24/5/2015

Editors

Asian Journal of Medical Sciences

Dear Editors

Submission of manuscript entitled “TSPOT.TB assay and Tuberculin Skin Test for diagnosis and screening of tuberculosis: First report in a Sri Lankan population” for consideration for publication

I herewith submit this manuscript authored by CN Ratnatunga, V Thevanesam, D Medagedara, NLA Dissanayaka and KGRA Kumara for consideration for publication in your journal on behalf of all authors.

The IGRAs are available in the private sector hospitals and laboratories in Sri Lanka. No study on their use in the local setting has been done to date. This manuscript represents the first systematic study data from Sri Lanka, and shows that contrary to popular belief here, the IGRAs are not superior to the TST in this setting. In addition costs are high and indeterminate results are a problem.

Although similar work has been done in many countries, we hope that you will consider publishing this article as the results we present are important from both a patient perspective (where unnecessary investigations are being ordered at high cost) and from the point of view of providing local physicians with solid data that shows the IGRAs are of no additional value.

I confirm that all authors have seen and approved the content of the manuscript and have significantly contributed to the work. I confirm that this manuscript has not been submitted or been accepted for publication elsewhere.

Upon acceptance by Asian Journal of Medical Sciences, all copyright ownership for the article is transferred to Asian Journal of Medical Sciences. We, the undersigned co-authors of this article, have contributed significantly to and share in the responsibility for above. The undersigned stipulate that the material submitted to Asian Journal of Medical Sciences is new, original and has not been submitted to another publication for concurrent consideration.

We also attest that any human and /or animal studies undertaken as part of the research from which this manuscript was derived are in compliance with regulation of our institution(s) and with generally accepted guidelines governing such work.

We further attest that we have herein disclosed any and all financial or other relationships which could be construed as a conflict of interest and that all sources of financial support for this study have been disclosed and are indicated in the acknowledgement. This statement must be signed by all the major co-authors.

A part of these results were presented as an abstract at the Asia Pacific Society for Respirogoloy Annual Congress 2014 held in Bali.

I would be very grateful if you would consider this manuscript for publication in your Journal.

Thank you very much.

Best regards

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