

COMMENT ON: HAEMATOLOGIST-REVIEWED PERIPHERAL BLOOD SMEAR IN PAEDIATRIC PRACTICE

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Dear Sir,

We read with interest the article titled 'Haematologist-reviewed peripheral blood smear (PBS) in paediatric practice'.⁽¹⁾ We would like to share our thoughts on Lee's observation that "*The practice of laboratory-initiated PBS review requires re-evaluation. Haematologist-reviewed PBS is an important diagnostic tool for children with anaemia, bleeding disorders and acute febrile illnesses.*"⁽¹⁾ Re-evaluation of the PBS should be done for any patient by the physicians who requested for the laboratory test. Nevertheless, the high workload sometimes results in the need for laboratory-initiated PBS review. In addition, haematologists may not be available in all hospitals. Doubtless, there might be discordance between the PBS interpretation of a haematologist and that of other medical personnel.

To help decrease the workload, there should be a system to increase the reliability of the laboratory-initiated PBS review. According to quality standards such as ISO 15189,⁽²⁾ regular proficiency testing and continuous education are required to guarantee the efficacy of the laboratory clinical technician who performs the laboratory-initiated PBS review. Lee's observation might have arisen due to the lack of a good system for verifying the reliability of the laboratory-initiated PBS review in the study's setting.

Yours sincerely,

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