

GeneXpert in the diagnosis of smear-negative PTB

Beuy Joob¹, Viroj Wiwanitkit²

1. Sanitation 1 Medical Academic Center, Bangkok Thailand

2. Hainan Medical University, China; Faculty of Medicine,
University of Nis, Serbia; Joseph Ayobabalola University, Nigeria
African Health Sciences 2014; 14(2):494

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.4314/ahs.v14i2.33>

Sir, the recent report on “GeneXpert in the diagnosis of smear-negative PTB” is very interesting [1]. As Nakiyingi et al. noted, the concern on cost effectiveness on this new TB diagnostic tool is needed [1]. In fact, the cost effectiveness of the test is still controversial issue [2]. The value seems dependent to the setting [2 - 3]. Also, Nakiyingi et al. raised an important point that GeneXpert can help fasten diagnosis. However, it is questionable whether we actually need such a very fast

result. The GeneXpert might not add any important clinical usefulness to the use of classical culture.

References

1. Nakiyingi L, Nankabirwa H, Lamorde M. Tuberculosis diagnosis in resource-limited settings: Clinical use of GeneXpert in the diagnosis of smear-negative PTB: a case report. *Afr Health Sci*. 2013 Jun;13(2):522-4.
2. Muñoz L, Moure R, Porta N, Gonzalez L, Guerra R, Alcaide F, Santin M. GeneXpert® for smear-negative pulmonary tuberculosis: does it play a role in low-burden countries? *Diagn Microbiol Infect Dis*. 2013 Mar;75(3):325-6
3. Dowdy DW, Cattamanchi A, Steingart KR, Pai M. Is scale-up worth it? Challenges in economic analysis of diagnostic tests for tuberculosis. *PLoS Med*. 2011 Jul;8(7):e1001063.

Corresponding author:

Beuy Joob
Sanitation 1 Medical Academic
Center,
Bangkok Thailand
Email: beuyjoob@hotmail.com