

Evaluation of the Accuracy of T-SPOT.TB for the Diagnosis of Ocular Tuberculosis in a BCG-vaccinated, Non-endemic Population

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Abstract

Purpose: To determine the performance of T-SPOT.TB, an interferon gamma release assay test, in patients with ocular tuberculosis (TB) in a BCG-vaccinated, non-endemic population.

Methods: We employed a nested case control design. In total, 45 subjects were enrolled (23 patients with ocular tuberculosis and 22 patients with other causes of uveitis). A blood sample was collected from each subject, and T-SPOT.TB was executed. Laboratory professionals were blinded to the disease status of each subject.

Results: Five patients were excluded because of indeterminate results. The calculated sensitivity and specificity were 0.80 and 0.85, respectively. The positive likelihood ratio was 5.33 and the negative likelihood ratio was 0.23. The overall accuracy of the test was 0.83.

Conclusions: T-SPOT.TB adequately diagnosed ocular TB. This technique is particularly useful in populations where BCG vaccinations are still mandatory.

Keywords

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