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JOURNAL ARTICLE

# The neglected laboratory test. The semen anal ysi s

A. P. Chong, C. A. Walters and S. A. Weinrieb

Sixty-four laboratories from Connecticut, Massachusetts, and California were involved in a comparison of the types of semen analyses offered. The collected data indicate that there is a wide range of normal values for each parameter considered in a semen analysis. Very few laboratories gave simple and precise instructions for collection of the specimen. In many instances there was no record of the collection time or of the arrival time of the specimen at the laboratory. Most laboratories did not report motility or forward progression at time intervals, and abnormal morphology was not broken

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down according to the types of abnormalities involved. These data indicate the absolute need for adequate standardization of this important test, which is the basis upon which the clinician makes the important decision of implicating the male partner in the couple's infertility problem.

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