

P0963 Comparison of QuantiFERON-TB Plus results of latent tuberculosis-infected patients with or without immunemediated inflammatory diseases

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Background: Screening for latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI) diagnosis is mandatory in patients with immune-mediated inflammatory diseases (IMID) requiring biologics. QuantiFERON-TB-Plus (QFT-P), an LTBI diagnostic test, measures IFN- γ after *M. tuberculosis*-stimulation in TB1 and TB2 tubes in which a "CD4" or a "CD4 and CD8" response is respectively elicited. Aim of this study was to compare the response to QFT-P of IMID-LTBI patients candidates to biologics vs LTBI-subjects without IMID.

Materials/methods: We enrolled 75 subjects: 29 IMID-LTBI and 46 NON-IMID-LTBI (both defined by QFT-P).

Results: all subjects were mitogen-responders. IFN- γ production was significantly lower in IMID-LTBI-subjects compared to NON-IMID-LTBI-subjects. We observed discordant TB1 and TB2 results in 10.3% of IMID-LTBI-subjects and in 6.5% of NON-IMID-LTBI-subjects, and this was associated with the ongoing immunosuppressive therapy or the IMID per se. Interestingly, glucocorticoids-containing regimens associated to a higher proportion of results falling in the "grey zone" range. No correlation between QFT-P response and total lymphocytes-, CD4- and CD8-cell number was found.

Conclusions: in a low TB endemic country, IMID-LTBI-subjects were characterized by a low IFN- γ response to QFT-P with a high proportion of results ranging in the "grey zone" and this was associated with glucocorticoids therapy intake.

