Letter to the Editor

Response to the editor: Limitations of the Hoffmann method for establishing reference intervals using clinical laboratory data

To the Editor,

We appreciate the valuable comments from the reviewer, editor, and Professor Holmes.

We agree with Professor Holmes that Hoffmann prepared a cumulative distribution function plot in normal probability space as evidenced by the linear spacing of the cumulative percentages on the x-axis in 1963 [1]. Our study explained the limitations of the method described by Katayev et al. [2] in 2010 for determining reference intervals based on data from a hospital laboratory database. In 2015, they described the use of the linear scale as the "Computerized modified Hoffman method" [3]. The figure in our original paper showed the use of a linear scale for the cumulative frequency not the normal probability scale used by Hoffman giving the expected sigmoid curve rather than linear [4].

Declarations of interest

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this article.

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