



Public Health  
England

**NHS**

# Grading quality in your programme

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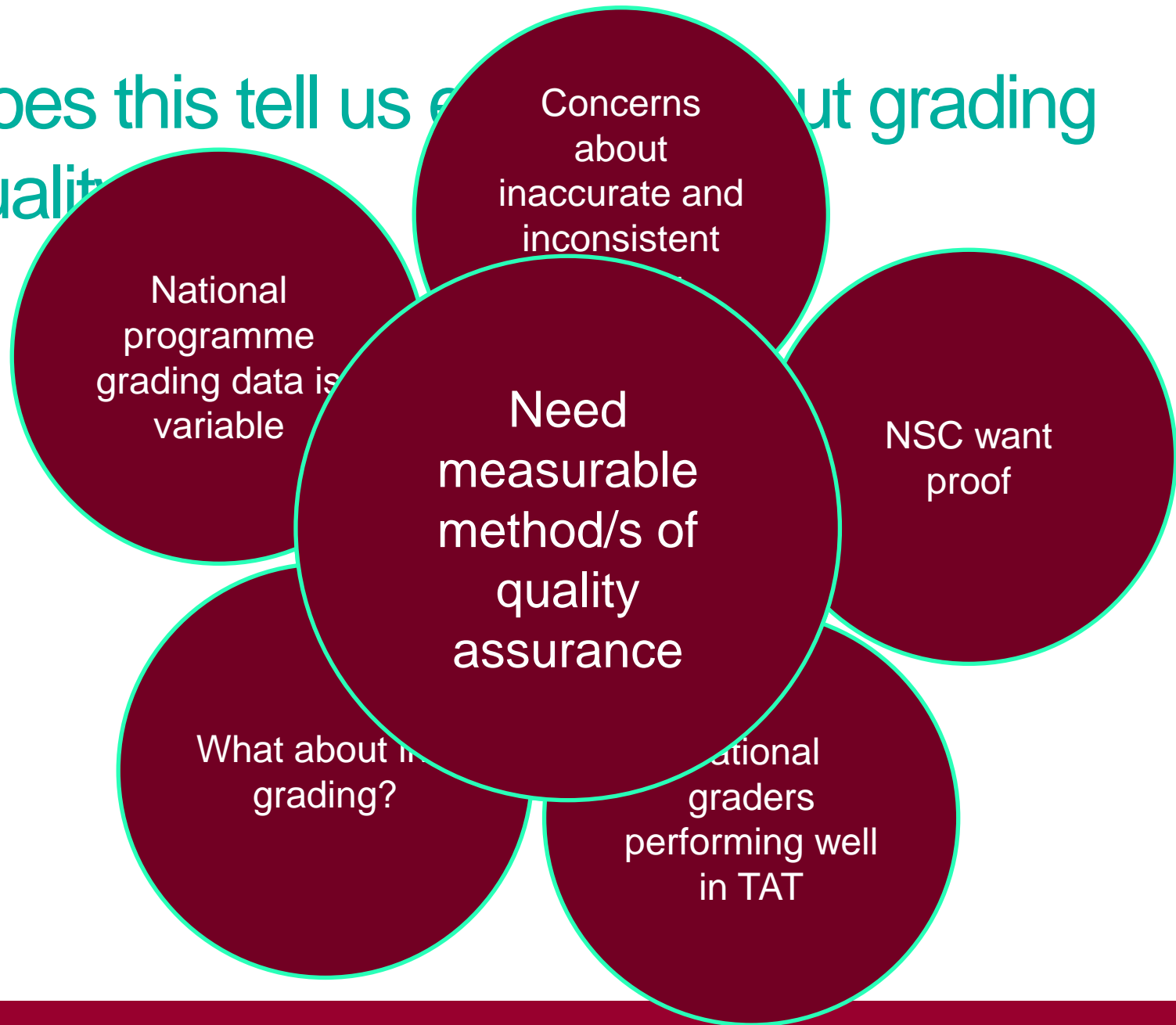
# Aim

- look at current processes we use to measure grading quality
- discuss variances in national grading data
- give a brief insight into current national grading quality projects

# Current processes we use to check quality:

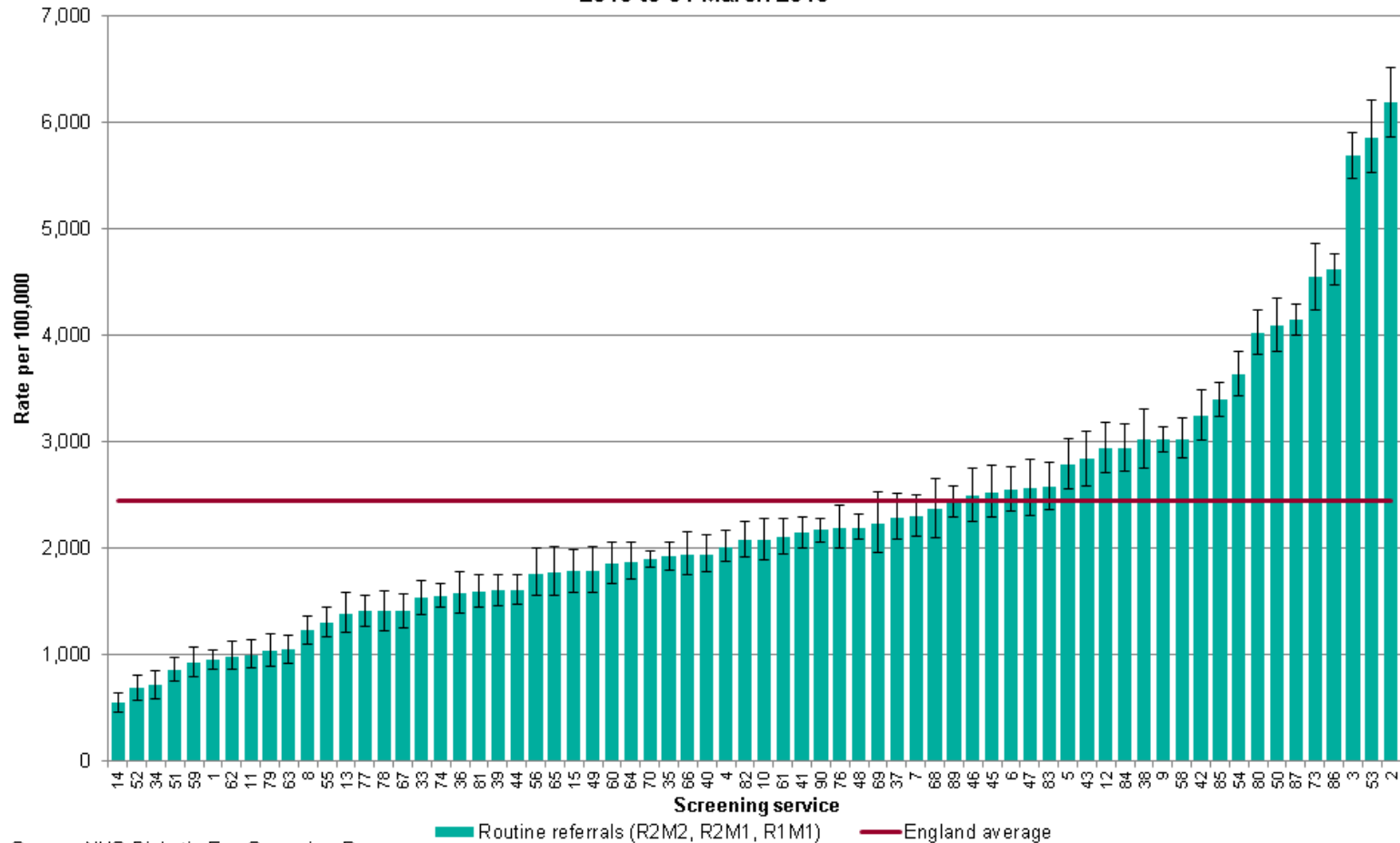
- complying with the service specification
- meeting the pathway standards
- KPI reporting
- complying with the test and training (TAT) guidance

# Does this tell us enough about grading quality?



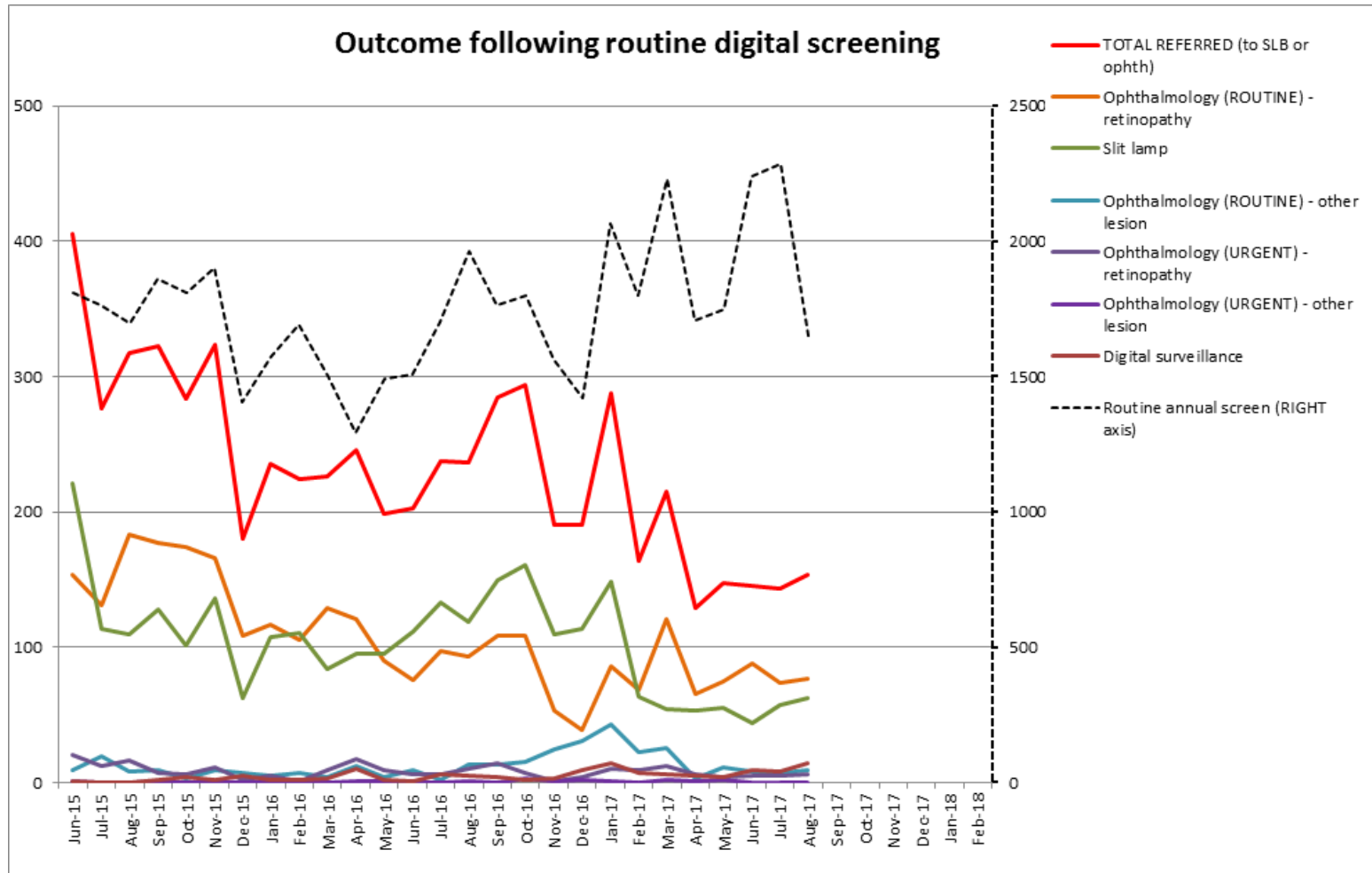
# What variance are we seeing?

Rate of routine referrals (R2M2, R2M1, R1M1) per 100,000 screens by screening service, 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016



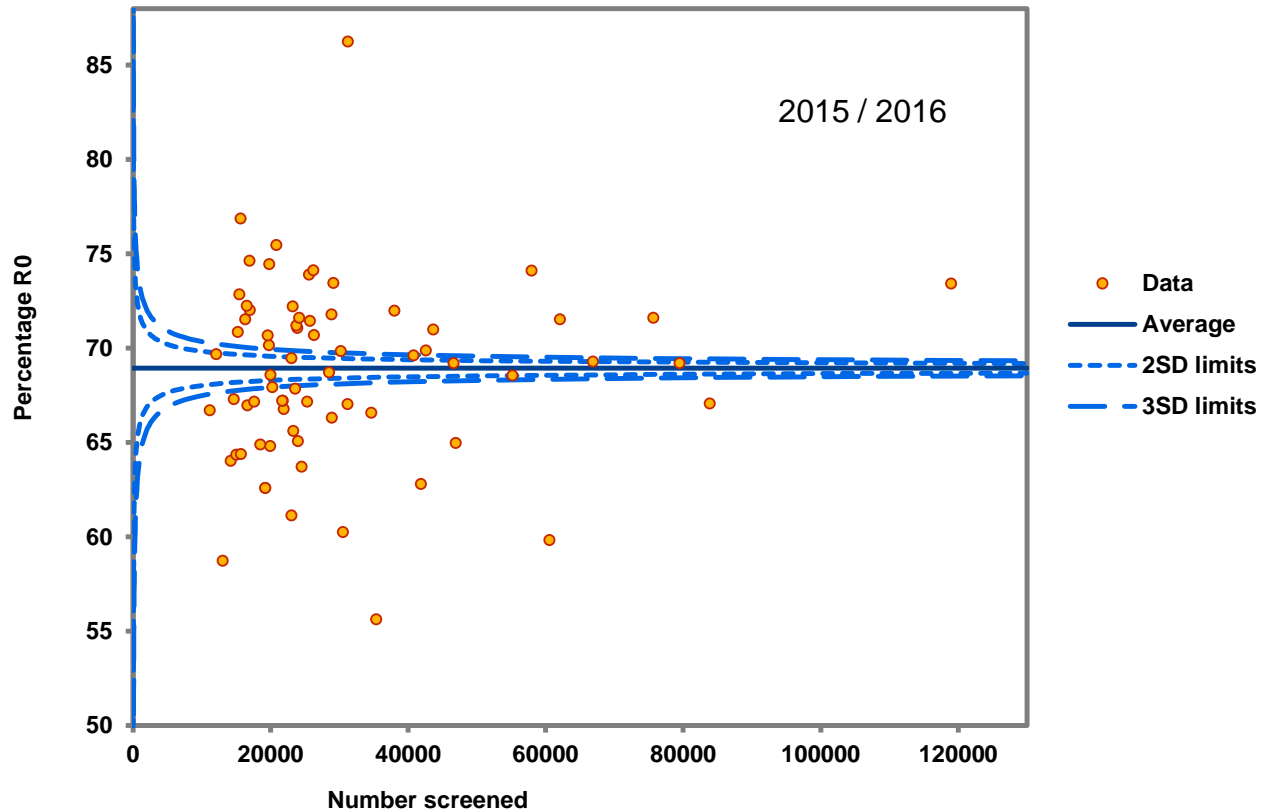
Source: NHS Diabetic Eye Screening Programme

# Programme 2



# What variance are we seeing?

Percentage of eligible patients screened with an R0M0 grade



# Grading projects – QA audits

- NDESP want to use validated measures to prove that local programmes are grading to a consistent high quality and to help drive up quality where needed
- We recruited 11 local programmes to help us look at ways to do this
- The programmes extracted specific grading data which was analysed by a statistician
- This analysis showed there was significant variation among programmes in the progression from no disease to referable disease grades between 2 screening events
- The 11 programmes are doing a standardised audit by reviewing a number of cases to check the accuracy of their grading, and if any action is needed to improve their grading



# Grading projects – automation as a QA tool

- We want to find out why the proportion of images graded R0M0 varies from 55% to 86%
- We are making progress in our plans to use automated grading to check the quality of grading at this level. This will tell us whether or not a local programme needs to review and improve its grading quality
- We suggest all local screening programmes think more about the R0 / R1 threshold and make sure graders are not regularly missing early disease

# Why is this important now?

- National Screening Committee (NSC) agreed to support extended screening intervals
- Health Technology Assessment (HTA) study showed low risk patients (R0M0 both eyes for 2 consecutive years) can be screened 2 yearly

## HTA showed:

- the risk of future referral to ophthalmology for patients with no diabetic retinopathy at baseline after two screening episodes with no diabetic retinopathy was low, ranging from 0.3% to 1.3% at 2 years
- the risk of future referral to ophthalmology for patients with R1 in one eye at baseline was ranged from 2% to 9% at 2 years
- the risk of future referral to ophthalmology for patients with R1 in both eyes at baseline was very high, ranging from 13% to 29% at 2 years
- NSC need the assurance that programmes are grading to national standard



# Your grading quality matters

- Know your data
- Compare your data with other screening programmes
- Is this what you expected to find?
- Explain why you think your data is different
- If you can't explain it – ask for help
- Plan regular specific audits of grading to check your quality and drive up quality where needed

[GOV.UK > Diabetic eye screening: commission and provide > DES: data and research](#)





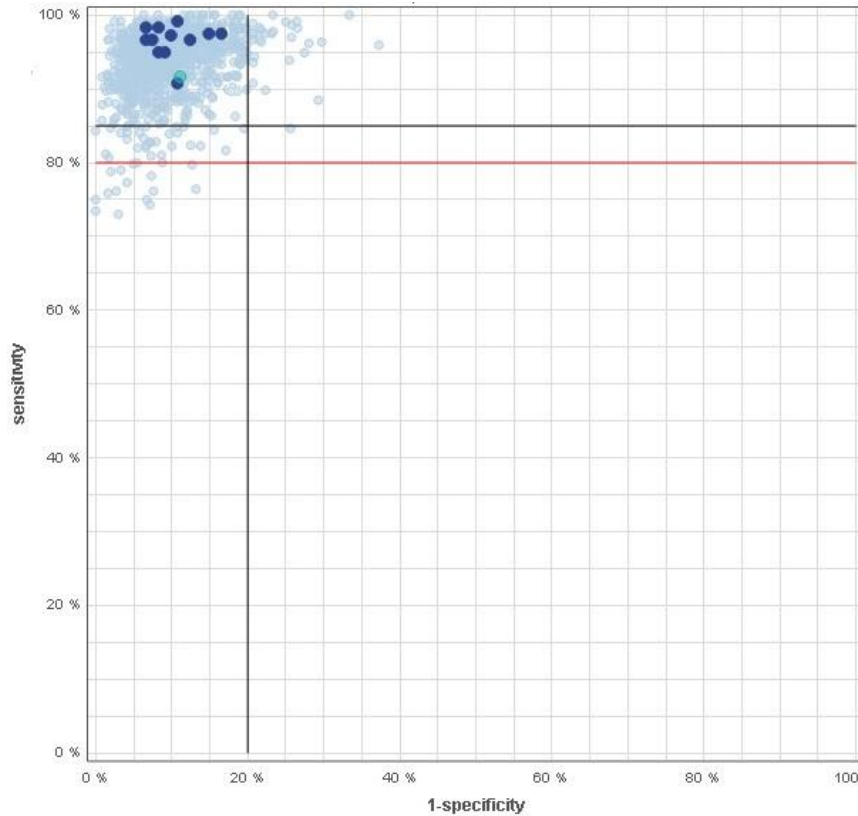
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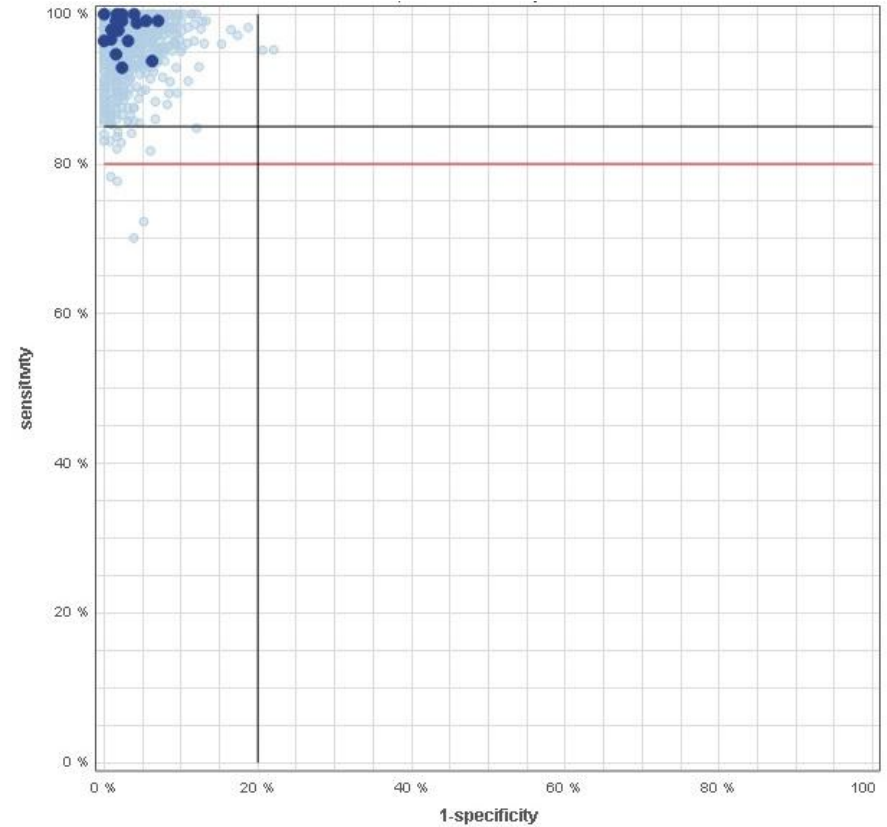
Thank you



# Sensitivity / specificity to referable disease in the TAT



*January 2015 - December 2015*



*September 2016 – August 2017*



## Percentage of ROM0 images Q2 2016\_17

