

# Oxford Primary Care 2015

Cutting-edge research in the consulting room

18 May 2015  
@OxPrimaryCare



*National Institute for  
Health Research*

Clinical Research Network  
Thames Valley and South Midlands

In partnership with:



# Rapid Diagnostic Tests

**Dr. Annette Plüddemann**  
Director: Diagnostic Horizon Scan Programme

**18 May 2015**





6 March 2013 Last updated at 00:13

## Stomach cancer

By Michelle Roberts  
Health editor, BBC News online

**A quick and simple breath test to diagnose stomach cancer, studies reveal.**

Scientists from Israel and China found it was 90% accurate at detecting and distinguishing cancers from other stomach complaints in 130 patients.

The British Journal of Cancer says the test could revolutionise and speed up stomach cancer diagnosis.

About 7,000 UK people develop stomach cancer each year, many have an advanced stage of the disease.

Two-fifths of patients survive for at least five years, despite treatment.

Currently doctors diagnose stomach cancer by using a probe and a camera to look down the gullet.

The new test looks for chemical products in the breath of patients with stomach cancer.

### Volatile organic compounds

Cancer appears to give off a signal in the breath that can be detected and **perhaps even dogs**.

The science behind the test itself is still being worked on the possibility of...

17 January 2013 Last updated at 12:19

## Phone apps may delay skin cancer diagnosis

**Using a smartphone app to decide whether a mole is cancerous could delay sometimes life-saving treatment, according to American researchers.**

The University of Pittsburgh scientists put four applications to the test by showing them 188 pictures of cancers and less concerning skin conditions.

Three of the apps wrongly labelled the cancerous lesions as unproblematic in almost a third of cases.

Doctors warn using phones rather than seeking expert help could be harmful.

The research, published in the journal JAMA Dermatology, looked at four commonly used applications.

The images selected to test the apps were all of skin lesions that were later removed and checked for an accurate diagnosis.

Three of the apps analysed the pictures using automated algorithms, without the involvement of doctors.

But users submitting pictures to the fourth app had their images reviewed by a qualified skin specialist.

In this case only one out of 53 cancerous lesions was misdiagnosed, but this app cost \$5 (£3.10) per use.

Prof Laura Ferris, lead researcher of the study, said: "It is important that



Researchers say you must seek medical advice if you are concerned about a mole

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**'Drug holidays' beat cancer defence**

**▶ 'I got skin cancer in my 20s'**

**▶ Skin cancer: Mole warning signs**

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**Clegg: Rennard claims in background**

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### Features



**The skiing myth?**

Why do most people still not work from home?



**Holy graffiti**

The street artists let loose on a neo-Romanesque church



**Last chance saloon**

Are politicians doing enough to save Britain's pubs?



**Hair today...**

Why thieves in South Africa are stealing dreadlocks

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The myth of working from home

1

# What's out there?

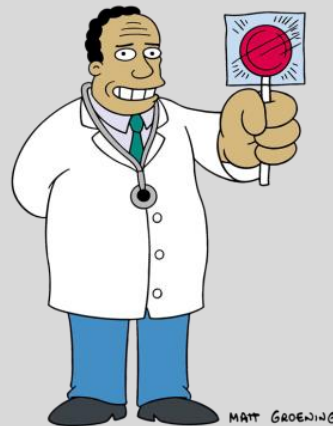
## Literature



## Meetings with Industry



## Ask clinicians



# Horizon scanning reports



Point-of-care tests for malaria

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**The Oxford Diagnostic Horizon Scan Programme identifies new and emerging diagnostic technologies relevant to primary care in the NHS.**

The horizon scanning reports summarise why the technology is important, provide an overview of the current available evidence and assess whether it could be adopted in the NHS and if so, what the requirements are for the delivery of the technology into practice.

These **reports are freely accessible** and disseminated to the NIHR Health Technology Assessment Programme (HTA), the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) and commissioners of health care services to facilitate adoption and identify further research requirements.

We are funded by the **National Institute for Health Research** (NIHR) and collaborate with the Health Economics Research Centre at Oxford University.

**[Find out more about our research](#)**



# What is the evidence?

- Is it accurate (enough)?
- Is it feasible and who would use it?  
e.g. GP, nurse, patient...
- Will it change practice? e.g. Does it help decision making, reduce referrals, etc.?
- How do patients/doctors feel about using it?
- Is it cost effective?







# Self-monitoring of INR

## ✓ **Accuracy:**

Systematic review of the accuracy of 3 commonly available point-of-care coagulometers: accuracy is comparable to laboratory measures and adequate for clinical use



## ✓ **Clinical impact:**

Systematic reviews including individual patient data analyses (over 5000 patients)

❖ Self-management (i.e. self-testing and self-adjusting warfarin) – reduces thromboembolic events (RR = 0.47) and all-cause mortality (RR = 0.55) but no effect on major bleeds

❖ Self-monitoring (i.e. self-testing and warfarin adjustment by clinician) – significant reduction in thromboembolic events (HR = 0.51), but not for major bleeds or death

## ✓ **Patient acceptability:**

UK trials suggest 24% of patients would agree to carry out self-monitoring, of which 70% could be successfully trained and would be able to do so



## What do the guidelines say?

### The 2014 NICE guideline on self-monitoring coagulation status (DG14):

“In patients with AF who require long-term anticoagulation, self-monitoring should be considered if preferred by the patient and the following criteria are met:

- *the **patient** is both physically and cognitively **able** to perform the self-monitoring test, or in those cases where the patient is not physically or cognitively able to perform self-monitoring, a designated carer is able to do so*
- *an **adequate supportive educational programme** is in place to train patients and/or carers*
- *the patient’s ability to self-manage is **regularly reviewed***
- *the **equipment** for self-monitoring is **regularly checked** via a quality control programme.”*

## What is currently happening?

Recent data from the Churchill Hospital in Oxford:

160 “self-testers” (out of about 8,500 patients) but none who self-manage

D. Keeling, personal communication

## Bottom line?



- ❖ Patients who self-monitor or self-manage can improve the quality of their warfarin therapy
- ❖ Self-monitoring reduces the rate of clot-related events and is a safe option for suitable patients of all ages
- ❖ Patients should be offered the option to self-manage, with health-care support as back-up

# Point-of-care tests for coeliac disease



Enter keywords

Go



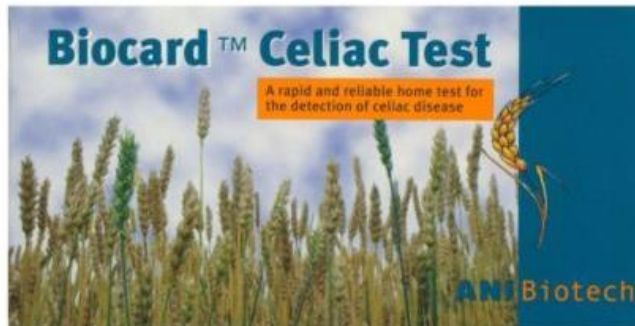
Prescriptions  
0 items / £00.00



Basket  
0 items / £00.00

pharmacy & health | beauty | fragrance | mother & baby | toiletries | men | electrical | photo | opticians | toys | gift | sun & holiday | offers

Home > Beauty > Electrical > Electrical Health > Screening kits > Biotech Biocard Celiac Test



## Biotech Biocard Celiac Test

5351065

**£20.42**

Collect in store

Home delivery

Quantity

Add

Check store availability

★★★★☆ (14) [Write a review](#)

Biotech Biocard Celiac Test is a rapid and reliable home test for the detection of celiac disease from a fingertip blood sample. Celiac disease is an intolerance to gluten.



✓ **Accuracy:**

- ❖ 5 case-control studies in biopsy-confirmed coeliac disease patients and lab controls
- ❖ Sensitivity 90%-97% and specificity 79%-100%
- ❖ No studies in primary care

✓ **Clinical impact:**

- ❖ Accuracy may be overestimated due to study design and selective populations
- ❖ Sensitivity in asymptomatic children was much lower (65-79%) – ability to rule out coeliac disease in children is reduced
- ❖ ~8% of coeliac disease patients are IgA deficient, test may give a false negative result
- ❖ Patients self-testing may begin gluten-free diets without confirmation testing or additional advice (and investigations for potential comorbid conditions)

✓ **Patient acceptability:**


- ❖ No research evidence
- ❖ Comments suggest they like the rapid and immediate result but some do have reservations regarding the accuracy

## What do the guidelines say?

### **The 2009 NICE guideline on coeliac disease (CG86):**

**Do not use** self-tests and/or point-of-care tests for coeliac disease as a substitute for laboratory-based testing. Patients with positive self- or POC-tests are sent for further serological testing.

## Bottom line?

- 
- ❖ The evidence for point-of-care tests is limited
  - ❖ In the future they may be helpful in the diagnostic work-up of coeliac disease in primary care settings by increasing speed of results or access to testing in some settings, as sensitivity and specificity are comparable with laboratory-based serology. However, a negative result does not safely rule out coeliac disease

## Autoimmune markers for the diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis

### ✓ **Accuracy:**

Meta-analysis of the diagnostic accuracy of rheumatoid factor (50 studies) and anti-cyclic citrullinated peptide antibody (37 studies):

- ❖ RF: sensitivity 69%, specificity 85%
- ❖ ACPA: sensitivity 67%, specificity 95%
- ❖ Setting: Hospital arthritis clinics, no large studies based in primary care

### ✓ **Clinical impact:**

- ❖ 60–70% patients with RA have a positive RF, which is predictive of disease severity, but not useful for diagnosis
- ❖ Only 11–20% of people with musculoskeletal symptoms and a positive RF actually have RA
- ❖ Unclear whether adding ACPA to RF provides any added benefit
- ❖ No evidence to support use of RF or ACPA as diagnostic tests for RA in primary care



## What do the guidelines say?

### The 2009 NICE guideline on rheumatoid arthritis (CG79):

- “Refer for specialist opinion any person with **suspected persistent synovitis of undetermined cause**. Refer urgently if any of the following apply:
  - the small joints of the hands or feet are affected
  - more than one joint is affected
  - there has been a delay of 3 months or longer between onset of symptoms and seeking medical advice.
  
- Refer urgently any person with suspected persistent synovitis of undetermined cause, **even if their blood tests show a normal acute-phase response or negative rheumatoid factor.**”


## What is currently happening?

Cohort study and retrospective analysis of RF requests made to hospital immunology lab between 2003 and 2009:

- 67% of requests were from primary care
- substantial variation between practices

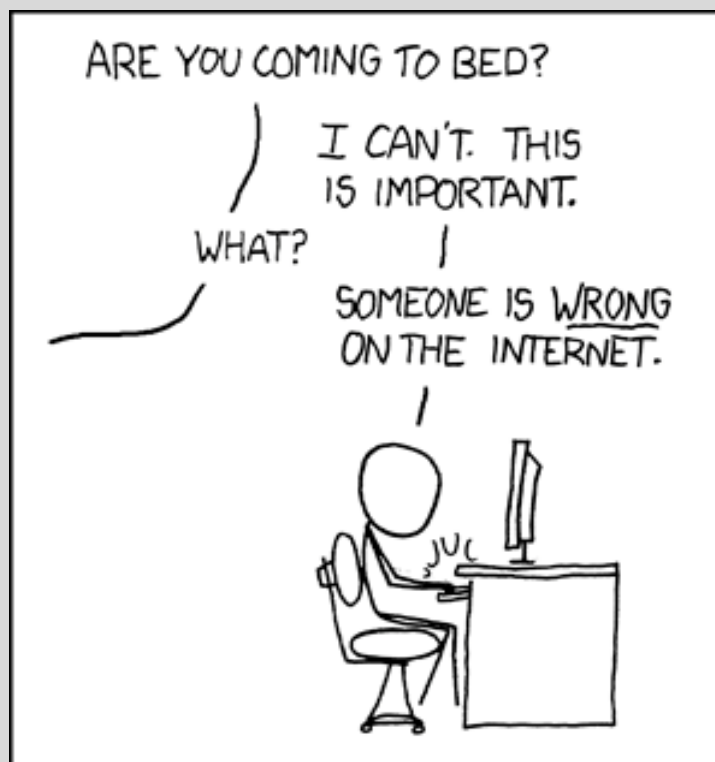
From: Is rheumatoid factor useful in primary care? A retrospective cross-sectional study (2013) <http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10067-013-2236-0/fulltext.html>

## Bottom line?

- 
- ❖ Role of RF in diagnosing RA in primary care remains unclear
  - ❖ Newer tests (e.g. ACPA), are emerging with higher specificity and positive predictive values, but similar sensitivity
  - ❖ Currently GPs should base diagnostic and referral decisions on clinical features. A positive RF or ACPA has value in supporting these decisions, but a negative test does not rule out disease

**What is the ONE thing I need to remember from today?**

**Don't believe everything you are told,  
Ask for the Evidence!**





**If you come across a new test or are thinking about implementation:**

Have a look at our website

<http://www.oxford.dec.nihr.ac.uk/>

If we haven't assessed it, please let us know about it!

[dec@phc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:dec@phc.ox.ac.uk)

# Point-of-care tests in airways disease

Dr Helen Ashdown. 18 May 2015  
GP and NIHR Doctoral Research Fellow



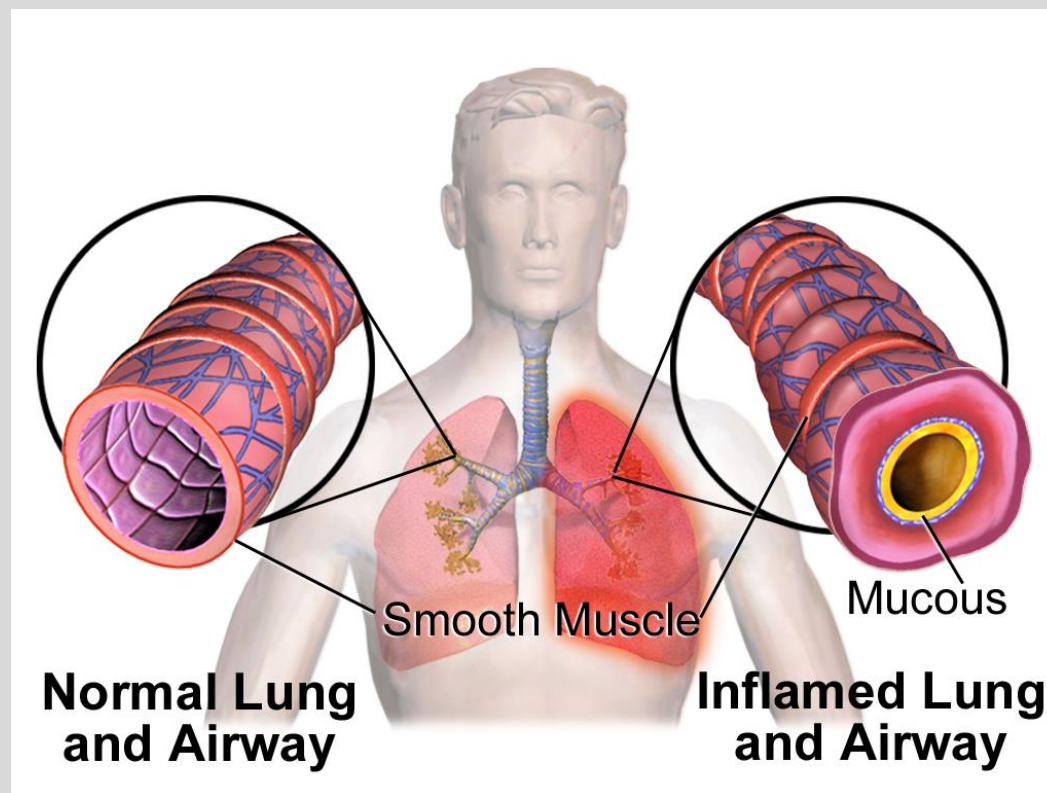
# Outline

- Eosinophils, FeNO and steroid responsiveness in asthma and COPD
- Immediate horizons: FeNO in asthma
- More distant horizons: Eosinophils in COPD
- Primary care studies on the horizon

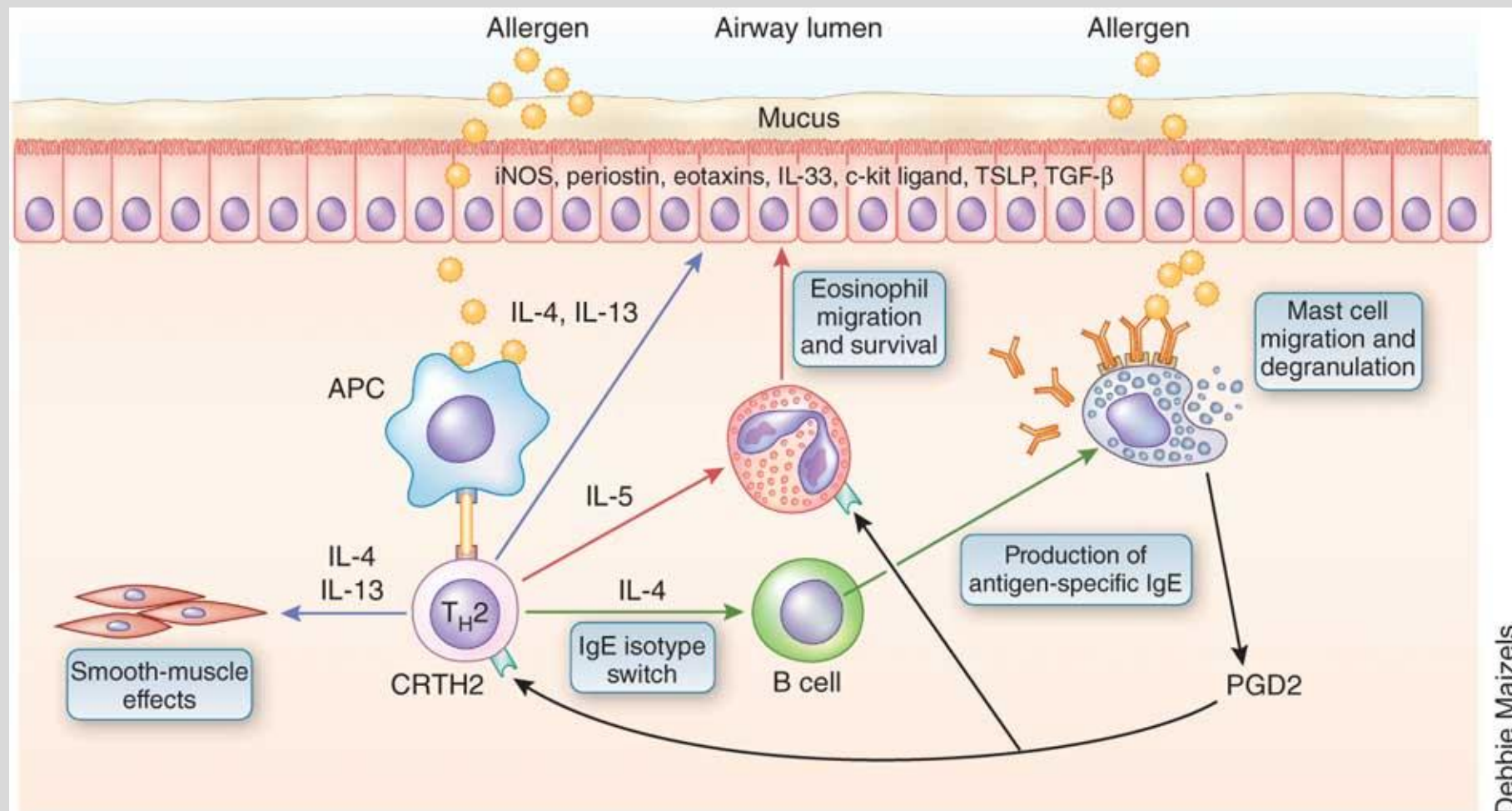


# Airways disease

- Inflammation and bronchoconstriction
- T<sub>H</sub>2-mediated
  - Eosinophils
  - Nitric oxide







Debbie Maizels

From: Wenzel, S.E. (2012). Asthma phenotypes: the evolution from clinical to molecular approaches. *Nature Medicine* **18**, 716–725.

- NO and eosinophils increased in airway
- Steroid treatment targets this T<sub>H</sub>2 response



# Steroid responsiveness

- Eosinophilic airway inflammation (NO, sputum and blood eosinophils) is a reliable predictor of response to steroids, regardless of underlying diagnostic label
- Management strategies which seek to minimize eosinophilic airway inflammation substantially reduce exacerbation frequency in asthma and COPD

# Over-diagnosis of asthma

- Non-specific symptoms – GORD, post-viral bronchial hyper-responsiveness, anxiety
- Trials of inhaled steroid treatment likely to be positive
  - Self-limiting
  - Fluctuation over time
  - Observer bias

# Immediate horizons: FeNO

- Portable easy-to-use breath test
- FeNO correlates with airway eosinophilic inflammation
- Reliably predicts response to steroids



# NICE

- Add-on test to diagnostic pathway
- Sensitivity ~80%, specificity ~90% (FeNO cut-off 40ppb vs. physician)
- £10-13 per use (£6.36 equipment cost)

## National Clinical Guideline Centre

Asthma

### Asthma

**Asthma: diagnosis and monitoring of asthma in adults, children and young people**

*Clinical guideline*

*Methods, evidence and recommendations*

*January 2015*

*Draft for Consultation*

*Commissioned by the National Institute for  
Health and Care Excellence*

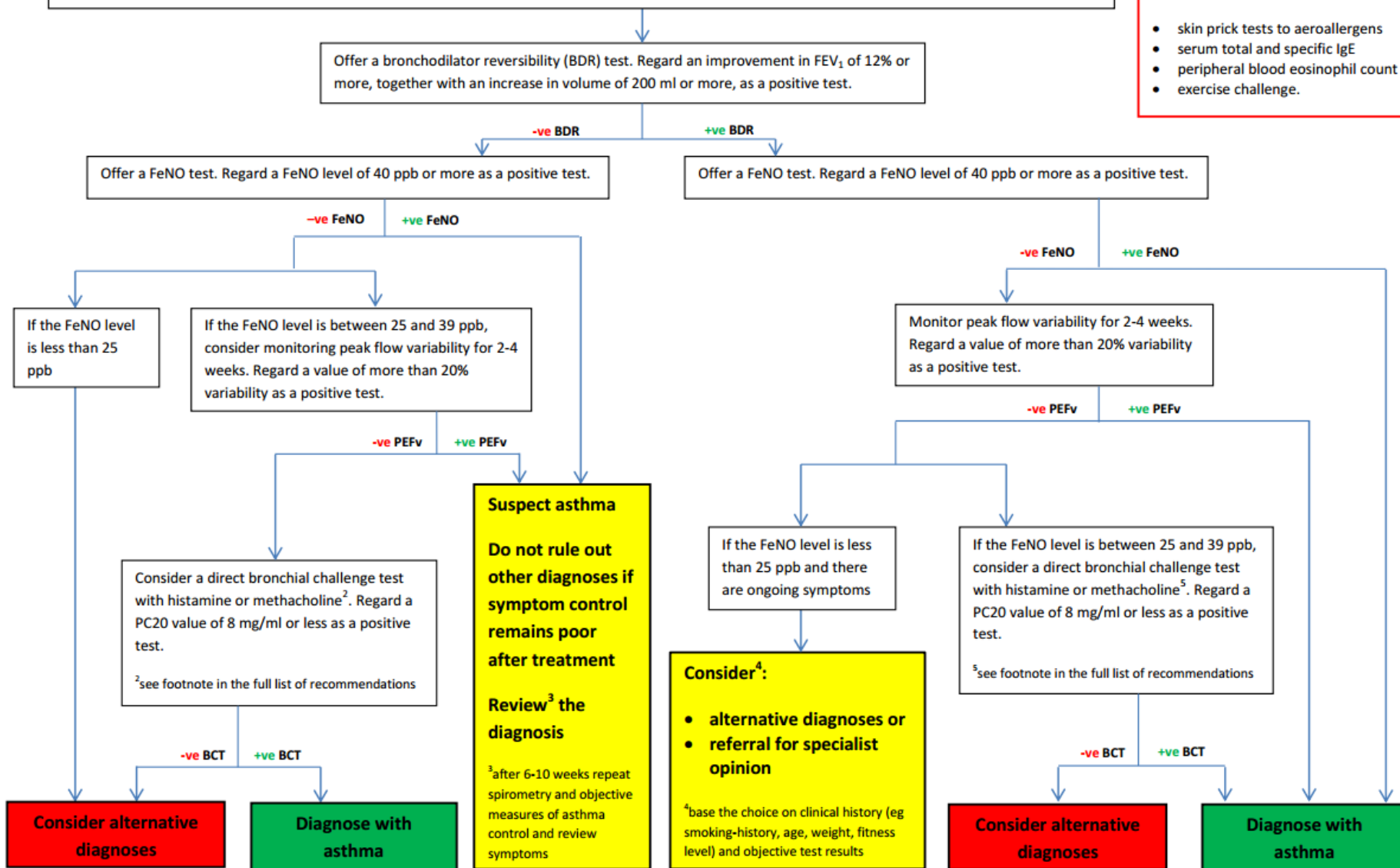


### Diagnostic algorithm B1 – objective tests for adults and young people older than 16 with obstructive spirometry

From diagnostic algorithm A: adults and young people older than 16 with obstructive spirometry (FEV<sub>1</sub>/FVC ratio less than 70%)

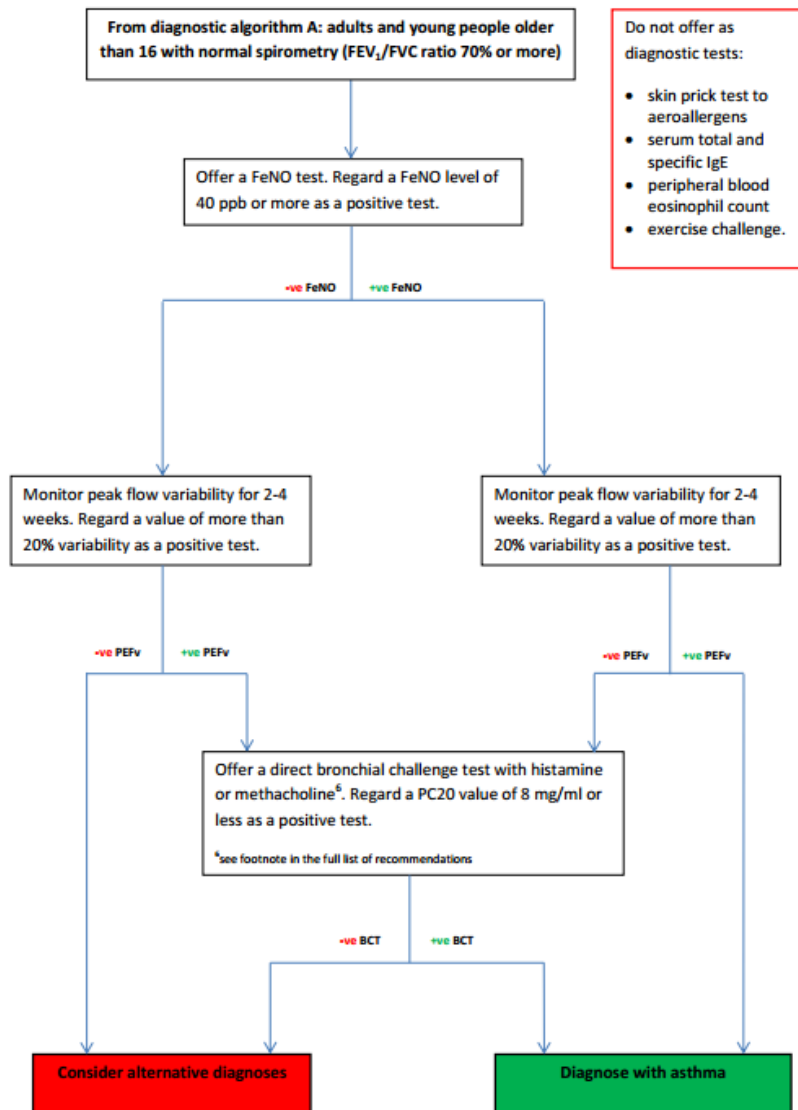
Do not offer as diagnostic tests:

- skin prick tests to aeroallergens
- serum total and specific IgE
- peripheral blood eosinophil count
- exercise challenge.





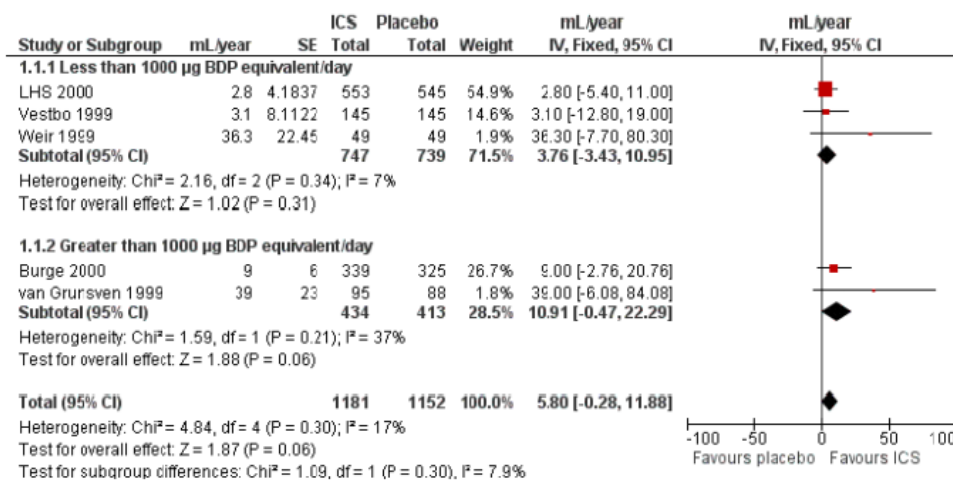
**Diagnostic algorithm B2 – objective tests for adults and young people older than 16 with normal spirometry**



# Distant horizons: COPD

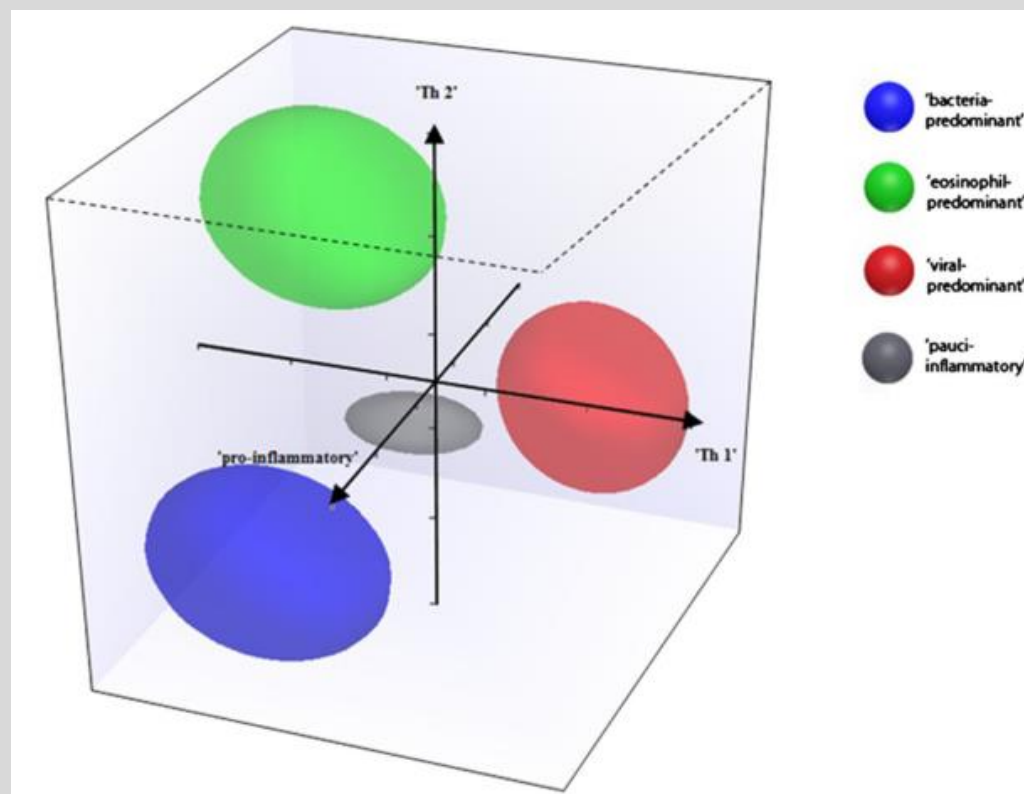
- Inhaled steroid treatment in asthma well-established
- Less consistent benefit in COPD

**Figure 2. Forest plot of rate of decline of post-bronchodilator FEV1 (mL/yr), using generic inverse variance analysis**

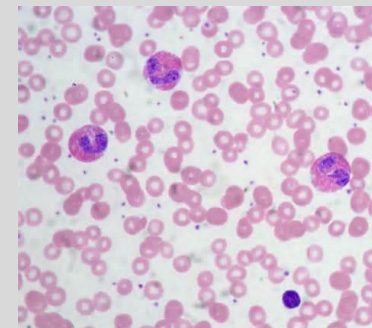


# Eosinophil subgroup in COPD

- $T_H2$ /eosinophil-predominant subgroup of COPD patients – blood and sputum
- May account for inconsistent response to steroids



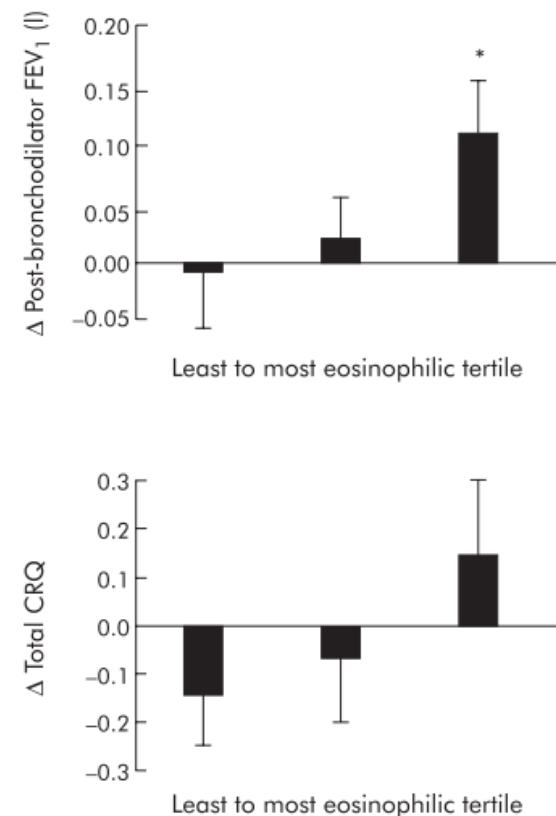
# COPD exacerbations



- RCT of eosinophil-directed vs. standard therapy with oral prednisolone
  - Blood eosinophils  $\leq$  or  $>2\%$
- Patients who were eosinophil-negative
  - More treatment failures when given steroids
  - Improved symptom scores when given placebo

# Long-term COPD

- Steroid treatment improved symptoms, lung function and quality of life scores in more 'eosinophilic' patients (sputum)
- Reduction in exacerbations when managed by sputum eosinophil count (Siva 2007)



**Figure 2** Mean (SE) absolute increase in post-bronchodilator forced expiratory volume in 1 second (FEV<sub>1</sub>) and total Chronic Respiratory Disease Questionnaire (CRQ) score after mometasone compared with placebo for each tertile. \* $p < 0.05$  (paired  $t$  test). There was improvement after mometasone compared with placebo in each group.



# Future questions

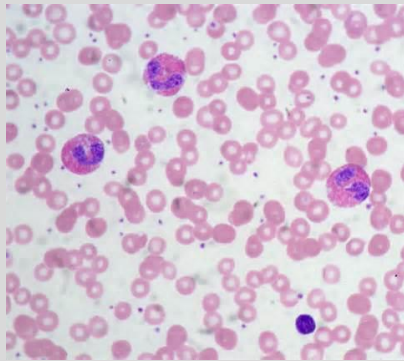
- Translating secondary care research into primary care setting – earlier disease/steroid-naïve
- POC blood eosinophils in exacerbations
- Long-term management in steroid-naïve patients
  - Blood eosinophils
  - FeNO



White cell count differential (eosinophils)

# Coming soon to Thames Valley...

- COPD exacerbations
  - RCT of point-of-care eosinophils and CRP to target antibiotics/steroids
  - RCT of point-of-care CRP testing to target antibiotic prescribing (PACE)
- Long-term COPD management
  - Establishing variability of FeNO and blood eosinophils in stable steroid-naïve patients



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