

FACT SHEET

QuantiFERON- TB PLUS

Test 8800

Test Description:

QuantiFERON PLUS test is a whole blood assay for the detection of latent and active tuberculosis, that has replaced the QuantiFERON PLUS ®-TB Gold In-Tube test . This test offers high specificity and enhanced sensitivity using genomic technology to provide a result unaffected by subjective interpretation, previous BCG vaccination, and cross-reactivity with most other mycobacteria. QuantiFERON PLUS is highly specific and a positive test result is strongly predictive of true infection with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*.

Blood samples are mixed with antigens (substances that can produce an immune response) and controls. For QFT-PLUS two antigen preparation include mixtures of synthetic peptides representing two *M. tuberculosis* proteins, ESAT-6 and CFP-10. After incubation of the blood with antigens for 16-24 hours, the amount of interferon-gamma (IFN-gamma) is measured. If the patient is infected with *M. tuberculosis*, their white blood cells will release IFN-gamma in response to contact with the TB antigens.

- Eliminates false positive outcomes due to bacille Calmette-Guerin (BCG) vaccination and most non-tuberculosis mycobacteria.
- Unlike the tuberculin skin testing, it requires only one patient visit for a blood draw. Tuberculin skin tests require 2 visits.
- Results can be available within 24 hours.
- The CDC has published Interferon Gamma Release Assay guidance (MMWR June , 2010) indicating the QuantiFERON test should be used in most situations where the traditional tuberculin skin test (TST) has been used.
- Blood samples must be protected from temperature extremes and be processed within 16 hours after collection while white cells are still viable.

Sensitivity: 81-90%

Specificity: 95-99% Infections caused by *M.kansasii*, *M szulgai* or *M. marinum* are likely to result in a positive Quantiferon test.

Specimen:

Special four tube collection kit (1 mL whole blood per tube). Kits provided by the Public Health Laboratory. Blood collection set must be received by the laboratory in 16 hrs or less.

CPT CODE : 86480



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