

Table 7 - Interpretation of the tuberculin sensitivity (Mantoux) test*

| Clinical context | Induration | | | |
|---|------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | <5 mm | 5-10 mm | 10-20 mm | >25 mm |
| Screening, non-endemic population | Negative | Suspicious of infection† | 90% of patients have infection | Virtually all have infection |
| Screening, endemic population | Negative | Consistent with past infection† | Suspicious of infection | Suggestive of infection |
| Following BCG vaccination | Negative | Expected | Suspicious of infection | Suggestive of infection |
| Chest X-ray suggesting past infection | Negative | Consistent with past infection† | Suspicious of infection | Suggestive of infection |
| Suspicious clinical findings or contact with active tuberculosis | Negative | Suspicious of infection | 90% of patients have infection | Virtually all have infection |

* Intradermal injection of 5 Tuberculin units of purified protein derivative (PPD).

† May also be due to cross-reactivity with other mycobacterial species.

Serial tuberculin testing may produce an augmented reaction (booster phenomenon) in those previously sensitised by infection or BCG vaccination.