

QuantiFERON™-TB Gold In-Tube

How do people catch tuberculosis?

Tuberculosis (TB) is spread through the air from one person to another. The TB germs go into the air whenever someone with TB disease in their lungs coughs or sneezes. People nearby may breathe in these germs and become infected.



What is the difference between latent TB infection and TB disease?

People with latent TB infection (also called LTBI) are infected with the TB germ, but they do not feel sick or have any symptoms. They cannot spread TB to others because the TB germ is sleeping and not active. The only sign of LTBI is a positive reaction to the TB skin test or a TB blood test, such as QuantiFERON.

Without treatment, LTBI can sometimes become TB disease. This occurs when the “sleeping” germs wake up and actively grow and multiply. This can make people feel sick and may be serious. They may have symptoms such as coughing, fever and weight loss. Some people with TB disease are infectious and can spread TB to others.

How can I tell if I have been exposed to tuberculosis before?

A TB skin test or a TB blood test (QuantiFERON or QFT) is used to find out if you are infected with TB.

It is best to contact your medical clinic or county health department for more information.

What is a QuantiFERON test?

QuantiFERON (also called QFT) is a blood test to detect infection with tuberculosis. For the test, a health care worker will take some blood (less than a teaspoon) from your vein. The blood is then sent to a lab for testing.

How soon will I have my test result?

The test result will be available in 5–7 days.

How are the test results interpreted?

If the test is positive, it is likely you were exposed to tuberculosis and that you have latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI).

A chest X-ray should be done to make sure you do not have TB disease in your lungs.

QuantiFERON, like the TB skin test, can sometimes give false results. However, unlike the TB skin test, it will not be positive from previous BCG vaccinations that are commonly given in other countries. It is best to discuss the results of the test with your health care professional who will help you to understand what your QuantiFERON result means in your particular situation.

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Your local clinic:

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