

**STABILITY OF QFT-G TEST FOR CONTACT SURVEY ON THE HIGHLY BCG-
VACCINATED INDIVIDUALS IN JAPAN-COMPARISON OF THE RESULTS AT TWO-
MONTH WITH SIX-MONTH AFTER DIAGNOSIS OF INDEX CASES**

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Recently a new diagnostic method, QuantiFERON[®]-TB GOLD (QFT-G), using *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*- specific antigens, ESAT-6 and CFP-10, has been developed. The utilities of QFT-G for detection of TB-infected persons have been reported from many researchers. However many issues remain unresolved. PURPOSE: To assure that the time of test at two months after diagnosis of index cases is expedient for detection of infected persons. Method: Contacts of sputum-smear positive pulmonary tuberculosis patients were included to this study. QFT-G tests were done for all contacts after 2- and for the contacts whose 2-month results were negative were done at 6-month. All contacts had given informed consent after 2 months of diagnosis of patients. Cut-off point of QFT-G was 0.35 IU/ml of IFN- γ for ESAT-6 or CFP-10. Results: Ninety-eight contacts (Sex ratio; M: F=1.4:1, average age; 36.7 years-old) were included to this study. Eighty-eight percent of contacts were BCG-vaccinated. Among contacts, 55.1% of subjects were co-worker of the same work places as index cases, 80.6% were contacts to the pulmonary TB patients with smear 2+or 3+ for AFB, 76.5% were contacts with cavitory TB patients, 30.6% were high priority contacts for USA CDC priority categories. All of ninety-eight contacts were negative for QFT-test at six-month. CONCLUSION: Our results suggest that the time of testing is expedient at two-month after diagnosis of the index patients. However, larger-scale researches would be necessary to confirm our findings.