

July 2020

In-House Quantiferon Gold TB Assay

As of August 3, 2020, Methodist Laboratory will be performing Quantiferon Gold TB assay in-house. Previously, this assay was sent to a reference laboratory.

Specimen Requirements: 5 mL of whole blood in Lithium Heparin (green top). Blood in Lithium Heparin needs to be refrigerated within 3 hours and is stable for 48 hours refrigerated. Please contact client services for large Lithium Heparin tubes 402-354-4541 or 1-888-432-8980.

Order: Quantiferon TB Gold

Turn Around Time: 2-4 days. Routine testing is performed Tuesday and Friday. Samples received by 3pm Monday and Thursday will usually be tested the following day.

Reporting/Interpretation:

- TB1 antigen response: (Reference interval: 0.00-0.34 IU/mL)
- TB2 antigen response: (Reference interval: 0.00-.34 IU/mL)
- Interpretation: Negative/Positive/Indeterminate (Reference: Negative)

Negative: *M. tuberculosis* infection NOT likely

Positive: *M. tuberculosis* infection likely. Positive results in patients at low-risk for TB should be interpreted with caution and repeat testing on a new sample should be considered as recommended by the 2017 ATS/IDSA/CDC Clinical Practice Guidelines for Diagnosis of Tuberculosis in Adults and Children.

Indeterminate: Likelihood of *M. tuberculosis* infection cannot be determined. Indeterminate results are uncommon and may be related to the status of the immune system of the patient. An indeterminate result may also be related to technical factors (e.g., inappropriate storage or handling of the blood collection tubes) if the instructions for use are not followed. If technical issues are suspected with the reagent storage, blood collection or handling of the blood samples, repeat the test with new blood samples. Physicians may choose to redraw a specimen or perform other procedures as appropriate.

Notes: *M. kansasii*, *M. szulgai*, and *M. marinum* may cause false positive results with the Quantiferon Gold assay. Additional diagnostic evaluations (e.g., AFB smear and culture, chest X-ray) are required to confirm tuberculosis disease.

References:

- 1) 2017 ATS/IDSA/CDC Clinical Practice Guidelines for Diagnosis of Tuberculosis in Adults and Children.
- 2) QuantiFERON®-TB Gold Plus (QFT®-Plus) Package Insert, 2019, QIAGEN, 19300 Germantown Road, Germantown, MD 20874

Please direct any questions to Dr. Karre, director of microbiology at (402)354-7842 or LaNett Whisler, microbiology service leader at (402)354-4586.