



# **TB Screening & Testing**

Ellen Elmore, MD

June 5, 2024

Comprehensive TB Nurse Case Management

June 5 – June 6, 2024

San Antonio, Texas

**Ellen Elmore, MD** has the following disclosures to make:

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- No conflict of interests
- No relevant financial relationships with any commercial companies pertaining to this educational activity





# TB Screening & Testing

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JUNE 5, 2024

Ellen Elmore MD



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WHY

WHO

WHEN

WHAT

!

## THE TB SCREENING PROCESS

?

WHY

WHO

WHEN

?

## THE TB SCREENING PROCESS

### Objective #1

WHY do we screen?

WHO do we screen?

WHEN do we screen?



WHAT

& WHO #2  
(yes, who again)



## THE TB SCREENING PROCESS

### Objective #2

What are the TB screening methods?  
Describe the tests & the interpretation of those results for adults & children.

Who is at risk for developing TB disease from TB infection?

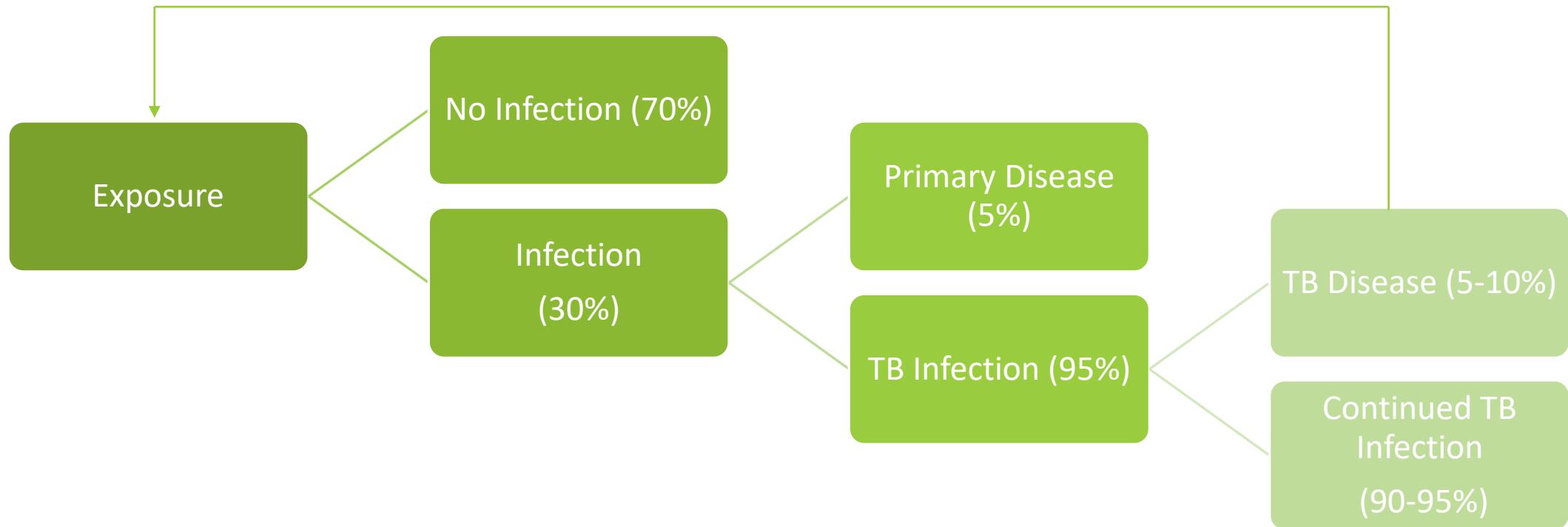
## *But first... what is TBI?*

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Tuberculosis infection is a state that is characterized by persistent immune response to stimulation by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (MTB) antigens with **no evidence of clinically manifest TB disease.**

# Exposure → Infection → Disease

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Reproduced from slides from Charles Daley, MD



# Why do we test for TB Infection (TBI)?

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## To Prevent TB Disease: Find TB Infection

The CDC estimates that up to 13 million persons in the US have TBI. Approx 5%–10% of those who remain untreated will develop TB disease at some point in their lifetime.

Efforts to eliminate TB in the US include:

- finding and treating persons with TB disease
- expanding LTBI testing and treatment to prevent progression to TB disease and
- addressing disparities among groups disproportionately experiencing impacts of TB.

Goal: achieve TB elimination in the United States (<1 case per million persons annually)

# The Burden of TB in the US & Globally

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USA: 13m TBI      8300 to 9600 TB disease      600 deaths

Global: 2billion TBI      10 million TB disease      1.6m deaths



# Who Should be Tested for TB Infection (TBI)?

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## Targeted Testing for TB Infection

The simplified version:

- People who are at increased risk for *M. tuberculosis* infection
- People at increased risk for progression to active disease if infected with *M. tuberculosis* (even if not at increased exposure risk)

Others who are frequently tested:

- People tested for administrative reasons (e.g., mandatory employment testing)
- People with symptoms of active TB disease (fever, night sweats, cough, and weight loss)

## RISK for INFECTION *PEOPLE*

## RISK for PROGRESSION *CONDITIONS*

Persons at increased risk for infection	Conditions that increase risk for progression
Contacts to active pulmonary or laryngeal TB*	Persons living with HIV
People from or with frequent travel to countries where TB is common	Children <5 years old
Employees or residents of high risk congregate settings	Injection drug users
Health care workers with increased risk for occupational exposure*	Persons who are immunocompromised from medical conditions or medications
Infants and children exposed to adults who at high risk for TB disease	Diabetes

A closer look  
**Contacts**  
**of**  
**Individuals**  
**with**  
**Active TB**

**CONTACTS:** Get CI involved asap!

Among close contacts to a TB Case:

- 30% have TB Infection
- 1-3% have TB disease

Without TB Infection treatment:

- 10% with TBI will develop TB disease
- Approximately 5% of contacts with newly acquired TBI progress to TB disease within 2 years
- The other 5% activate > 2 years after acquisition

Examination of contacts is **one of the most effective strategies** for TBI diagnosis and TB control!

A closer look  
**Risk**  
**of**  
**disease**  
**by Age,**  
**& HIV status**

Age at Infections	Risk of Active TB
Birth – 1 year*	43%
1 – 5 years*	24%
6 – 10 years*	2%
11 – 15 years*	16%
Healthy Adults	5-10% lifetime risk
HIV Infected Adults <sup>+</sup>	30-50% lifetime

\*Miller, Tuberculosis in Children Little Brown, Boston, 1963

<sup>+</sup>WHO, 2004

A closer look

**Also:**

**Younger =  
Higher risk**

**AND**

**Worse**

**Disease**

Age at Infection (years)	No Disease (%)	Intrathoracic TB (%)	TB Meningitis (%)
<1	50	30-40	10-20
1-<2	75-80	10-20	2.5
2-<5	95	5	0.5
5-10	98	2	<0.5
≥10	80-90	10-20	<0.5

*\*Adapted from Marais et al. The natural history of childhood intra-thoracic tuberculosis: a critical review of literature from the pre-chemotherapy area. Int J Tuberc Lung Dis. 2004; 8(4):392-402*

# Targeted Testing: Who else?

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## WE'VE COVERED

Contacts of persons with active TB

HIV positive individuals

Immigrants from high prevalence countries

Injection Drug Users

Residents and Employees of high risk congregate settings:

- Correctional facilities and Homeless Shelters
- Hospitals, Clinics, Nursing Homes, Substance Abuse Facilities

Children exposed to high-risk adults or environments

Patients considering treatment with TNF- $\alpha$  Antagonists

infected in last 2y

organ transplant

DM

<5yo

leukemia, lymphoma

immunosuppressive DO or therapy

Fibrotic lesion(s) on CXR

silicosis

CKD

Malnourishment

HEENT CA, lung CA



?

✓ WHY

✓ WHO

→ WHEN

WHAT

?

## THE TB SCREENING PROCESS

WHY?

To prevent TB disease

WHO?

People at high risk for exposure  
AND/OR

at risk for progression of TBI to TB  
disease

# When Should We Test for TB Infection (TBI)?

## As soon as we can!

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The simplified answer:

- As soon as you become aware of the person who is at increased risk
- Get them tested/advise them to get tested/talk to their doctor about getting them tested
- Educate the various facilities about the need to test their high-risk patients/clients tested

Think about World TB day announcements or Medical Society Letters and other opportunities to get the word out. Befriend a reporter at your local news station and let them know you are able to talk to them about TB screening. Be proactive! Get creative!

TB disease pts should be interviewed by CI asap, ideally before leaving the hospital/clinic, or wherever the dx is 1<sup>st</sup> made; for a number of reasons, including to get a contact list so they can identify high risk contacts right away to prioritize them to evaluation & testing. This is key!

# Where are our pts born?

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Among persons in the United States with active TB disease who were non-US born, the most common countries of birth were Mexico, the Philippines, India, Vietnam, and China. The TB incidence rates in 2020 in those countries were estimated by the World Health Organization to be:

Mexico: 24/100,000 (Medium)  
The Philippines: 539/100,000 (High)  
India: 188/100,000 (High)  
Vietnam: 176/100,000 (High)  
China: 59/100,000 (Medium)

**Persons who were born in, or resided in, these countries should be tested at least once regardless of how long they have resided in the United States. When? As soon as you find out it hasn't yet been done.**

That's WHY, WHO  
& WHEN! And  
now, the what!

Diagnostics:  
What do we  
have to test  
for TBI?

Two types of tests currently available  
– interferon-gamma release assays (IGRAs)  
and  
–the tuberculin skin test (TST) –

these are indirect tests and  
they require a competent immune response  
to identify people infected with MTB.

A positive test result by either method is not,  
by itself, a reliable indicator of the risk of  
progression to active disease.

# Which is better?

-both are indirect tests for immune sensitization

-both depend on the host immune response

- as for sensitivity and specificity ... well...

(hint: don't look for perfection; seek acceptance of what is)

## IGRA



## or TST

# there is no gold standard test

## The TST

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intradermal injection of purified protein derivative (PPD)

PPD tuberculin solution contains dozens of TB antigens

composition varies among batches

many of these antigens are present in environmental nontuberculous mycobacteria (NTM) prevalent in the US and in BCG vax

several problematic limitations of the TST

Might be easy to perform

Might not be so easy to read/interpret

Nothing beats experience!

## The IGRA

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detect interferon- $\lambda$  (IFN- $\lambda$ ) release from a patient's CD4<sup>+</sup> and CD8<sup>+</sup>

T- lymphocytes after stimulation by antigens found on *M tuberculosis* (MTB) complex

2 available: the **QuantiFERON-TB Gold Plus** assay (4<sup>th</sup> gen QFT; replaced the previously used & studied QuantiFERON-TB Gold In-Tube assay & other earlier QFT versions) and the **T-SPOT.TB** assay

Antigens are not in MAC/other NTMs that can rarely cause human dz, nor in *M. bovis*- BCG strains, but are in wild *M. bovis* strains

# PROS

TST	IGRA
Inexpensive	One visit
Simple to perform	Likely more accurate
	Clear, objective results
	Unaffected by BCG
	Less cross reactivity

# CONS

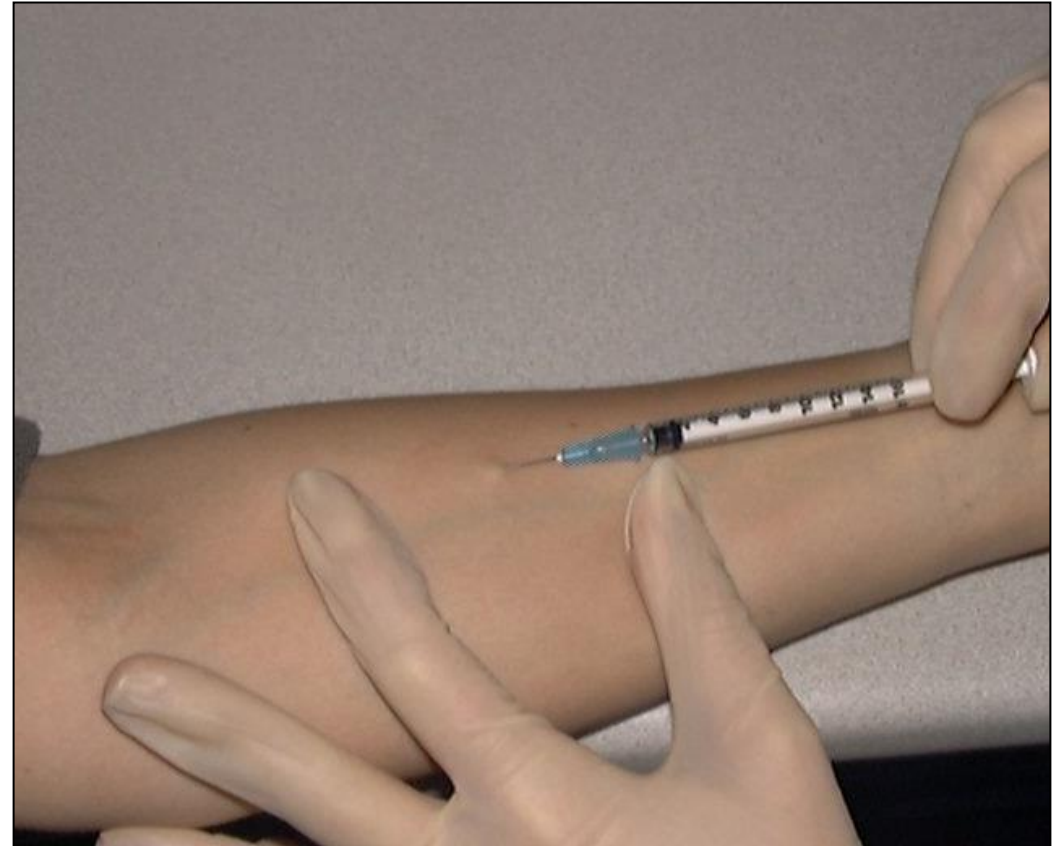
TST	IGRA
Must return in 48-72 hrs	Expensive
Interpretation is somewhat subjective	Conversion/reversion
False Negatives:	Tspot requires more blood
Elderly	Time limit for processing
Immunosuppressed	Subject to handling & processing errors
False Positives: BCG vaccination	FP: low risk populations
Low risk populations	
Non-tuberculous mycobacteria	

# The Tuberculin Skin Test (TST)

0.1 ml of 5 Tuberculin units PPD injected intradermally; +wheal

**Induration** in millimeters read 48-72 hours after injection

Usually also see erythema





# Reading the TB Skin Test

Measure induration,  
not erythema!!!



# Tuberculin Skin Test Practicum

San Antonio, Texas  
Thursday, June 27, 2024

**Heartland National TB Center**

2303 Southeast Military Drive  
Building 501, HNTC Training Room  
San Antonio, Texas 78223

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**TEXAS**  
Health and Human  
Services

Texas Department of State  
Health Services

## AGENDA

### Session 1

Thursday, June 27, 2024

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 8:00 – 8:15 am   | Registration, Welcome & Introductions   |
| 8:15 – 8:50 am   | Targeted Tuberculin Skin Testing<br>Using the Tuberculin Skin Test as a<br>Diagnostic Tool with Mantoux Tuberculin<br>Skin Test Video and Practicum |
| 8:50 – 11:20 am  | Myth's, Misconceptions, and FAQs of the<br>Tuberculin Skin Test   |
| 11:20 – 11:35 am | Myth's, Misconceptions, and FAQs of the<br>Tuberculin Skin Test   |
| 11:35 – 11:45 am | Q&A and Evaluations   |
| 11:45 am         | Adjourn   |

### Session 2

Thursday, June 27, 2024

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| 12:45 – 1:00 pm | Registration, Welcome & Introductions   |
| 1:00 – 1:35 pm  | Targeted Tuberculin Skin Testing<br>Using the Tuberculin Skin Test as a<br>Diagnostic Tool with Mantoux Tuberculin<br>Skin Test Video and Practicum |
| 1:35 – 4:05 pm  | Myth's, Misconceptions, and FAQs of the<br>Tuberculin Skin Test   |
| 4:05 – 4:20 pm  | Myth's, Misconceptions, and FAQs of the<br>Tuberculin Skin Test   |
| 4:20 – 4:30 pm  | Q&A and Evaluations   |
| 4:30 pm         | Adjourn   |

*Times/topics subject to change*

Test interpretation depends on 2 things:

the **induration** at the injection site

And

the **risk** of TBI progression to TB

Induration $\geq$ 5 mm considered positive in:	Induration $\geq$ 10 mm considered positive in:	Induration $\geq$ 15 mm considered positive in:
HIV infected individuals	Immigrants from high-prevalence countries	Any person, including persons with no known risk factors for TB. <b>Note:</b> Targeted skin testing programs should only be conducted among high-risk groups.
A recent contact of a person with TB disease	Persons with clinical conditions that place them at high risk (See <a href="#">Section II.E, bullets #10-14</a> )	
Persons with fibrotic changes of CXR consistent with prior TB	Residents and employees of high-risk congregate settings	
Patients with organ transplants	Mycobacteriology laboratory personnel	
Individuals immunocompromised for other reasons (e.g. taking TNF-alpha inhibitors, taking equivalent of $\geq$ 15 mg/day of prednisone for $\geq$ 1 month)	Infants, children, and adolescents exposed to adults in high-risk categories	
	Children < 5 years old	
	Injection drug users	

# About IGRAs

## The QFT-Gold Plus

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an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) **whole blood** test

**2 TB antigen tubes:** tuberculosis antigen tube 1 (TB1)  
tuberculosis antigen tube 2 (TB2)

**TB1** contains peptides designed to elicit an immune response from **CD4<sup>+</sup>** T-helper lymphocytes

**TB2** contains an **additional set of peptides** targeted for a cell-mediated immune response **from CD8<sup>+</sup>** cytotoxic T lymphocytes, included to bolster overall test sensitivity

**+ when the IFN- $\lambda$  response to the TB antigens is above the test cutoff of 0.35 IU/mL** (after subtracting the negative control value from the test antigen value)

Can get an **indeterminate** result (+control failure from immunosuppression or neg control has high background response from something like high baseline IFN-gamma from inflammation) Need to **REPEAT** the test in this case

## The T-Spot

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is an enzyme-linked immunosorbent **spot** (ELISPOT) assay performed **on peripheral blood** mononuclear cells that have been incubated with peptides

The result is reported as the number of IFN- $\lambda$  producing T-cells (spot-forming cells). **The test is + when the number of spots** in the test sample, **after subtracting the number of spots in the negative control**, exceeds a specific threshold of  **$\geq 8$  spots**; the test result is **negative if there are 4 or fewer spots**

Results with a corrected **spot count of 5, 6, or 7** are considered **borderline/equivocal** & **retesting** on a different specimen is recommended, which is also the case if the positive control shows a poor response (<20 spots), or if the background response in the negative control is too high ( $\geq 10$  spots), the result is termed **invalid or indeterminate** (neither negative nor positive)

# QFT GOLD PLUS

Unlike the TST, IGRAs do not cross-react with the *M. bovis* bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG) vaccine and NTM, with the exception of

*M. kansasii*,

*M. szulgai*, &

*M. marinum*

Mitogen: measures antigen-independent T-cell response

Nil: measures background IFN- $\lambda$  response

TB1 primarily CD4+

TB2: both CD4+ & CD8+ T-cell response

## QuantiFERON<sup>®</sup> -TB Gold Plus

Mitogen – Positive Control Low response may indicate inability to generate IFN- $\gamma$
Nil – Negative Control Adjusts for background IFN- $\gamma$
TB1 – Primarily detects CD4 T cell response
TB2 – Optimized for detection of CD4 and CD8 T cell responses



- Essentially 2 tests in one blood draw
- TB1 and TB2 should be close in value

# QFT Gold + interpretation

Test is indeterminate if either:

The nil is >8.0

Or

The mtigen-Nil is <0.50

(You don't have to do the math!)

You SHOULD look at the TB1 and TB2 values

- they should not be super far apart in value

-low + is generally <1 or 1.1 (read your lab report) May consider if it is a true+ or not. FP? Retest??

Interpretation of QFT-Plus test results

Nil (IU/ml)	TB1 minus Nil (IU/ml)	TB2 minus Nil (IU/ml)	Mitogen minus Nil (IU/ml)	QFT-Plus Result	Result interpretation
≤8.0	≥0.35 and ≥25% of Nil	Any	Any	Positive	<i>M. tuberculosis</i> infection likely
	Any	≥0.35 and ≥25% of Nil			
	<0.35 or ≥0.35 and <25% of Nil	<0.35 or ≥0.35 and <25% of Nil	≥0.50	Negative	<i>M. tuberculosis</i> infection NOT likely
	<0.35 or ≥0.35 and <25% of Nil	<0.35 or ≥0.35 and <25% of Nil	<0.50	Indeterminate	Likelihood of <i>M. tuberculosis</i> infection cannot be determined
>8.0	Any				

Results table excerpted from QuantiFERON-TB Gold Plus packet insert: <https://www.quantiferon.com/us/products/quantiferon-tb-gold-plus-us/package-inserts/>

# Lab reports: QFT Gold Plus Results

LAB OFTEN (SOMETIMES?) GIVES YOU GOOD INFO IF YOU TAKE THE TIME TO READ IT, PARTICULARLY ABOUT INTERPRETATION & REPEAT TESTING

QUANTIFERON TB GOLD PLUS  
 QUANTIFERON TB GOLD PLUS

	POSITIVE A		NEGATIVE
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Interpretive guidelines:  
 Positive: Indicates active or latent infection by MTB complex. May also be positive with M. kansasii, M. szulgai and M. marinum. Not positive with BCG therapy. To establish a diagnosis of active disease, correlate with clinical and radiographic data.  
 Indeterminate: May occur from excessive levels of gamma interferon, heterophil antibodies, anergy or handling issues. Repeat analysis is recommended.  
 Negative: Presumptive negative for active or latent MTB infection. False negatives may occasionally be seen with impaired immune function or testing too early after exposure.

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\*\*\*\*\* GAMMA INTERFERON RESULTS \*\*\*\*\*

TB1-NIL	0.378 H	IU/ML	<0.35
TB2-NIL	0.428 H	IU/ML	<0.35

Patients with an interpretation of positive and TB-nil values between 0.35 and 1.11 IU/mL should be considered low positive. Longitudinal studies of specific patients demonstrate sufficient fluctuation within this low positive range in serial testing to cause test interpretations to alternate between negative and low positive when the test results are near the cutoff value of 0.35 IU/mL. For such patients, repeat analysis after a clinically suitable period of time or alternate testing may be informative.

MITOGEN-NIL	5.860	IU/ML	
NIL	0.110	IU/ML	

Test	Within Range	Outside Range	Units	Reference Range
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QUANTIFERON TB GOLD PLUS  
 QUANTIFERON TB GOLD PLUS

	POSITIVE A		NEGATIVE
--	------------	--	----------

Interpretive guidelines:  
 Positive: Indicates active or latent infection by MTB complex. May also be positive with M. kansasii, M. szulgai and M. marinum. Not positive with BCG therapy. To establish a diagnosis of active disease, correlate with clinical and radiographic data.  
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 Negative: Presumptive negative for active or latent MTB infection. False negatives may occasionally be seen with impaired immune function or testing too early after exposure.

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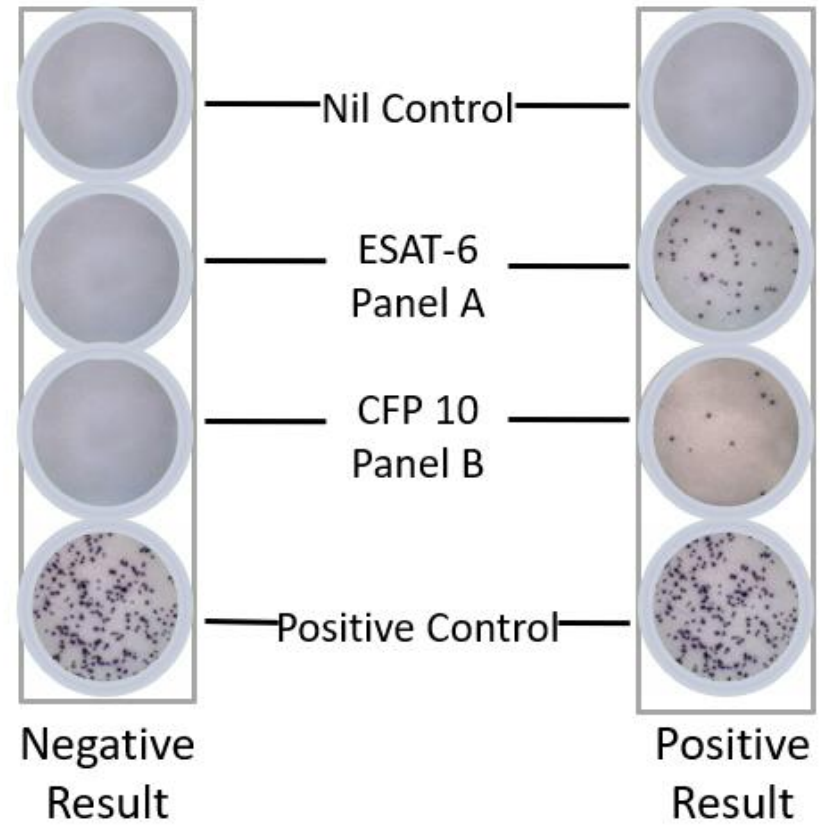
\*\*\*\*\* GAMMA INTERFERON RESULTS \*\*\*\*\*

TB1-NIL	1.38 H	IU/ML	<0.35
TB2-NIL	1.29 H	IU/ML	<0.35
MITOGEN-NIL	>10	IU/ML	
NIL	0.04	IU/ML	

# Interpretation of Results

## T-Spot Interpretation

dark blue spots are counted





# Interpretation of T-spot

Nil (Spots)	Mitogen- Nil (spots)	Panel A - Nil (spots)	Panel B - Nil (spots)	T-SPOT® Result	Interpretation
≤ 10 spots	≥ 20 spots	≥ 8 spots	≥ 8 spots	Positive	<i>M. tuberculosis</i> infection likely
	< 20 spots				
	≥ 20 spots	5, 6, or 7 spots	5, 6, or 7 spots	Borderline	Equivocal
	< 20 spots				
	≥ 20 spots	≤ 4 spots	≤ 4 spots	Negative	<i>M. tuberculosis</i> infection <u>NOT</u> likely
	< 20 spots				
< 20 spots	≤ 4 spots	≤ 4 spots	Invalid	Repeat Test	
> 10 spots	Any			Invalid	Repeat Test

# Lab reports: T-SPOT. TB Results

Test Name	In Range	Out Of Range	Reference Range
T-SPOT(R).TB			
<b>T-SPOT.TB</b>		<b>POSITIVE</b>	SeeBelow

Normal Value: Negative  
 Diagnosing or excluding tuberculosis (TB) disease and assessing the probability of latent TB infection (LTBI) requires a combination of epidemiological, historical, medical and diagnostic findings that should be taken into consideration when interpreting T-SPOT.TB test results. A positive test result does not rule in active TB disease caused by Mycobacterium tuberculosis (M. tuberculosis); active TB disease should be confirmed by other tests such as sputum smear and culture, PCR, and chest radiography. Uncommonly, a positive T-SPOT.TB result may be due to infection with other Mycobacterium species including M. kansasii, M. szulgai, M. gordonae, or M. marinum. Alternative tests would be required if these infections are suspected. The T-SPOT.TB test is qualitative and results are reported as positive, borderline or negative, given that the test controls perform as expected. In line with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's 2010 recommendation to report quantitative measurements alongside the qualitative result, the laboratory provides spot counts for informational purposes only. The T-SPOT.TB test should not be interpreted as a quantitative test.

PANEL A SPOT COUNT	
CORRECTED FOR NEG CONTROL	40
PANEL B SPOT COUNT	
CORRECTED FOR NEG CONTROL	>50
NEGATIVE CONTROL	Passed
POSITIVE CONTROL	Passed

## F T-SPOT.TB

**POSITIVE A**

Normal Value: Negative  
 Diagnosing or excluding tuberculosis (TB) disease and assessing the probability of latent TB infection (LTBI) requires a combination of epidemiological, historical, medical and diagnostic findings that should be taken into consideration when interpreting T-SPOT.TB test results. A positive test result does not rule in active TB disease caused by Mycobacterium tuberculosis (M. tuberculosis); active TB disease should be confirmed by other tests such as sputum smear and culture, PCR, and chest radiography. Uncommonly, a positive T-SPOT.TB result may be due to infection with other Mycobacterium species including M. kansasii, M. szulgai, M. gordonae, or M. marinum. Alternative tests would be required if these infections are suspected. The T-SPOT.TB test is qualitative and results are reported as positive, borderline or negative, given that

the test controls perform as expected. In line with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's 2010 recommendation to report quantitative measurements alongside the qualitative result, the laboratory provides spot counts for informational purposes only. The T-SPOT.TB test should not be interpreted as a quantitative test.

: PANEL A SPOT COUNT CORRECTED FOR NEG CONTROL	8
: PANEL B SPOT COUNT CORRECTED FOR NEG CONTROL	25
: NEGATIVE CONTROL	Passed
: POSITIVE CONTROL	Passed

# Downside of IGRAs

Say it isn't so!

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Issues of reproducibility of results on serial performance

unexplained cases of low-level positive IGRA results reverting to negative on repeat testing

-this is known as conversion/reversion

occur among low-level results, usually between 0.35 and 1.0 IU/mL for QFT

exact cause(s) unknown

Efforts to reduce test variability through better specimen collection and handling and laboratory standardization will minimize low-level false-positive results.

Ok. But which one should I use? One is better than the other, right?

the preponderance of evidence supports the conclusion that....

the preponderance of evidence supports the conclusion that, in terms of accuracy, neither IGRA is strongly preferred over the other

---

it is recommended that if a patient has an unexpected low-level positive IGRA result, either the same test should be repeated or a different test should be performed, and action should be taken on the second result.

TB Blood Test Result	Interpretation
<b>Positive</b>	<i>M. tuberculosis</i> infection likely.
<b>Negative</b>	<i>M. tuberculosis</i> infection unlikely, but cannot be excluded, especially if <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Patient has signs and symptoms consistent with TB disease.</li><li>2. Patient has a high risk for developing TB disease once infected with <i>M. tuberculosis</i> (e.g., the patient is immunosuppressed).</li></ol>
<b>Indeterminate (QFT-Plus only) or Invalid (T-Spot only)</b>	The test did not provide useful information about the likelihood of <i>M. tuberculosis</i> infection. Repeating a TB blood test or performing a TST may be useful.
<b>Borderline (T-Spot only)</b>	Repeating a TB blood test or performing a TST may be useful.

# ~~FIGHT CLUB~~ IGRA CLUB

---

First rule of IGRA Club:

Don't trust a negative IGRA, \*especially over other evidence!

(pro tip: never take any negative test at face value in the world of TB)

Please note: I am NOT saying it's wrong. I'm just saying to be cautious. Does the result make sense?

The IGRA is a piece of the puzzle. \*ONE PIECE\* Don't overlook the other pieces!

For some, labs are Shiny and Bright. Oooo! Don't get distracted.

Remember, context matters. More accurate in high risk pts. More FP in low risk pts, potentially leading to unnecessary w/u &/or tx.

IGRA testing has been expanded to any pediatric age (previously was 2 years and older) **All ages now!** in the "Red Book" (the American Academy of Pediatrics Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases 33<sup>rd</sup> Edition, just published.)

Caveat: no test is reliable for <6mo

**No test (TST or IGRA) overrides clinical, epidemiologic or historical data\*\*\*\***

# TBI is a DIAGNOSIS OF EXCLUSION

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Something to remember:  
Discordance between the TST  
and IGRAs has been  
measured up to 20% in  
patients known to be infected  
with MTB. Don't order both  
tests, pick the right test to  
start with!

You don't order an IGRA or TST to w/u TB though. It's a  
test looking for TBI! But... sometimes you have it  
anyway...

The nice thing is, you basically only have to exclude one  
disease...  
tuberculosis!

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Before you treat....Know the Dx

When you make a dx of TBI, you are saying  
the patient, to the best of your knowledge,  
does not have TB disease

To know that, you need more than a TB test  
and a CXR

# Back to Basics

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## H&P

Talk to the patient

Examine the patient

Do they have s/sx?

TB can be almost anywhere...



Recently completed and currently treating pts with TB @ APH:

73 pulm (at least 17 cavitory)

10 pleural

12 lymph

5 eye (4 ant scleritis, 1 chorioretinitis)

3 spine

2 other bones (knee, finger/dactylitis)

2 GU

1 mesenteric

1 peritoneal

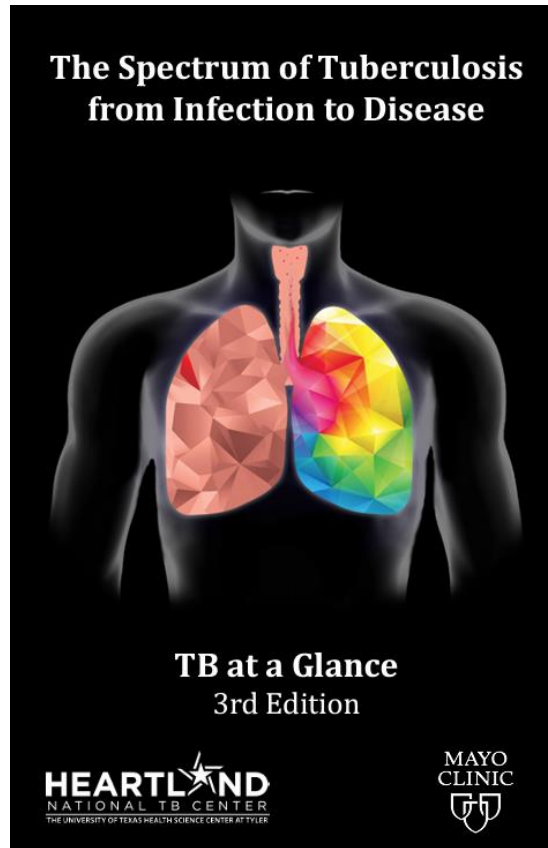
1 skin

1 meningitis

1 epiglottis

WHO consolidated guidelines on tuberculosis. Module 3: diagnosis. Tests for tuberculosis infection. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2022. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.

# Sources



## Latent Tuberculosis Infection Resources

[Print](#)

Updated February 22, 2024



The online latent TB infection (LTBI) resource hub is a one-stop shop for resources related to:

- Education and training
- Guidelines
- Testing and diagnosis
- Infection control and prevention
- Treatment

To order free latent TB infection resources, visit [CDC-INFO on Demand](#).

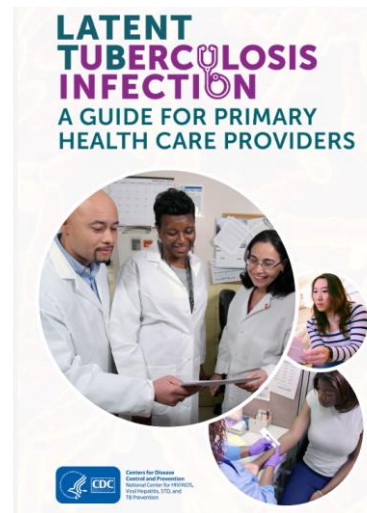
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[Resources for Providers](#)

[Resources for Patients](#)

[LTBI Reporting Laws, by State](#)

[Graphics, Web Buttons, Infographics](#)



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# Ruby had suggestions

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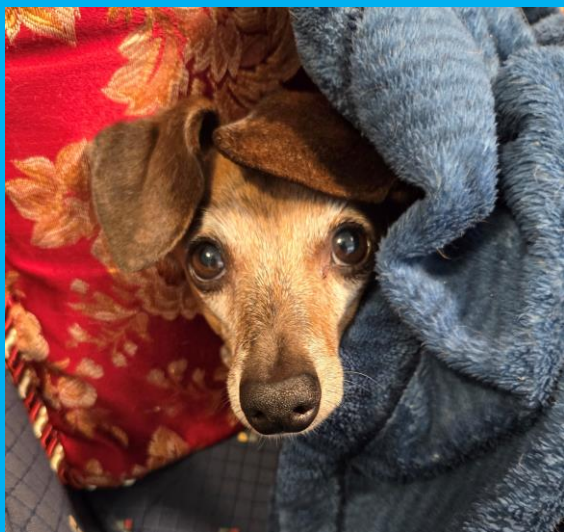
She was SUPER helpful.

If you haven't made a power point with a cat sitting on your chest and patting your face with a paw every time you tried to type instead of petting her, my recommendation is...

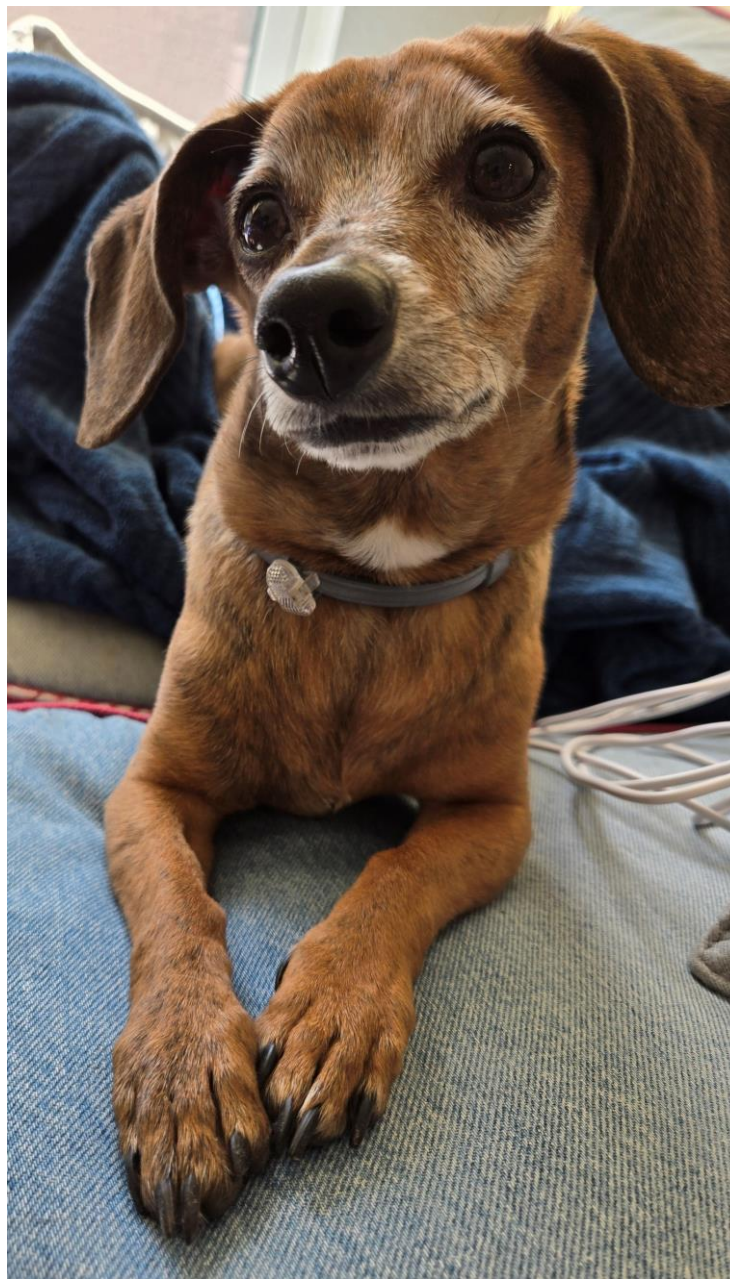
Don't try it

Feel free to call  
or email. I love  
to talk about TB!

Questions?



And if you are tired of talking about  
TB, we can talk about Mr! Or your  
dog, I guess (just kidding! We can!)



Mr's human, aka

**Ellen Elmore MD**

Physician | Communicable Disease Unit

Austin Public Health

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