

TB CLAIMS ONE LIFE EVERY 17 SECONDS; ALMOST TWO MILLION PEOPLE EACH YEAR

NEW CDC GUIDELINES RECOMMEND BLOOD TESTS FOR DIAGNOSING TB INFECTION



Developing countries are in a constant battle against the ravaging effects of the tuberculosis (TB) crisis. With global migration and the highly contagious nature of tuberculosis, the disease remains a significant threat to public health in the United States (U.S.). Settling into the lungs, the spine, the kidneys and the brain, tuberculosis can be fatal without proper treatment. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that up to 14 million people in the U.S. are TB infected and asymptomatic – with three-quarters remaining undiagnosed – and at risk of progressing to highly contagious TB disease.

New guidelines on the detection of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* infections, the cause of TB, were released by the CDC. The CDC now preferentially recommends the use of Interferon Gamma Release Assay (IGRA) blood tests, such as QuantiFERON®-TB Gold (QFT), over the 100+-year-old tuberculin skin test (TST), for diagnosing TB infection in certain populations, including people who typically do not return for the necessary reading of TST results, and those who have received Bacille Calmette-Guérin (BCG) as a vaccine or for cancer therapy.

Additionally, data from a meta-analysis of existing literature, published April 6th in *CHEST*, the official journal of the American College of Chest Physicians, demonstrate that Interferon Gamma Release Assays (IGRAs), including QFT, are superior to the previous standard in diagnostics, the 100+-year-old tuberculin skin test (TST), for detecting confirmed active TB disease.

Tuberculin skin tests have been the standard TB diagnostic tool for more than 100 years. But, there are new, better tests available. With better tests, focused preventative therapy is possible.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT QFT](#)

TB IN THE WORLD TODAY

- TB is a contagious disease caused by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*.
- TB is one of the world's deadliest diseases.
- At least one billion people are thought to be infected with TB bacteria.
 - At least one person becomes infected every second.
- Each year, approximately nine million people around the world become sick with TB disease.
- The World Health Organization estimates that TB takes one life every 17 seconds.
 - Almost two million TB-related deaths occur worldwide each year.
- TB is the leading killer of people who are HIV-infected.
- There were an estimated 390,000 - 510,000 cases of multi-drug resistant (MDR) TB in 2008.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

FIND A TEST IN YOUR AREA

[GO](#)

COMMON MYTHS

MYTH: TB only occurs in lower socioeconomic groups.

MYTH: Tuberculosis is a disease of the past and is no longer a public health concern.

MYTH: If I don't have TB symptoms, I don't have TB.

MYTH: Tuberculosis is only a problem in developing countries.

MYTH: I have been BCG vaccinated so I don't need to worry about getting infected.

[TO GET THE FACTS, CLICK HERE](#)

WHAT IS QUANTIFERON®?

QuantiFERON®-TB Gold (QFT) is a simple blood test that accurately identifies people infected with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, the causative agent of Tuberculosis (TB). QFT is a modern alternative to the 110 year old Tuberculin Skin Test (TST), also known as the Mantoux.

As a modern alternative to the TST:

- QFT is six times more precise than TST in identifying people who will progress to active TB disease.
- QFT is significantly more sensitive, nearly halving the number of infected people missed by TST.
- QFT is >99 percent specific, indicating that positive readings represent true infection; the very high specificity value (99.2 percent) means QFT virtually eliminates false-positive readings (false positives by TST range from 3 percent to 65 percent of all persons tested, dependent upon the population).

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

QFT testing is available through Quest Diagnostics, for details [click here](#)

SHARE

PRESS MATERIALS

[CDC Guidelines Release](#)

[CHEST Meta-Analysis Release](#)

[TB Fact Sheet](#)

[Image Gallery](#)

CONTACT

Anne Marie Kearns
646.935.4010
Annemarie.kearns@ketchum.com