

The following Letter to the Editor, JAMA [Vol 248 No.7, p 831, 1982] illustrates why consistency is a prerequisite for accuracy ...

### The "Drano Test"

To the Editor - During the past several years, we have been asked frequently to do the "Drano test" to determine the sex of an unborn baby. It has been published in the lay press that this is a reliable means of sex determination. A Medline search failed to reveal anything in the medical literature concerning the Drano test. As a result, we performed the test in 100 consecutive pregnant women, checking monthly during the last trimester. The test was done by adding a small amount of crystal Drano to approximately 2 mL of urine, agitating, and interpreting results in one minute's time. Reportedly, the color green indicates a male baby, and yellow to amber indicates a female. Of the 100 patients, 21 failed to have the same color change consistently. Of the babies born to these 21, eleven were girls and ten were boys. Of the remaining 79, we were right in sex determination of 37; of these, there were 20 girls and 17 boys. We were wrong in 42 predictions; of these, there were 22 girls and 20 boys. From this brief study, it would appear that the Drano test for antenatal sex determination is roughly equivalent to flipping a coin.

Robert M Fowler MD University of Wyoming Casper

#### Summary of data:

		Prediction			TOTAL
		<u>Inconsistent</u>	<u>Girl</u>	<u>Boy</u>	
"T R U T H"	GIRL	11	20	22	53
	BOY	<u>10</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>47</u>
		21	40	39	100