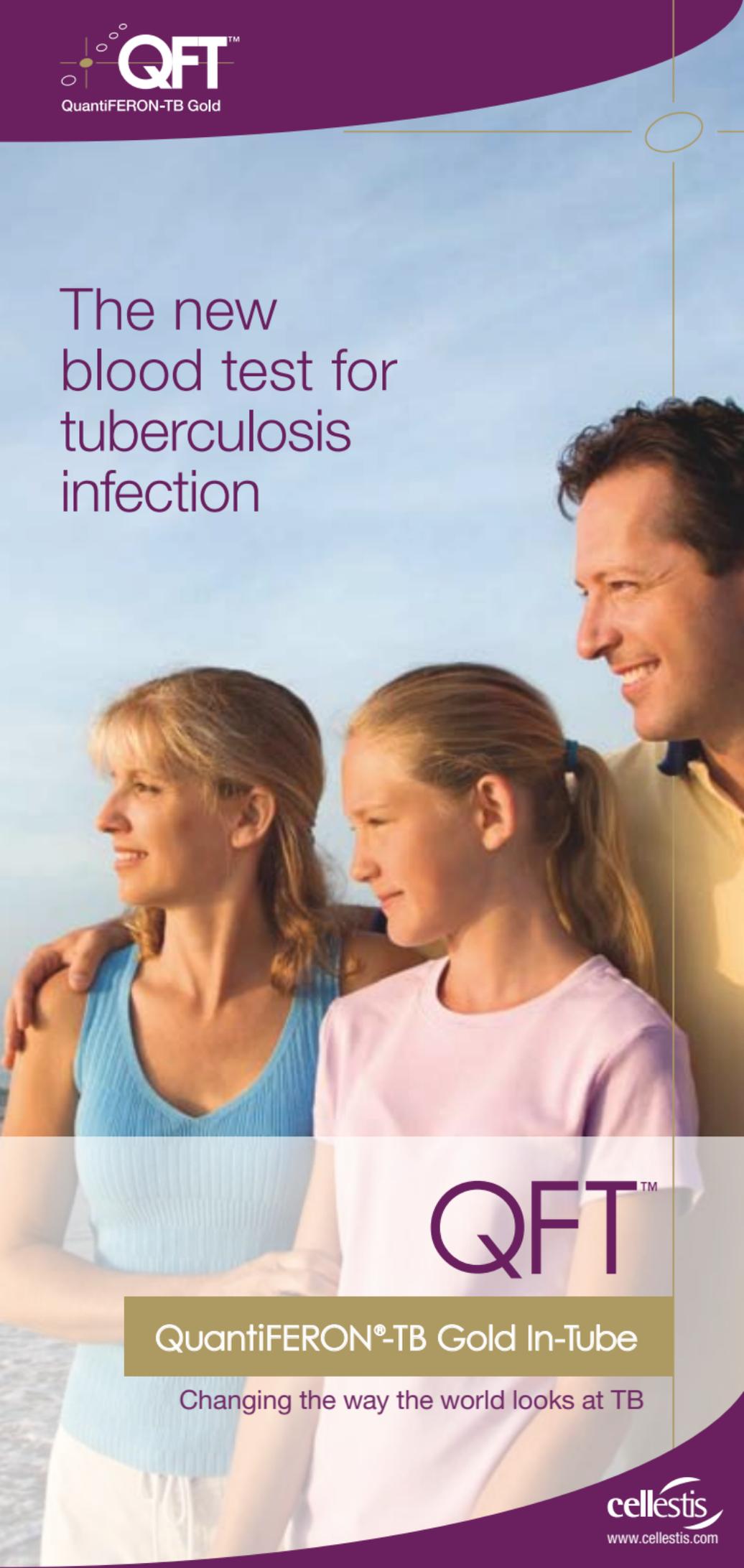


# The new blood test for tuberculosis infection



QFT™

QuantiFERON®-TB Gold In-Tube

Changing the way the world looks at TB

## **What is QFT™?**

QuantiFERON®-TB Gold In-Tube (QFT) is a blood test that can help diagnose tuberculosis (TB) infection, also known as latent TB. QFT is a major scientific advance over the 100 year old skin test (Mantoux or tuberculin skin test), giving greater accuracy and a more reliable result.

## **What is latent TB?**

Latent TB is when a person has the bacteria (bugs) that cause TB in their body, but the bacteria are not causing any disease or symptoms. If you are diagnosed with latent TB there is a chance that the bacteria may cause disease in the future; so you are likely to be offered treatment to prevent this from happening.

## **What does the test involve?**

A specimen of blood is collected and sent to the laboratory for analysis.

## **Are there any risks associated with having the test?**

No, there are no risks associated with having the test, apart from the slight discomfort of having a blood sample taken.

## **In what situations should the test be used?**

QFT can be used in all circumstances in which the skin test has been used in the past and can also be used to confirm a positive skin test. You may be tested if you have:

- been in contact with someone who has been diagnosed with TB
- recently come from a country with high levels of TB
- a reduced immune system e.g. HIV, or before starting some medications.

## How does QFT work?

QFT is a laboratory test that uses special blood collection tubes coated with antigens (small non-infectious bits of the TB bacterium) for blood collection and subsequent testing. These antigens are very specific for detecting TB infection. When the blood of an individual infected with TB comes in contact with these antigens, a chemical messenger (interferon gamma) is released by the white blood cells. The QFT results are based on the amount of interferon-gamma that is produced in the tubes.

## How are QFT test results interpreted?

Proper assessment of individuals suspected of infection with TB takes into consideration their medical history and diagnostic findings, of which the QFT result is an essential component. Your medical practitioner/nurse is in the best position to advise you on what a QFT result means in your situation; however in most circumstances:

- a positive QFT result suggests that TB infection is likely
- a negative QFT result suggests that TB infection is unlikely
- an indeterminate result, which is uncommon, may suggest the need for further investigations or repeating the test.

## How long before I get results?

This varies, and depends on how frequently the laboratory in your area carries out the test. Your medical practitioner/nurse is in the best position to tell you when you will receive your test result.

This pamphlet was designed for general educational purposes to help answer your questions about QFT. It should not be considered the exclusive source for this type of information. Please talk to your doctor or nurse about your questions and concerns.

For more information, please contact Cellestis or visit **[www.cellestis.com](http://www.cellestis.com)**.

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