□ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR □

Tuberculin Skin Tests and Interferon-gamma Release Assays for the Differential Diagnosis of Pulmonary Tuberculosis

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To the Editor Sir, the recent report on tuberculin skin tests (TSTs) and interferon-gamma release assays (IGRAs) for the differential diagnosis of pulmonary tuberculosis (TB) is very interesting (1). Kobashi et al. concluded that, “IGRA tests seemed to be more useful than TST for the differentiation of patients with pulmonary TB (1).” Indeed, the IGRA test has been proven to be useful for the diagnosis of TB. However, some considerations should be raised. The first is cost effectiveness. There should be a systematic evaluation for this information in each setting (2). Second, inaccuracies

in cases involving renal dysfunction and hemodialysis can be expected (3). Third, the limitation of applying this test in field work or rural communities might be the main obstacle preventing the generalization of the IGRA test (4).

The author states that he has no Conflict of Interest (COI).

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References

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