

facts about...

Laboratory – Quantiferon® TB Gold

Description: Your doctor has requested a specimen of your blood be obtained for testing of possible infection with M. tuberculosis complex (TB). Infection results in either acute disease or latent TB infection (LTBI), a non-communicable, asymptomatic condition. The main purpose of diagnosing the latent phase is to consider medical treatment to prevent the overt disease. Previously, the tuberculin skin test was the only method for detecting LTBI. Quantiferon®-TB Gold eliminates false positive skin tests due to BCG vaccination. Quantiferon®-TB Gold should not be used for children less than 5 years old.

What to expect: There are no side effects or adverse reactions due to patient hypersensitivity. There is no need to return to have the test read. Specimens need to be tested as soon as possible after collection and are only stable for 16 hours. For this reason these blood draws need to be collected and processed at one of our four (4) Hospital Out Patient Laboratories: Evanston, Glenbrook, Highland Park or Skokie Hospitals. After the blood is obtained, special paperwork is completed and a courier transports the blood to an outside reference lab for testing. Blood is collected Monday through Friday between 9AM and 5PM to accommodate this special requirement. Results are available in about 7 days.

Where to go: Central Registration at Evanston, Glenbrook, Highland Park or Skokie Hospitals or a Patient Service Center. Bring your specimen and additionally, you will be asked to provide a physician order if not already in the electronic health record and billing/insurance information.

Who to call if you have questions: If you have questions or would like additional information, ***if you have*** please call NorthShore Lab Services (NSLS) at (847) 663-2100.