

Declaration

Ethics approval and consent to participate

The study was carried out according to the Declaration of Helsinki and the NHS Data Protection Act. As stated above the study was a method development and did not involve randomization or selected treatment of individuals. It followed the NHS data protection policy (<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/data-protection-policy/>). It does not fall under 'requiring informed consent' and did not require patient consent as serum samples used were routine samples and the requirement for consent as well research and ethics requirement was waived by the Research and Ethics Committee of the Worcester Acute Hospitals NHS Trust. The study follows all protocols required under the data protection act and all data is anonymous. The study protocol was approved by the Research and Ethics Committee of the Worcester Acute Hospitals NHS Trust