QuantiFERON-TB Gold test and hemodialysis

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Sir, the recent publication on QuantiFERON-TB (QFT-G) gold test is very interesting (1). The QFT-G and tuberculin skin test was assessed for its diagnostic value (1). The Sayarlioglu et al. concluded that “the QFT-G test might be more useful for the diagnosis of LTBI than tuberculin skin test in hemodialysis patients who are suspected to have LTBI (1).” Indeed, it is no doubt that QFT-G is a new useful test for tuberculosis. The result in this test repeatedly confirmed another recent published Turkish report (2). However, there are some concerns about this test. The cost of this test might be a big problem for resource limited setting comparing to tuberculin skin test (3). The value of this test in filed investigation is also limited (4). Also, the positivity of QFT-G is also affected by age (5). This has to be considered on its effect on diagnostic property of the test. As noted by Sayarlioglu et al., further studies on QFT-G for hemodialysis patients are required and the cost effectiveness study should be an important issue to be assessed (1).

CONFLICT of INTEREST
None declared.

REFERENCES