



## Use of the QuantiFERON®-TB Gold Assay in Pregnant Patients

I find the article, “Use of the QuantiFERON®-TB Gold Assay in Pregnant Patients”,<sup>1</sup> in your journal very interesting. I have not read any other work done on QuantiFERON in pregnant woman. In our practice, we have noticed a few pregnant women, especially in second and third trimester, have had “indeterminate” QuantiFERON®-TB Gold Assay results and when these were repeated at six-weeks postpartum, they showed a definite positive or a negative result. Our feeling is the immune changes during pregnancy are significant in later half of the pregnancy which interferes with the QuantiFERON®-TB Gold Assay. We would be interested to know what was the gestation of the women enrolled by Chehab BM et al. for their study “Use of the QuantiFERON®-TB Gold Assay in Pregnant Patients”?

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### References

<sup>1</sup> Chehab BM, Kallail KJ, El Fakih RO, Zackula RE, Minns GO. Use of the QuantiFERON®-TB Gold Assay in Pregnant Patients. KJM 2010; 3:24-30.

### Response:

The subjects in this study were patients of the local health department. Study data were collected only on pregnancy status, not gestational age. It is very difficult to track these patients over time because the health department does not provide a full-range of primary care services. Patients are not seen regularly. Thus, the question posed in the Letter to the Editor forms the basis for an interesting future study.

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