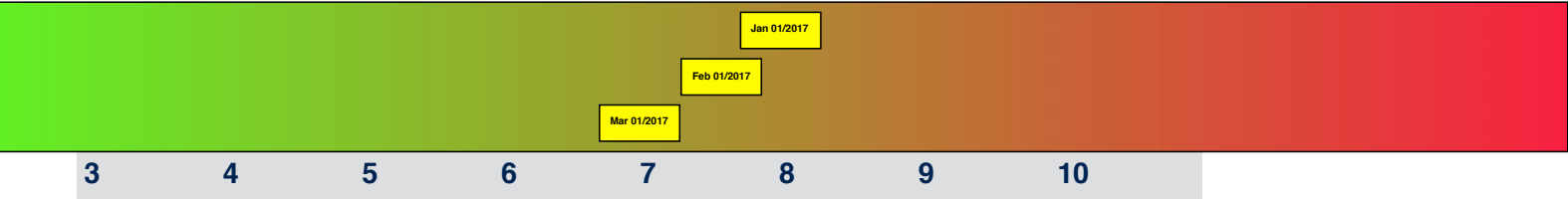
White blood cells



Potassium (mEq/L)



HbA1c (%)



95% of HEALTHY people have results somewhere in this range

5% of HEALTHY people have results somewhere in this range

There is no “normal/abnormal ”range - the higher the value the higher your CVD risk - discuss your risk with your HCP

DATE 1 DATE 2 Typically, if 2 test results from different times overlap we consider the results to not be different If they don't overlap then we likely think they have changed

Deals with the reference interval

Deals with the analytical and human variability

Deals with risk lab tests

DATE 1 DATE 2 OVERLAP Deals with reference change values



**When someone
does something
wrong, don't forget
all the things they
did right.**