



Department of Immunology
1st Floor Bessemer Wing
King's College Hospital
London
SE5 9RS
020 3299 9000 (ext 38758)

Dear Colleagues,

Re: Procedure of testing for latent TB infection

We are writing to you to update you/clarify the testing procedure for latent TB infection (LTBI) performed in Clinical Immunology Laboratory at KCH/Viapath.

In 2019, the Laboratory introduced the Quantiferon TB Plus (QFT-Plus) test for investigation of LTBI. Prior to the introduction of the QFT-Plus assay, all samples for LTBI investigations were sent to Oxford Diagnostics for the T-SPOT assay.

The decision to introduce QFT-Plus was based on the following:

- Improvement in Turn around Times
- Less stringent sample requirements
- Possibility of storing and retesting samples
- Technology available in the laboratory
- Less expensive per sample

Local comparison of results obtained by in-house QFT-Plus assay to T-SPOT results performed at Oxford Diagnostics demonstrated complete equivalence between two assays with 100% agreement in quantitative results interpretation.

The sensitivity and specificity (as per manufactures data) of the QFT-Plus are identical to the sensitivity and specificity of the T-SPOT, 95% and 98%, respectively.

Therefore, our first line for investigations of LTBI is QFT-Plus assay. We are still offering to send samples for T-SPOT if there is a clinical need or need for confirmation of results by a different method. **However, this is possible only after discussion and pre- arrangement with the Laboratory (0203 299 9000 ext 38752).**

If you have any questions relating to this, please do not hesitate to contact us on the details below.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "Sanja Ugrinovic".

Dr Sanja Ugrinovic, FRCPath

Consultant Clinical Scientist and Scientific Lead, Immunology

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