

## **RefTweets – January 2024**

If patients have repeated full blood counts which describe platelet clumping, 'no platelet count' will be reported. Platelet clumping can lead to falsely low automated platelet counts. Know more about reasons for clumping & guidance on management here:

<https://apps.nhslothian.scot/refhelp/guidelines/haematology/platelet-clumping/>

RefHelp's STI section updated. The main page provides an overview of the service, clinics, testing, vaccinations, referral guidelines and much more. Detailed info here:

<https://apps.nhslothian.scot/refhelp/guidelines/sexualreprohealth/sexuallytransmittedinfectionssti/>

Please see indications for prophylactic oral antiviral treatment for patients with recurrent oral HSV infection here: <https://apps.nhslothian.scot/refhelp/guidelines/infectiousdiseases/recurrent-oral-herpes-simplex-virus-hsv-infection/> Also included referral information for atypical or unexplained persistent ulcerated oral lesions.

New RefHelp page on gastrointestinal worms & parasites. A number of these pathogens are geographically restricted, therefore an accurate travel history is of paramount importance when assessing patients with suspected infection. More details here:

<https://apps.nhslothian.scot/refhelp/guidelines/infectiousdiseases/gastrointestinal-worms-and-parasites/>

Please note schistosomal serology takes at least 8 weeks to become positive after exposure; please do not send samples before this stage. More details about the condition, assessment, management, and referral guidelines on the Schistosomiasis page:

<https://apps.nhslothian.scot/refhelp/guidelines/infectiousdiseases/schistosomiasis/>

Useful information on Lyme's Disease outlining the three stages, scenario based guidance for serology testing, treatment and specialist advice or referral. Check out the guidelines here and a PIL included too! <https://apps.nhslothian.scot/refhelp/guidelines/infectiousdiseases/lyme-disease/>

New RefHelp Page on Sexual Assault Response Coordination Service outlining the referral guidelines, timeframe for obtaining samples, and useful resources. Please note for people below 16 years child protection protocol needs to be followed. More info here:

<https://apps.nhslothian.scot/refhelp/sexual-assault-response-coordination-service/>

New info on Scabies and Pubic lice including diagnosis, treatment and patient information here:

<https://apps.nhslothian.scot/refhelp/scabies-and-pubic-lice/>

Clearly outlined clinical management pathway for Recurrent Herpes Simplex:

<https://apps.nhslothian.scot/refhelp/guidelines/sexualreprohealth/sexuallytransmittedinfectionssti/recurrent-genital-herpes-simplex/> Useful Patient information leaflet included too!

Helpful symptom based guidance on female genital skin conditions and its management including advice leaflet on female genital skin washing:

<https://apps.nhslothian.scot/refhelp/guidelines/sexualreprohealth/genital-skin-conditions/female-genital-skin-symptoms/>

Vaginal discharge in patient over 25 years? Always check cervical cytology is normal and up-to-date. More info on GP management and advice leaflets here:

<https://apps.nhslothian.scot/refhelp/guidelines/gynaecology/vaginaldischarge-vulvitis/>

PrePare is a pregnancy support service which covers Edinburgh City offering support to currently pregnant women (>16yrs) chaotically using substances and have difficulties engaging with community services. Detailed service and referral information here:

<https://apps.nhslothian.scot/refhelp/prepare-service-edinburgh/>

New info on assessment, treatment, and indications for specialist review of paediatric benign oral lesions such as geographic tongue and oral pigmentation now added to RefHelp's GI/Dentistry section. Important PILs included! <https://apps.nhslothian.scot/refhelp/benign-oral-lesions-paediatric/>