ANA screen update – December 2019

As part of an instrumentation upgrade in the laboratory we will now be performing ANA screens on HEp2 cells rather than HEp2000 cells. This is effective from 16th December 2019.

- Unlike HEP2000, HEP2 cells do not over-express Ro antigen so a very small number of Ro positive patients may not be picked up by the new ANA test. Therefore in ANA negative patients with a strong clinical indication for Ro positive disease eg neonatal lupus, ENA antibodies should also be requested.
- We vet ENA requests so are dependent upon appropriate clinical details being provided on request forms.
- The change in analyser will be highlighted on all reports.

We have also changed our ANA screening dilution from 1/40 to 1/80 as of 16th December 2019.

- This will reduce detection of very weak positive 1/40 ANAs that are not clinically relevant and often lead to unnecessary rheumatology referrals.
- The reporting of ANA titrations will change: you will see 1/80 titres being reported but will not see any 1/40 titres. The 1/160, 1/640, 1/2560 titres remain unchanged.
- Test requesting and sample requirements are unchanged.

Please contact the laboratory (0141 347 8872) if you have any queries or would like to discuss these updates.