

Two interferon gamma release assays for predicting active tuberculosis

Abubakar, Ibrahim; Lalvani, Ajit; Southern, Jo; Sitch, Alice; Jackson, Charlotte; Onyimadu, Oluchukwu; Lipman, Marc; Deeks, Jonathan; Griffiths, Chris; Bothamley, Graham ; Kon, Onn Min; Hayward, Andrew; Lord, Joanne; Drobniewski, Francis

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**National Institute for
Health Research**

Two interferon gamma release assays for predicting active tuberculosis: the UK PREDICT TB prognostic test study

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Abstract

Two interferon gamma release assays for predicting active tuberculosis: the UK PREDICT TB prognostic test study

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Background: Despite a recent decline in the annual incidence of tuberculosis (TB) in the UK, rates remain higher than in most Western European countries. The detection and treatment of latent TB infection (LTBI) is an essential component of the UK TB control programme.

Objectives: To assess the prognostic value and cost-effectiveness of the current two interferon gamma release assays (IGRAs) compared with the standard tuberculin skin test (TST) for predicting active TB among untreated individuals at increased risk of TB: (1) contacts of active TB cases and (2) new entrants to the UK from high-TB-burden countries.

Design: A prospective cohort study and economic analysis.

Participants and setting: Participants were recruited in TB clinics, general practices and community settings. Contacts of active TB cases and migrants who were born in high-TB-burden countries arriving in the UK were eligible to take part if they were aged ≥ 16 years.

Main outcome measures: Outcomes include incidence rate ratios comparing the incidence of active TB in those participants with a positive test result and those with a negative test result for each assay, and combination of tests and the cost per quality-adjusted life-year (QALY) for each screening strategy.

Results: A total of 10,045 participants were recruited between May 2010 and July 2015. Among 9610 evaluable participants, 97 (1.0%) developed active TB. For the primary analysis, all test data were available for 6380 participants, with 77 participants developing active TB. A positive result for TST^a (positive if induration is ≥ 5 mm) was a significantly poorer predictor of progression to active TB than a positive result for any of the

other tests. Compared with TST^b [positive if induration is ≥ 6 mm without prior bacillus Calmette–Guérin (BCG) alone, T-SPOT[®].TB (Oxford Immunotec Ltd, Oxford, UK), TST^a + T-SPOT.TB, TST^a + IGRA and the three combination strategies including TST^b were significantly superior predictors of progression. Compared with the T-SPOT.TB test alone, TST^a + T-SPOT.TB, TST^b + QuantiFERON[®] TB Gold In-Tube (QFT-GIT; QIAGEN GmbH, Hilden, Germany) and TST^b + IGRA were significantly superior predictors of progression and, compared with QFT-GIT alone, T-SPOT.TB, TST^a + T-SPOT.TB, TST^a + QFT-GIT, TST^a + IGRA, TST^b + T-SPOT.TB, TST^b + QFT-GIT and TST^b + IGRA were significantly superior predictors of progression. When evaluating the negative predictive performance of tests and strategies, negative results for TST^a + QFT-GIT were significantly poorer predictors of non-progression than negative results for TST^a, T-SPOT.TB and TST^a + IGRA. The most cost-effective LTBI testing strategies are the dual-testing strategies. The cost and QALY differences between the LTBI testing strategies were small; in particular, QFT-GIT, TST^b + T-SPOT.TB and TST^b + QFT-GIT had very similar incremental net benefit estimates.

Conclusion: This study found modest differences between tests, or combinations of tests, in identifying individuals who would go on to develop active TB. However, a two-step approach that combined TST^b with an IGRA was the most cost-effective testing option.

Implications for practice and future research: The two-step TST^b strategy, which stratified the TST by prior BCG vaccination followed by an IGRA, was the most cost-effective approach. The limited ability of current tests to predict who will progress limits the clinical utility of tests. The implications of these results for the NHS England/Public Health England national TB screening programme for migrants should be investigated.

Study registration: This study is registered as NCT01162265.

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List of abbreviations

BCG	bacillus Calmette–Guérin	MIRU-VNTR	mycobacterial interspersed repetitive units – variable number tandem repeats
BMI	body mass index		
CEA	cost-effectiveness analysis	NICE	National Institute for Health and Care Excellence
CI	confidence interval		
CPX	chemoprophylaxis	NMRL	National Mycobacterial Reference Laboratory
DES	discrete event simulation		
ELISA	enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay	NPV	negative predictive value
		PBMC	peripheral blood mononuclear cell
ELISPOT	enzyme-linked immunospot	PCT	primary care trust
EQ-5D	EuroQol-5 Dimensions	PHE	Public Health England
ETS	enhanced tuberculosis surveillance	PPV	positive predictive value
GEE	generalised estimating equation	PREDICT	Prognostic Evaluation of Diagnostic IGRAs Consortium
GP	general practice		
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus	PSA	probabilistic sensitivity analysis
ICER	incremental cost-effectiveness ratio	QALY	quality-adjusted life-year
		QFT-G	QuantIFERON TB Gold
IGRA	interferon gamma release assay	QFT-GIT	QuantIFERON TB Gold In-Tube
INB	incremental net benefit	RLR	rate of likelihood ratio
IQR	interquartile range	TB	tuberculosis
IR	incidence rate	TNF- α	tumour necrosis factor alpha
IRR	incidence rate ratio	TST	tuberculin skin test
LTBI	latent tuberculosis infection	WHO	World Health Organization

Plain English summary

People can be infected with the bacteria that cause tuberculosis (TB) without having symptoms. They are then said to have latent TB infection (LTBI). For a small proportion of people, the bacteria can later 'reactivate' to cause TB disease. To avoid reactivation, people with LTBI may be offered treatment to clear the infection before they become ill. Ideally, treatment would be given only to people who are at the highest risk of progressing to active disease. However, at the moment, we cannot accurately predict people's risk of progressing.

This study was designed to determine how well new blood tests, called interferon gamma release assays (IGRAs), can predict who will develop active TB compared with an older test [tuberculin skin test (TST)]. It also assessed how cost-effective the new tests are on their own or in combination with other tests.

The study recruited 6386 participants who had a test result for all three LTBI tests (the TST and two different IGRAs), of whom 97 developed TB disease. When we compared the three different tests and combinations of these tests, none appeared to be better than the others for predicting who would develop TB disease. The approach with the best value from a health systems perspective is to combine the skin test with either of the blood tests. However, there were only small differences in cost-effectiveness between the different testing strategies.

This study concluded that no particular test or combination of tests was statistically superior to other approaches at predicting who would develop TB disease. However, a two-step approach that combined the skin test with either of the blood tests and took into account people's previous vaccination against TB provided the most benefit, taking into account the cost. Skin testing that did not account for previous vaccination was worse than other test options.

Scientific summary

Background

Although there has been a decline in the incidence of tuberculosis (TB) in the UK over the past few years, rates remain higher than in most Western European countries. This study has investigated the predictive values and cost-effectiveness of different combinations of the tuberculin skin test (TST) and two interferon gamma release assays (IGRAs) in contacts (of people with TB) and new entrants to the UK.

Objectives

1. To assess the prognostic value of the two current IGRAs compared with the standard Mantoux test for predicting active TB among untreated individuals at increased risk of latent TB infection (LTBI), among contacts of active TB cases and among new entrants to the UK from high-TB-burden countries.
2. To assess the cost-effectiveness of various screening strategies [including the two-step approach recommended by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE)] using IGRAs and/or TST in defined patient groups (contacts and new entrants to the UK stratified by age and risk).

Methods

A prospective cohort design was used to investigate the predictive value of the two commercial IGRAs and the tuberculin Mantoux skin test. Participants were recruited in TB clinics, general practices and community settings. Contacts of active TB cases, migrants who were born in high-TB-burden countries but had arrived in the UK within the previous 5 years or those who had travelled frequently in the previous 5 years were eligible to take part if they were aged ≥ 16 years. Outcomes include incidence rate ratios comparing the incidence of active TB in those with a positive test result compared with those with a negative result for each assay and combination of assays, positive and negative predictive values and cost per quality-adjusted life-year (QALY) for each screening strategy.

Results

The study recruited 10,045 participants between May 2010 and July 2015. A total of 175 participants had active TB at baseline (diagnosed or treated < 21 days after being recruited) and another 260 were treated for LTBI, leaving 9610 evaluable participants, of whom 97 (1.0%) developed active TB. For the primary analyses, data for the 6386 participants with all test data (including 77 participants who developed active TB) were used.

A positive result for TST^a (a skin induration of ≥ 5 mm) was a significantly poorer predictor of progression to active TB than positive results for all other tests. Compared with TST^b alone [positive if (1) there is a skin induration of ≥ 6 mm following the standard TST and the participant was not known to have had a bacillus Calmette–Guérin (BCG) vaccination or (2) there is a skin induration of ≥ 15 mm for those known to have had a BCG vaccination], T-SPOT[®].TB (Oxford Immunotec Ltd, Oxford, UK), TST^a + T-SPOT.TB, TST^a + IGRA and the three combination strategies including TST^b were significantly superior predictors of progression. Compared with the T-SPOT.TB test alone, TST^a + T-SPOT.TB, TST^b + QuantiFERON[®] TB Gold In-Tube (QFT-GIT; Cellestis International Pty Ltd, Chadstone, VIC, Australia) and TST^b + IGRA were significantly superior predictors of progression and, compared with QFT-GIT alone, T-SPOT.TB, TST^a + T-SPOT.TB, TST^a + QFT-GIT, TST^a + IGRA, TST^b + T-SPOT.TB, TST^b + QFT-GIT and TST^b + IGRA were significantly superior predictors of progression.

When evaluating the negative predictive performance of tests and strategies, negative results for TST^a + QFT-GIT were significantly poorer predictors of non-progression than negative results for TST^a, T-SPOT.TB and TST^a + IGRA. Negative results for TST^b + QFT-GIT were significantly poorer predictors of non-progression than negative results for TST^a, TST^b, T-SPOT.TB, TST^a + T-SPOT.TB, TST^a + IGRA, TST^b + T-SPOT.TB and TST^b + IGRA, which all performed better.

The most cost-effective LTBI testing strategy is TST^b + QFT-GIT. However, the estimated cost and QALY differences between the LTBI testing strategies were small, in particular QFT-GIT, TST^b + T-SPOT.TB and TST^b + QFT-GIT gave very similar incremental net benefit estimates.

Conclusion

This study investigated the optimal screening strategy for LTBI, based on existing technologies. It did not find evidence that any particular test or combination of tests was superior to other approaches in identifying individuals who would go on to develop active TB. However, a two-step approach that combined TST^b with an IGRA was the most cost-effective testing option.

Implications for health care

The current recommendation by NICE for contacts is to offer the Mantoux test using a 5-mm threshold (the more cost-effective option), and consider IGRAs if TST is not available. Our results demonstrate that a two-step process using the more nuanced TST^b strategy, which stratified the TST by prior BCG vaccination, followed by an IGRA, was the most cost-effective approach.

Implications for future research

Further research to develop new markers with better predictive ability utilising transcriptomics, new antigens and cytokines, metabolomics and proteomics is ongoing. Ongoing work with the Prognostic Evaluation of Diagnostic IGRAs ConsorTium (PREDICT) biobank is likely to result in better biomarkers for progression and the development of new assays. The cost-effectiveness of these new assays, using progression data from this study, should be assessed.

The limited ability of current tests to predict who will progress to active TB limits the utility of latent TB detection and treatment. The widespread treatment of groups who may have a positive IGRA or TST result is unlikely to be cost-effective; the most cost-effective delivery of treatment is likely to be focused on the highest-risk groups. Further research should investigate the implications of these results on the NHS England/ Public Health England national TB screening programme for migrants from high-TB-burden countries.

Study registration

This study is registered as NCT01162265.

Funding

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Chapter 1 Background, aims and objectives

Background

Tuberculosis (TB) is a major cause of morbidity and mortality worldwide. In 2015, an estimated 9 million cases occurred globally and > 1.5 million people died of TB.¹ The UK has seen a resurgence of TB since the late 1980s, and there are currently > 7000 new cases each year.² Although there has been a decline over the last few years, levels remain higher than in most Western European countries. Most cases in the UK occur in major cities, particularly London, and two-thirds of TB patients were born abroad. There are also high rates among those with social risk factors such as homelessness and/or drug/alcohol misuse. Control measures have traditionally relied on the prompt diagnosis of active TB and ensuring that patients completed their treatment. More recently, the collaborative TB strategy for England has initiated a programme of latent TB screening of migrants entering the UK from countries with a high TB burden.³

The majority of TB cases in the UK are a result of reactivation of latent infection.² Among migrant groups, the infection is likely to have been acquired abroad whereas, among the elderly UK-born population, the infection is likely to represent acquisition several decades ago when TB was highly prevalent in the UK. The policy of targeting active TB cases for treatment alone will therefore not be sufficient to control and eventually eliminate TB in the UK. The identification and treatment of individuals with latent TB infection (LTBI) who are at high risk of developing active TB may therefore be an essential additional measure provided that (1) true LTBI can be identified [and distinguished from prior bacillus Calmette–Guérin (BCG) vaccination], (2) the probability of developing active TB in people with untreated LTBI can be determined and (3) the intervention strategy available (treatment of latent infection) is effective and can be successfully implemented.

Identification of latent tuberculosis infection

It is estimated that between one-quarter and one-third of the world's population is latently infected with the tubercle bacterium^{4,5} and it is widely accepted that, among those with LTBI, there is approximately a 10% lifetime chance of progression to active TB. Until recently, the tuberculin skin test (TST) was the only tool for the diagnosis of LTBI. TST assesses the delayed-type hypersensitivity response to a purified protein derivative, which contains antigens shared by several mycobacteria and *Mycobacterium bovis* BCG, by measuring the size of the skin induration following the injection of the antigen. Limitations to the validity (sensitivity and specificity) of TST as a measure of latent infection have been recognised for many years. These are partly attributable to variability in the quality of the administration and interpretation of the test, as well as the state of host immunity.

Interferon gamma release assays

Interferon gamma release assays (IGRAs) are based on the detection of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex specific region of difference 1 (RD1) antigens such as early secretory antigenic target 6 (ESAT-6), culture filtrate protein 10 (CFP-10) and other TB-specific antigens. Two commercial assays have been developed using these *M. tuberculosis* antigens: (1) QuantiFERON® TB Gold In-Tube (QFT-GIT; Cellestis International Pty Ltd, Chadstone, VIC, Australia), which uses an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) format; and (2) the T-SPOT®.TB test (Oxford Immunotec Ltd, Oxford, UK), which is an enzyme-linked immunospot (ELISPOT)-based assay.

Predictive value studies of interferon gamma release assays

Early systematic reviews⁶ of the role of IGRAs in the diagnosis of latent infection with *M. tuberculosis* concluded that they have several advantages over the TST, including higher specificity (less cross-reactivity with BCG vaccine and environmental mycobacteria) and better correlation with exposure to *M. tuberculosis*. In the absence of a gold standard for the diagnosis of LTBI, all of the studies in these reviews have used other proxy measures to estimate the sensitivity and specificity of IGRAs for latent infection. These measures

include 'degree of contact with a case of TB' and the use of 'active TB disease' as an indicator of a true positive result and 'low prevalence of infection in the test population' to estimate true negative results.⁴

The majority of the studies included in these reviews were conducted in high-incidence countries, with a limited number conducted in low-incidence countries. Most of the completed studies either had low power⁷⁻⁹ or used routinely collected data.¹⁰ More recent systematic reviews still conclude that the predictive value of IGRAs is comparable to that of TST.^{11,12} We have updated these reviews in *Diagnostic performance of interferon gamma release assays for development of active tuberculosis: evidence summary*.

National and international guidelines and policy context

National policy

The national policy for the control of TB is currently based on the Collaborative Tuberculosis Strategy for England,³ published in January 2015, which outlines 10 action areas including treatment of LTBI in new entrants to the UK from high-burden countries. Based on this strategy, Public Health England (PHE; formerly the Health Protection Agency) recommends screening using IGRA alone.¹³ In contrast, the most recently published (January 2016) National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidance¹⁴ recommended that a TST and, where this is not available, an IGRA for migrants (as this was the most cost-effective strategy based on analysis using predictive value data) and a two-step approach using the TST followed by an IGRA if the TST was positive for contacts.

International policy

The World Health Organization (WHO) has published guidelines for the management of LTBI,¹² which is targeted at countries with an incidence of TB of < 100 cases per 100,000 people. These guidelines recommend the use of either IGRAs or TST as alternatives based on very low-quality evidence. Internationally, individual country guidelines differ considerably with five broad approaches: (1) an IGRA and TST as alternatives, (2) a two-step process consisting of a TST followed by an IGRA, (3) an IGRA and TST together, (4) an IGRA alone, replacing the TST, and (5) the TST alone.

Diagnostic performance of interferon gamma release assays for development of active tuberculosis: evidence summary

Because of the known limitations of the TST, there is no gold standard against which to compare IGRAs to estimate their sensitivity, specificity, positive predictive value (PPV) or negative predictive value (NPV) for the presence of LTBI. However, for clinical and public health purposes, arguably a more important issue is what a positive or negative IGRA result means for the risk of developing active TB. Several studies have estimated PPV and NPV, sensitivity or specificity of IGRAs for the development of active TB, and two recent systematic reviews^{15,16} have included meta-analyses of these parameters. A further, more up-to-date, review¹² concluded that the two tests were not significantly different in terms of their PPV and NPV.

The two recently published reviews^{15,16} had slightly different objectives, inclusion criteria and analytical approaches and, for this reason, reached different conclusions. One of them¹⁵ estimated a pooled PPV of 2.7% [95% confidence interval (CI) 2.3% to 3.2%] from 17 studies and 6.8% (95% CI 5.6% to 8.3%) from 13 studies that were conducted in high-risk groups. The pooled NPV was considerably higher, at 99.7% (95% CI 99.5% to 99.8%). The included studies were heterogeneous for both PPV and NPV. The other review¹⁶ compared rates and risks of TB disease in IGRA-positive and IGRA-negative individuals, as well as estimating sensitivity and specificity of IGRAs for the development of active TB. The pooled rate ratio was 2.10 (95% CI 1.42 to 3.08) and the pooled risk ratio was 3.54 (95% CI 2.23 to 5.60). Sensitivity was estimated as 72% (95% CI 58% to 82%) and specificity as 50% (95% CI 41% to 58%) for the ELISPOT assay; for whole-blood ELISA, only two eligible studies estimated sensitivity and specificity, with values of 79% (95% CI 61% to 91%) and 43% (95% CI 18% to 72%) for sensitivity and 34% (95% CI 32% to 36%) and 59% (95% CI 55% to 62%) for specificity. In the subset of studies that assessed both IGRA and TST, Rangaka *et al.*¹⁶ reported incidence rate ratios (IRRs) of 2.11 (95% CI 1.29 to 3.46) for IGRA, 1.60 (95% CI 0.94 to 2.72) for TST with a 10-mm cut-off point and 1.43 (95% CI 0.75 to 2.72) for

TST with a 5-mm cut-off point. In the review by Diel *et al.*,¹⁵ PPV appeared higher for IGRA (2.1%, 95% CI 1.7% to 2.5%) than for TST (1.4%, 95% CI 1.2% to 1.8%) in studies that assessed both tests.

The review by Rangaka *et al.*¹⁶ was updated by Pai *et al.*,¹¹ who identified an additional five longitudinal studies that compared the incidence of TB between individuals with positive and negative IGRA results. Three of these studies were conducted in immunocompromised populations: human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)-positive patients,¹⁷ patients with various immunosuppressive conditions¹⁸ and renal transplant recipients¹⁹. The remaining two studies assessed the development of active TB among contacts of TB cases in the UK⁷ and France,²⁰ comparing those with a positive IGRA result at baseline with those with a negative result. In the UK, this generated a rate ratio of 4.9 (95% CI 2.7 to 8.7) over 2 years,⁷ whereas the French study reported a PPV of 1.96% among contacts who were not given chemoprophylaxis (CPX), over a mean follow-up period of 34 months.²⁰

PubMed was searched on 19 July 2016 to update the evidence base, using the search strategy of Rangaka *et al.*¹⁶ (which was itself based on strategies used in previous reviews²¹) and restricting to publication dates in 2013 or later. We sought to identify primary studies in which individuals underwent IGRA testing at baseline and were followed up for the development of active TB, and which either presented estimates of PPV and NPV or provided sufficient information for these to be estimated. Studies in which no cases of active TB occurred were considered not to be informative for this purpose and were excluded.

The search of PubMed generated 2399 results (*Figure 1*), of which 59^{7,9,10,22-77} included the required information on PPV and/or NPV (see *Appendix 2, Figure 14*). In addition, we are aware of a further relevant study⁷⁸ that was published after we conducted our review. Many of these 59 studies did not have the primary aim of assessing diagnostic accuracy. Many recorded few cases of active TB (often < 10)^{22,25-27,29-33,35-38,40,42-45,47,48,50,51,56-59,62-65,67-75,77,78} and/or were restricted to groups such as patients infected with HIV,^{9,28,29,36,49,51,56,60,65,68,75} recipients of haemodialysis or kidney transplants,^{35,43,44,62-64} patients taking or initiating treatment with biological agents such as tumour necrosis factor alpha (TNF- α) inhibitors,^{37-40,42,45,47,48,58,71,74} recipients of haematopoietic stem cell transplants,^{50,57} lung cancer patients³⁰ or patients with combinations of these conditions.⁶¹ Four further studies were conducted among health-care workers.^{59,69,73,77} The duration of follow-up ranged from 8 to 10 weeks to 10 years. Consistent with the previous systematic review,¹⁵ estimates of PPV were consistently low, ranging from 0% to 24%; NPV was considerably higher (always $\geq 90\%$).

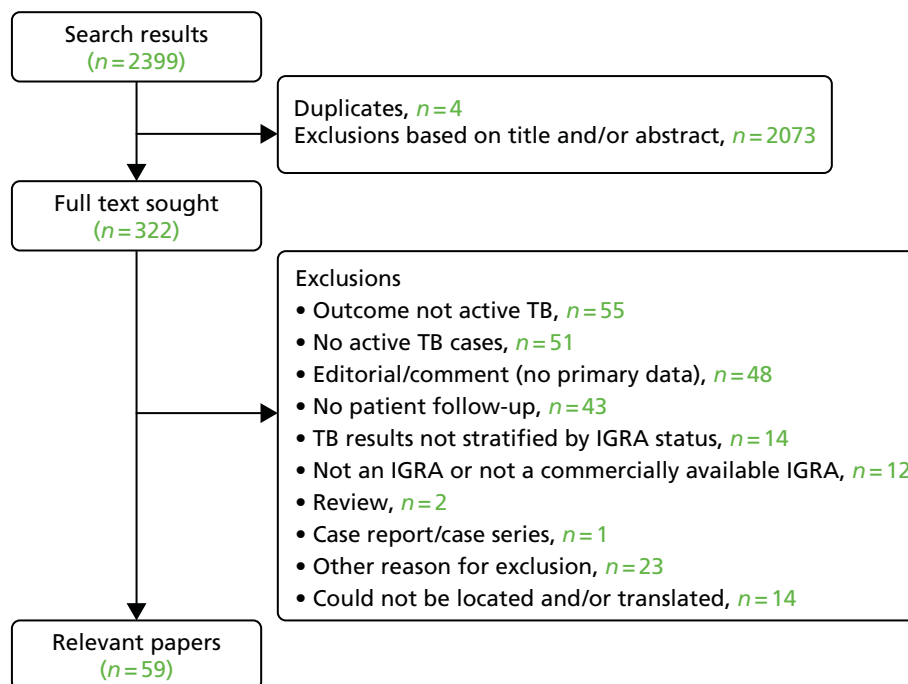


FIGURE 1 Flow diagram summarising study selection.

Eighteen studies (including the additional study⁷⁸) did specifically assess the diagnostic accuracy of IGRAs for future development of active TB (*Table 1*) or otherwise quantify the association between a positive IGRA and subsequent TB. Of these, five assessed both IGRAs and TST.^{23,52,56,62,72} Except when noted, these studies did not include treatment for LTBI. In this subset of studies, estimates of the PPVs ranged from < 1% to 17%, whereas the NPV was $\geq 97\%$. Sensitivity was reported as 37.5–100.0% and specificity as 27.0–86.0%. Even among these studies, case numbers were sometimes low (see *Table 1*). In addition, several of the studies^{29,31,32,35,36,52,56,62,72} did not explicitly state that prevalent cases were excluded, although the extent to which this may have affected their estimates was not always clear.

Within the subset of 18 studies, several compared the frequency of TB disease between IGRA-positive and IGRA-negative participants, consistently finding that rates, hazards or odds of TB were higher among the former (although CIs sometimes crossed the null value). Unadjusted estimates included a hazard ratio of 4.0 (95% CI 0.8 to 19.3),³⁶ odds ratio of 2.10 (95% CI 0.13 to 34.4)³⁵ and rate ratios of 8.5 (no CI given),³⁴ 2.9 (95% CI 2.8 to 21.2)⁷⁸ and 7.7 (95% CI 2.8 to 21.2).⁵² Doyle *et al.*²⁹ estimated the hazard ratio as 42.4 (95% CI 2.2 to 827) after adjustment for age, gender, cluster of differentiation 4 (CD4) count, viral load and country of birth. Of the studies that did not specifically aim to assess diagnostic performance, such estimates included unadjusted rate ratios of 2.12,²⁴ 3.46⁵⁰ and 73.9 (95% CI 3.9 to 1397.7);⁷⁵ odds ratios of 9.26 (95% CI 1.02 to 84.0)³⁰ and 7.9 (95% CI 3.46 to 18.06);⁶⁶ and hazard ratios were 16.82 (95% CI 5.84 to 48.46), excluding treated individuals, and 2.38 (95% CI 1.15 to 4.91), including treated individuals.⁴¹ Adjusted values included a hazard ratio of 2.0 (95% CI 1.2 to 3.3), after adjustment for BCG vaccination scar, maternal education and current/prior household TB contact,⁵⁴ and an odds ratio of 14.9 (95% CI 2.77 to 80.3), adjusted for the number of IGRA-positive contacts of the same index case, receipt of treatment and place of contact (household vs. other).⁷⁶ These effect estimates varied considerably and were often imprecise. In addition, analyses of data from contacts often did not account for clustering by index case, and logistic regression did not account for differences in time at risk of developing active TB.

Table 2 summarises the studies that compared IGRAs with TST in the same participants and assessed predictive values, combining the results of our literature search with earlier studies identified in previous reviews.¹² Only four of these studies^{23,79–81} were conducted in low-incidence countries with a PPV range of 3% to 17% for IGRA compared with 2–5% for TST. The estimates of NPV for both IGRA (range 98–100%) and TST (99–100%) were very high. Studies from intermediate- and high-burden settings^{56,62,72,75,82–84} had a wider range of PPV for both IGRA and TST and, similarly, a high but wider range of NPVs.

Our evidence review, and the previously published systematic reviews and meta-analyses, highlight several important research gaps. There has been relatively little study of the diagnostic performance of IGRAs, compared with TST, for the development of active TB in low-incidence countries and particularly in the UK. The one study in *Table 1* that was UK based⁷ did not include a head-to-head comparison with TST and was focused on contacts of TB cases. Although contacts are an important risk group, current guidance in many low-incidence countries includes testing of new entrants from high-burden countries, in whom there is limited evidence of diagnostic performance. Predictive values, both positive and negative, depend on the prevalence of the condition within the population of interest; consequently, results from high-incidence settings may not be generalisable to the UK. Owing to the low risk of progression from LTBI to active TB disease, the PPV of IGRAs for this outcome will, in general, be low.¹¹ It is therefore important to identify which individuals, among those with a positive IGRA (or TST) result, are most likely to develop disease and, therefore, benefit from treatment of LTBI. The PREDICT (Prognostic Evaluation of Diagnostic IGRAs ConsorTium) study aimed to address these gaps in the evidence base in order to inform UK and international policy for testing and treating LTBI in contacts of TB cases and in migrants.

Review of cost-effectiveness studies

The NICE guideline on TB, which was published in 2006,⁸⁵ recommended a two-step testing strategy to diagnose LTBI: TST followed by IGRA for patients with a positive TST result. This recommendation was informed by a cost-effectiveness analysis (CEA) based on a simple decision tree model, a systematic review of diagnostic accuracy of TST compared with IGRA, and a series of assumptions about the predictive performance

TABLE 1 Summary of studies estimating PPV, NPV, sensitivity and/or specificity of IGRAs for development of active TB

Study	Population	Participants, n/N (%)			Number of active TB cases		Follow-up duration	PPV (%) (95% CI)	NPV (%) (95% CI)	Sensitivity (%) (95% CI)	Specificity (%) (95% CI)
		IGRA positive at baseline	IGRA negative at baseline	IGRA indeterminate at baseline	IGRA positive at baseline	IGRA negative at baseline					
^a Altet <i>et al.</i> ²³	Contacts (Spain)	81/453 (18)	372/453 (82)	0	14	0	4 years	17 (9 to 26)	100 (100 to 100)	100 (100 to 100)	85 (81 to 88)
^b Blount <i>et al.</i> ⁷⁸	New entrants (USA)	513/1152 (45)	639/1152 (55)	0 (excluded)	5	2	10 years	0.97 (0.32 to 2.3)	99.7 (98.9 to 100)	71 (29 to 96)	56 (53 to 59)
^c Doyle <i>et al.</i> ²⁹	HIV-positive patients being screened for LTBI at a sexual health centre (Australia)	29/917 (3)	884/917 (96)	4/917 (0.4)	1	1	Median 26.4 months	3.4 (0.1 to 17.8)	99.9 (99.4 to 99.9)	N/A	N/A
^a Geis <i>et al.</i> ³¹	IGRA-positive contacts without history of TB disease (Germany)	207/207 (100)	0	0	5	N/A	≈1 year	2.9	N/A	N/A	N/A
Goebel <i>et al.</i> ³²	Contacts (Australia)	212/643 (33)	431/643 (67)	0	4	2	Mean 3.7 years	2	99	N/A	N/A
Haldar <i>et al.</i> ⁷	Contacts not receiving LTBI treatment (UK)	112/1669 (7)	1557/1669 (93)	0	Unclear	Unclear	2 years	13 (7 to 20)	99 (98 to 100)	70 (46 to 88)	86 (83 to 88)
Hermansen <i>et al.</i> ³⁴	General population (Denmark)	1520/15,749 (10)	13,425/15,749 (85)	804/15,749 (5)	20	20	Median 3.36 years	1.3	99.9	N/A	N/A
Jeong <i>et al.</i> ³⁵	Kidney transplant recipients (Republic of Korea)	42/129 (33)	87/129 (67)	0	1	1	Median 8.4 months	2.4	98.9	50	67.7
Jonnalagadda <i>et al.</i> ³⁶	HIV-positive pregnant women tested during pregnancy and followed up for post-partum TB (Kenya)	125/327 (38)	157/327 (48)	45/327 (14)	7	2	1 year in primary analysis (2 years in supplementary analysis)	5.9 (2.4 to 12.2)	N/A	77.7 (45.7 to 100.0)	54.6 (49.3 to 60.1)

continued

TABLE 1 Summary of studies estimating PPV, NPV, sensitivity and/or specificity of IGRAs for development of active TB (*continued*)

Study	Population	Participants, n/N (%)			Number of active TB cases		Follow-up duration	PPV (%) (95% CI)	NPV (%) (95% CI)	Sensitivity (%) (95% CI)	Specificity (%) (95% CI)
		IGRA positive at baseline	IGRA negative at baseline	IGRA indeterminate at baseline	IGRA positive at baseline	IGRA negative at baseline					
Lee <i>et al.</i> ⁴⁹	HIV-infected patients (Taiwan)	90/772 (12)	651/772 (84)	31/772 (4)	6	10	Median 5.2 years	N/A	98.5	37.5	
^a Leung <i>et al.</i> ⁵²	Contacts (Hong Kong)	244/865 (28)	621/865 (72)	0	15	5	Mean 4.68 years	6.1 (3.5 to 9.9)	99.2 (98.1 to 99.9)	75.0 (50.9 to 91.3)	72.9 (69.8 to 75.9)
Mathad <i>et al.</i> ⁵⁶	Pregnant women infected with HIV (India)	71/252 (28)	173/252 (69)	8/252 (3)	5	0	≈1 year	7	N/A	100	27
Seyhan <i>et al.</i> ⁶²	Haemodialysis patients (Turkey)	39/95 (41)	56/95 (59)	0	4	0	Mean 4.9 years	10.3	100	100	62
Shu <i>et al.</i> ⁶⁴	Haemodialysis patients (Taiwan)	193/940 (21)	713/940 (76)	34/940 (4)	3	1	Average 3 years	1.6	99.9	75.0	79.7
Soborg <i>et al.</i> ⁶⁵	HIV-infected patients (Denmark)	28/522 (5)	478/522 (91)	16/522 (4)	2	0	6 years	7 (1 to 22)	100 (99 to 100)		
Sun <i>et al.</i> ⁶⁸	HIV-infected patients (Taiwan)	64/608 (11)	534/608 (88)	10/608 (2)	1	0	Mean 2.6 years	1.6	100		
Verhagen <i>et al.</i> ⁷²	Indigenous child contacts (Venezuela)	56/142 (39)	76/142 (54)	10/142 (7)	2	2	12 months	4 (1 to 12)	97 (91 to 100)		
^d Zellweger <i>et al.</i> ¹⁰ (QFT-GIT)	Contacts (multiple European countries)	1068/3895 (27)	2803/3895 (72)	24/3895 (< 1)	17	3	Median 2.5 years	1.9 (1.1 to 3.0)	99.9 (99.7 to 100.0)	85.0 (62.1 to 96.6)	74.0 (72.5 to 75.5)
^d Zellweger <i>et al.</i> ¹⁰ (T-SPOT.TB)	Contacts (multiple European countries)	299/1125 (27)	823/1125 (73)	3/1125 (< 1)	2	2	Median 2.5 years	0.7 (0.1 to 2.6)	99.7 (99.1 to 99.9)	50.0 (8.3 to 91.7)	73.6 (70.8 to 76.2)

N/A, not applicable.

^a Data used excluded participants who received CPX.

^b Identified subsequent to literature review. Included treated patients.

^c Estimates of PPV and NPV excluded people previously diagnosed with TB or treated for TB and/or LTBI.

^d Separate results for different IGRAs presented in the same study.

Note

Missing values indicate that information has not been provided.

TABLE 2 Predictive value studies that compared IGRA and TST

Study	Location	Study population	Follow-up	Mean follow-up duration (months)	Tests done	PPV of (%)		NPV of (%)	
						TST	IGRA	TST	IGRA
Altet <i>et al.</i> ²³	Spain	Adult and child contacts	Active	48	TST (5 mm) and QFT-GIT	2	17	100	100
Diel <i>et al.</i> ⁷⁹	Germany	Adult and child contacts	Passive	43	TST and QFT-GIT	5	13	99	100
Harstad <i>et al.</i> ⁸⁰	Norway	Asylum seekers (adults)	Passive	23–32	TST and QFT-GIT	2	3	100	100
Kik <i>et al.</i> ⁸¹	The Netherlands	Adult contacts in migrants	Active	24	TST, QFT-GIT and T-SPOT.TB	3	3	100	98
Lee <i>et al.</i> ⁸²	Taiwan	Adults with end-stage renal disease	Active	24	TST and T-SPOT.TB	5	0	92	88
Leung <i>et al.</i> ⁸³	China	Adult silicosis patients	Passive	29.9	TST and T-SPOT.TB	7	8	96	99
Mahomed <i>et al.</i> ⁸⁴	South Africa	Adolescents	Active	27.6	TST and QFT-GIT	1	1	99	99
Mathad <i>et al.</i> ⁵⁶	India	Pregnant women infected with HIV	Active	12	TST and QFT-GIT	7	7	99	100
Seyhan <i>et al.</i> ⁶²	Turkey	Dialysis patients	Unclear	60	TST (10 mm/15 mm with BCG) and QFT-IG	3	10	95	100
Verhagen <i>et al.</i> ⁷²	Venezuela	Child contacts	Active	12	TST and QFT-GIT	3	4	98	97
Yang <i>et al.</i> ⁷⁵	Taiwan	Adults infected with HIV	Active	35.6	TST and T-SPOT.TB	3	5	100	100

Notes

The top four studies in this table were conducted in low-incidence countries.

Studies published prior to 2013 were identified from Rangaka *et al.*¹⁶ and related references in PubMed. The full text of all articles, including those prior to 2013, were obtained and data were extracted.

of IGRA in populations at different levels of risk. The impact of transmission was estimated by assuming a fixed number of incident cases in contacts of the modelled cohort. The Guideline Development Group noted the high degree of uncertainty over the estimates of cost-effectiveness of different testing strategies for LTBI.

In 2011, NICE published an updated review⁸⁶ of diagnostic accuracy of tests for LTBI and economic analysis, reaching rather different conclusions. The revised model suggested that the IGRA-alone strategy (without TST) was optimal, although the estimated differences in costs and quality-adjusted life-years (QALYs) were small. Given the high level of uncertainty, the 2011 NICE guideline recommended IGRA-alone or TST-IGRA strategies as options. Owing to limitations in the evidence base, the 2006⁸⁵ and 2011⁸⁶ NICE guidelines did not distinguish between the two types of commercially available IGRAs [QuantiFERON TB Gold (QFT-G) and T-SPOT.TB], and compared only three screening strategies (TST alone, IGRA alone and TST followed by IGRA if TST result was positive). Both the 2006 and 2011 guidelines followed policy at the time, recommending two cut-off points for defining a positive TST result: induration of ≥ 15 mm for patients with a prior BCG vaccination or ≥ 6 mm for patients without a BCG vaccination. More recent NICE guidelines,¹⁴ published in 2016, based on a new decision model, led to revised recommendations, described further in the following paragraphs.

A series of cost-effectiveness analyses have also been published in the literature. In 2011, Nienhaus *et al.*⁸⁷ published a review of economic studies evaluating TST and/or IGRA as components of screening strategies for groups at high risk of TB, such as migrants, close contacts and health-care workers, mostly in low-incidence countries.⁸⁷ Of the 13 papers that met their inclusion criteria, eight^{88–95} involved CEA, whereas five^{96–100} were cost analyses.

The published cost-effectiveness studies reviewed by Nienhaus *et al.*⁸⁷ all used Markov modelling to estimate transition of a cohort through different health states, assuming a fixed rate of infection in the cohort. None modelled the dynamics of transmission within a wider population. One CEA study⁹⁵ presented results in terms of cost per avoided TB case, whereas the remaining studies^{88–94} used QALYs or life-years gained as treatment outcomes. The time horizon for analysis after initial testing for LTBI ranged from 2 years to lifetime in the different CEA models. Some populations were stratified, for example health-care workers with/without BCG vaccination. Although the CEA studies generally supported the IGRA-alone or IGRA-based strategies, Nienhaus *et al.*⁸⁷ noted that comparison of the different models was hindered by a wide range of assumptions. The models were most sensitive to assumptions about specificity of TST, which varied among non-BCG-vaccinated individuals from as low as 34% in one study to 98% in another. There was also significant uncertainty surrounding the rates of progression to active TB following a positive test, as well as overassumptions for IGRA and TST sensitivities.

In 2011, after the Nienhaus *et al.*⁸⁷ review, Pareek *et al.*¹⁰¹ published a UK-based prospective assessment and an economic analysis. They sought to address the limitations of the existing models and to examine how LTBI prevalence varied by TB-incidence thresholds in migrants' regions of origin. They found that single-step QFT-GIT without port-of-arrival chest radiography could be cost-effective at certain incidence thresholds. The results are, however, limited by the small number of participants and the fact that not all of the participants received all three tests.

The NICE TB clinical guideline was updated again in 2016,¹⁴ making the following recommendations for LTBI testing in contacts and new entrants to the UK.

- Offer TST to diagnose LTBI in adults aged 18–65 years who are close contacts of a person with pulmonary or laryngeal TB:
 - If the TST is inconclusive, refer the person to a TB specialist.
 - If the TST is positive (an induration of ≥ 5 mm, regardless of BCG vaccination history), assess for active TB.
 - If the TST is positive but a diagnosis of active TB is excluded, consider an IGRA if more evidence of infection is needed to decide treatment.
 - If the TST is positive, and if an IGRA was carried out and that is also positive, offer treatment for LTBI.

- Offer TST as the initial diagnostic test for LTBI in people who have recently arrived from high-incidence countries and who present to health-care services. If the TST is positive (an induration of ≥ 5 mm, regardless of BCG vaccination history):
 - assess for active TB
 - *and* if this assessment is negative, offer treatment for LTBI
 - if TST is unavailable, offer IGRA.

These recommendations differ from the previous NICE guidelines^{85,86} in two key respects. First, they downplay the role of IGRA, recommending it as an option following TST when more evidence is needed before treating contacts, or when TST is not available for new entrants to the UK. Second, they recommend a single cut-off point for a positive TST (an induration of ≥ 5 mm) regardless of BCG vaccination status, rather than two cut-off points, as recommended in previous guidelines (an induration of ≥ 6 mm without prior BCG vaccination or an induration of ≥ 15 mm with prior BCG vaccination).

The 2016 NICE recommendations¹⁴ were informed by an evidence review and new economic analysis by Auguste *et al.*¹⁰² (henceforth referred to as the Warwick Evidence report). Auguste *et al.*'s model consisted of two stages. In the first stage (illustrated in *Figures 2 and 3*), a decision tree was used to represent LTBI screening, active TB diagnosis and treatment adherence. They examined four diagnostic strategies:

- A IGRA alone
- B TST alone
- C combined strategies – TST followed by IGRA if TST is positive
- D simultaneous testing – both TST and IGRA are carried out.

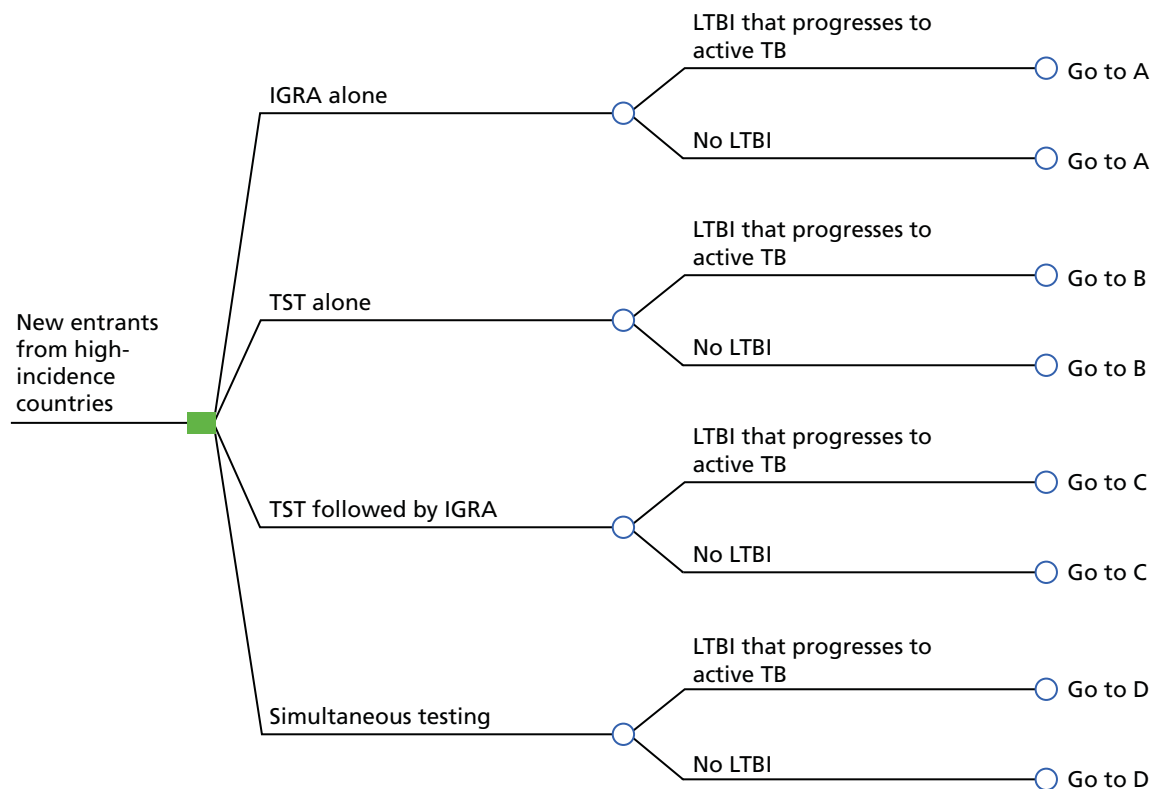


FIGURE 2 Starting decision tree of the Warwick Evidence analysis for new entrants from high-incidence countries. Reproduced from Auguste *et al.*¹⁰² Contains information licensed under the Non-Commercial Government Licence v2.0.

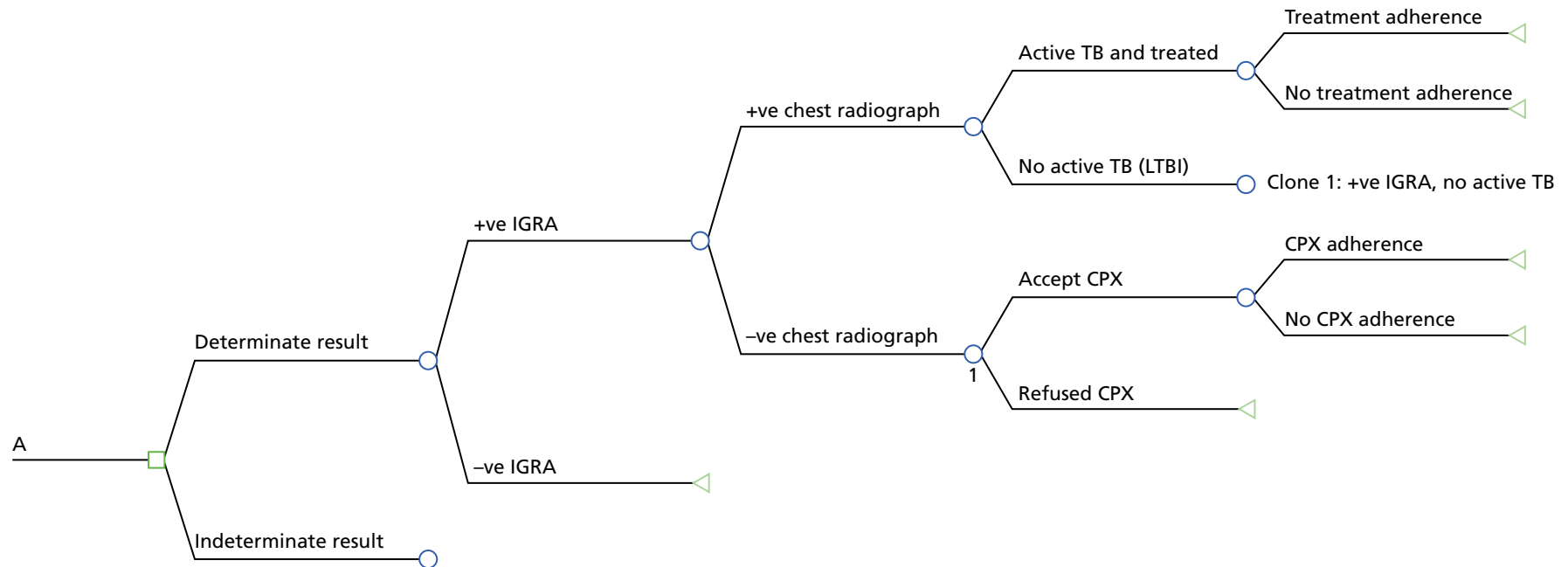


FIGURE 3 Example decision tree extension from *Figure 2*, showing only strategy A (i.e. IGRA alone). +ve, positive; -ve, negative. Reproduced from Auguste *et al.*¹⁰² Contains information licensed under the Non-Commercial Government Licence v2.0.

Only the pathway for the IGRA-alone strategy (A) is presented here (see *Figure 3*). A do-nothing (no test) strategy was not explored. The IGRA strategies A, C and D were evaluated for three types of commercially available IGRAs: QTF-G, QTF-GIT and T-SPOT.TB.

The decision tree was used to estimate the proportion of patients emerging from the initial assessment, diagnosis and treatment stages with different risks of disease progression in the second stage of the model. Three populations were considered: (1) children, (2) immunocompromised individuals and (3) recently arrived individuals from high-incidence countries.

The second stage of the Warwick Evidence model¹⁰² (*Figure 4*) was a transmission model, operationalised using discrete event simulation (DES), programmed using R (The R Foundation for Statistical Computing, Vienna, Austria). Individuals arriving from the decision tree were grouped as (1) having active TB, (2) already successfully treated for LTBI and, hence, free of LTBI/TB or (3) untreated for LTBI. The model then tracked disease progression, deaths and cases of new secondary infection. Secondary infection in other individuals was modelled as a proportion of the initial cohort (sampled from a Poisson distribution) who progressed or relapsed to active TB. The analysis assumed that individuals who entered the transmission model with LTBI would ultimately develop active TB if they did not receive treatment, although they might die of other causes before developing TB. In the initial population, as well as in secondary cases, people with LTBI who do not progress to active TB were not simulated in the second part of the model. The risk of an event in the transmission model, such as death or onset of active TB, was dependent on an individual's age, TB status and current treatment, and was updated when any of these factors changed. Time to activation of TB for individuals entering stage two of the model with LTBI (untreated or unsuccessfully treated LTBI cases) was simulated assuming a constant activation rate over time.

The Warwick Evidence analysis¹⁰² presented per-patient costs as well as a breakdown of total costs (including costs of diagnosis, LTBI treatment, active TB and treatment-related hepatitis) for all of the strategies, based on the mean values of all parameters after 250,000 individual patient simulations. The incidence rates (IRs) of active TB in the initial cohort, the number of secondary infections and the mean life-years and QALYs per strategy were also presented. In addition, based on 2000 Monte Carlo simulations, probabilistic estimates of the total cost, incremental costs, diagnostic errors (false-positive results plus false-negative results),

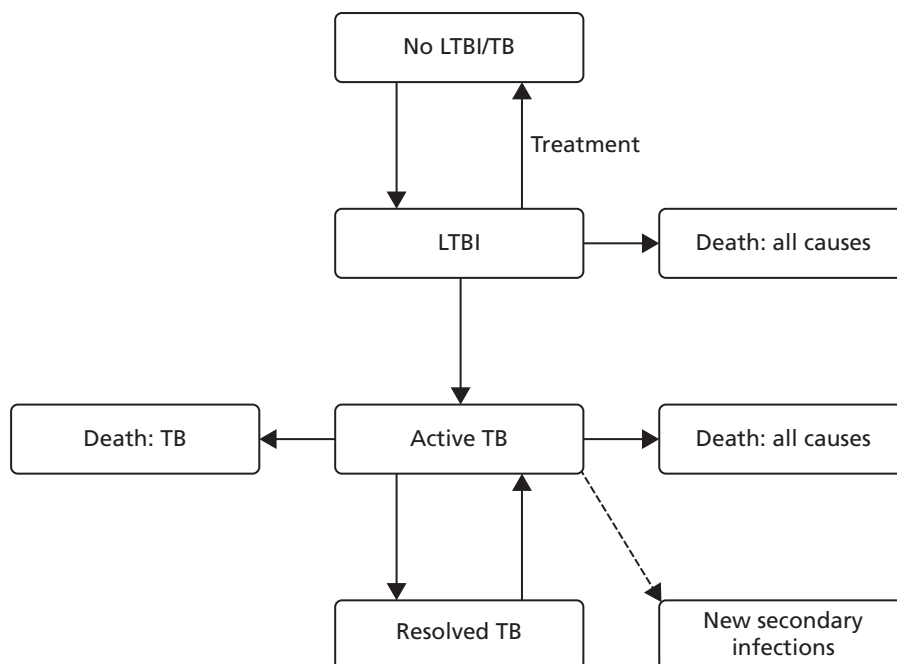


FIGURE 4 Warwick Evidence analysis (Tuberculosis Clinical Guidance) transition model. Reproduced from Auguste *et al.*¹⁰² Contains information licensed under the Non-Commercial Government Licence v2.0.

incremental diagnostic error, mean QALYs, incremental QALYs and incremental cost-effectiveness ratios (ICERs) were also presented.

The analysis suggested that, for new entrants from high-incidence countries, simultaneous testing strategies were dominated by the equivalent sequential strategies. The QFT-GIT-alone strategy was least costly, but the TST-positive (an induration of ≥ 5 mm) followed by QFT-GIT strategy had the fewest errors. At a willingness-to-pay threshold of £20,000 per QALY gained, the TST-alone (≥ 5 mm) strategy was optimal, with an ICER of £1524 per QALY gained compared with the QFT-GIT strategy. The TST-negative (an induration of < 5 mm) followed by QFT-GIT strategy was ranked as the next most cost-effective strategy, with an ICER of £58,720 per QALY gained compared with TST (an induration of ≥ 5 mm). The other strategies were dominated. Univariate sensitivity analysis suggested that the TST-alone strategy remained cost-effective in most scenarios. However, results were sensitive to LTBI prevalence, sensitivity of QFT-GIT and sensitivity of TST.

A major common limitation of all current CEA of screening strategies for LTBI relates to assumptions surrounding the predictive value of IGRAs and TST, because there is no gold standard against which to establish the sensitivity or specificity of the different tests. Previous CEA studies have based their estimates of LTBI predictive values on various, and often conflicting, sources and assumptions. This leaves considerable uncertainty over the cost-effectiveness of LTBI screening strategies.

We adopted a different approach, basing our economic analysis on the ability of the three tests (TST, QFT-GIT and T-SPOT.TB), individually and in combination, to predict progression to active TB in the PREDICT cohort. This represents a much stronger evidence base for modelling the predictive performance of LTBI test strategies than was available for previous economic evaluations, with three main advantages. First, the cohort provides a coherent source of baseline data, including risk factors and TST, QFT-GIT and T-SPOT.TB test results for large samples of new entrants and contacts being tested for LTBI in the UK. Second, the long-term follow-up and predictive modelling of TB incidence bypasses the problems of conventional diagnostic accuracy in the absence of a reliable reference standard test. Third, this evidence source enables the comparison of two commercially available IGRAs (T-SPOT.TB and QFT-GIT) with TST strategies with a single cut-off point (an induration of ≥ 5 mm) or with different cut-off points for BCG-naive and BCG-experienced patients (indurations of ≥ 5 mm and ≥ 15 mm, respectively).

Objectives

Primary objectives

1. To assess the prognostic value of the two current IGRAs compared with the standard Mantoux test for predicting the development of active TB among untreated individuals at increased risk of LTBI, specifically:
 - i. contacts of active TB cases
 - ii. new entrants to the UK from high-TB-burden countries.
2. To assess the cost-effectiveness of various screening strategies (including the NICE-recommended two-step approach⁸⁶) using IGRAs and/or TST in defined patient groups (contacts and new entrants to the UK stratified by age and risk).

Secondary objectives

1. To quantify and compare the predictive value of a whole-blood ELISA and an ELISPOT-based assay independently.
2. To develop a collection of specimens (serum and white blood cells), with linked clinical and epidemiological information, to investigate the prognostic value of new biomarkers for TB infection and disease progression.

Structure of the report

In this chapter of the report, we have included a description of the background of the project as well as the primary and secondary objectives. *Chapter 2* describes the methods used in the research. In *Chapter 3*, we present the results of the epidemiological study by describing the cohort and the development of active TB in the cohort. We present the results of the economic analysis examining multiple screening scenarios in *Chapter 4* and, in *Chapter 5*, we discuss the findings, implications for TB testing and treatment guidelines and recommended future research areas.

Chapter 2 Methods

Design

Setting, population and disease burden

This prospective cohort study recruited individuals aged ≥ 16 years who were (1) close contacts of patients with active TB or (2) new entrants to the UK arriving in the last 5 years from high-incidence countries, defined as exceeding 40 cases per 100,000 people, and operationalised by focusing on those from sub-Saharan Africa or Asia.

Participants were recruited in TB clinics from a network of hospitals in London, Leicester and Birmingham, general practices (GPs) in London and several community settings in London (see *Appendix 1*). All study sites were co-ordinated from the tuberculosis section of PHE.

Recruitment and inclusion criteria

Participants were recruited between May 2010 and July 2015. Contacts of active TB (pulmonary and extrapulmonary) patients and new entrants arriving in the UK in the last 5 years from high-incidence countries (as defined in *Setting, population and disease burden*) and attending participating TB clinics or primary care centres for screening were invited to take part. Those born in high-incidence countries who entered the UK > 5 years ago, but who had spent > 1 year (cumulative) in the past 5 years in a high-incidence country, as per the study's defined list, were also invited to participate. Contacts included all individuals with a cumulative duration of exposure of > 8 hours to the relevant index case in a confined space during the period of infectiousness (prior to initiation of treatment).

Eligible persons were identified by study TB specialists or practice nurses, and written informed consent was obtained following the provision of information sheets (translated as appropriate). Baseline assessment questionnaires, including demographic and clinical information, were completed by the research nurse.

In addition, recruitment was undertaken en masse using two methods.

1. New entrants to the UK were recruited from non-NHS community settings, such as places of worship and community centres.
2. Contacts of active cases were recruited through mass screening events organised as part of the public health response to a case of active TB in some situations. For example, clinical teams may attend workplaces or colleges where an exposure had taken place, to facilitate screening of large numbers of contacts.

For recruitment through primary care, study flyers and the contact details of the co-ordinating centre were displayed in general practices so that interested people could contact the study team to book an appointment. At the appointment, as with all recruitment meetings, a study nurse went through the full patient information leaflet before taking written informed consent to undertake study procedures. We also utilised the primary care trust (PCT)-held Flag 4 data (records held by the local primary care group about international migrants who register with a NHS GP) to invite newly registered patients, recently arrived from the countries of interest, to take part in the study.

At the time of the study, treatment of LTBI was recommended only for individuals aged < 35 years. We therefore prioritised the recruitment of patients aged > 35 years (who were not eligible for CPX) in order to estimate and compare the ability of the TST and IGRAs to predict natural progression to active disease in the absence of treatment. Individuals aged 16–35 years were also eligible, as they may not be offered, or may not accept, CPX.

The general practitioners of all participants were informed of their patients' participation by letter.

Health technologies being assessed

Participants were tested by the Mantoux test and two IGRAs: ELISA (QFT-GIT) and ELISPOT assay (T-SPOT.TB). All tests were conducted using standardised protocols.^{17–19} Tests for LTBI were undertaken among contacts at about 6 weeks after last known exposure (consistent with NICE guidelines¹⁴), and at ≥ 6 weeks for new entrants after arrival in the UK.

The QFT-GIT and T-SPOT.TB assay samples were transported to a study testing centre (see *Statistical analysis*).

After IGRA testing, samples were used for repetition of indeterminate assays. Paxgene tubes, plasma and peripheral blood mononuclear cells were stored for future research.

Test results and further action

All test results were obtained by clinicians who were blind to other results. Clinicians were informed of all test results by the testing laboratory for tests conducted at the National Mycobacterial Reference Laboratory (NMRL), whereas those results from the Imperial College London laboratory were not reported. Subsequent action after testing followed the version of NICE guidance that was applicable at the time of screening and took place after discussion with participants. Further action followed one of three options:⁸⁶

1. If the participant had a negative result in the TST and IGRA, follow-up only was conducted.
2. If the participant had a positive result in either the TST or IGRA, and active TB was excluded, follow-up was conducted irrespective of age.
3. If the participant had a positive result in the TST and either one or both IGRA(s), follow-up only was conducted for those aged ≥ 35 years, and, for those aged 16–35 years, CPX was offered within the routine care setting after excluding active TB, with balanced advice about potential benefits and risks.

Follow-up

Participants were followed prospectively after IGRA/TST testing. Follow-up utilised multiple data sources to enable the comprehensive national identification of participants and to minimise loss attributable to transfer of care to other centres by physicians. Data were sourced from (1) telephone calls to the participants at 12 months and at 24 months or at the end of follow-up, (2) a search of national mandatory enhanced TB surveillance (ETS) reports, (3) a search of the national database of culture-proven TB and (4) a search of clinical records. Individuals found to have active TB were excluded from the analysis if they had evidence of active disease at the time of recruitment (see *Primary outcome*). Follow-up continued until the development of active TB, death or May 2016.

Data collection

Baseline data were collected by trained research nurses using paper questionnaires. Outcome data were collected using the four approaches outlined in *Follow-up*. Questionnaire data were entered into a purpose-built database [using Microsoft Access® (Microsoft Corporation, Redmond, WA, USA)] that was maintained at the TB section at PHE and linked, as necessary, to data from the other sources. IGRA results were received from laboratories in Microsoft Excel® (Microsoft Corporation, Redmond, WA, USA) spreadsheets and imported into the database.

Data collected from participants included age; gender; country of birth and date of entry to the UK for non-UK-born persons; ethnicity; current employment; the nature and duration (in hours) of contact with the index case (for contacts); the time interval between the most recent suspected exposure date and the date of diagnosis in the index case; details of any previous contact tracing; history of previous TB, including treatment, results of previous TST and chest radiographic findings; BCG vaccination status

(assessed based on criteria in the Green Book:¹⁰³ a scar or reliable recall or vaccination record); associated medical diagnoses; and use of immunosuppressive agents. Self-reported HIV infection status was collected, and further work through record linkage with the national HIV surveillance system will be used to improve the completeness of HIV data. Quality-of-life data were collected using the EuroQol-5 Dimensions (EQ-5D) questionnaire. During follow-up, information on the drugs used for the treatment of LTBI and adverse effects of CPX was collected and validated through a review of clinical records.

Index cases (identified through clinical records) of contacts were identified through a web-based ETS system using data provided by the contact and/or clinicians. The characteristics of index cases were summarised descriptively. For contacts who progressed to active TB disease during follow-up, deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) fingerprinting data [24-locus mycobacterial interspersed repetitive unit – variable number tandem repeats (MIRU-VNTR)] from the UK national TB strain typing database, hosted by PHE, were utilised to compare strain types between index cases and subsequent diagnoses among contacts. This enabled the assessment of whether any TB disease in secondary cases was likely to have arisen from the initial infection (i.e. that the test result related to the outcome) and not as a result of subsequent exposure to another case.

Sample size

The study size (and associated power) was determined by simulating the study and its analysis 1000 times and observing the proportion of simulations yielding significant results across various scenarios. Conventional methods for sample size calculation would not account for the Poisson nature of the data and the within-patient comparisons of the tests; therefore, simulation was necessary. The simulated data on the disease progression of study participants were created, presuming a LTBI prevalence of 30% and presuming that 5% of participants with LTBI would progress to active TB in 2 years if untreated, as observed in previous studies.^{81,104} Test results were simulated for each participant using sensitivities and specificities of IGRA in the range of 65–95%.

The simulations indicated that a cohort of 5000 participants, among whom 90 incident events were observed, would have around 85% power to detect significant ($p < 0.05$) differences in predictive performance that would arise from differences in sensitivity and specificity of 10% between tests. These differences correspond to increases in predictive performance (expressed as a ratio of relative rates between patients with a positive test result) of 30%, which would be clinically useful.

It was assumed that 50% of TB contacts and new entrants would be aged ≥ 35 years, so a cohort of 10,000 would initially yield at least 5000 participants for the primary analysis of progression without treatment, among whom 90 evaluable events would occur. Given the probable loss to follow-up (which, based on clinic data, was likely to be around 20%) and the possibility that progression to disease may be $< 5\%$, the power of the study would be maintained by including in the cohort all participants aged 16–35 years who did not take CPX (estimated to be an additional 2500 participants). A total of 90 incident events would still be observed should 7500 participants be recruited, 20% be lost to follow-up and the rate of progression to disease be only 4.2%.

Primary outcome

The primary outcome of interest was the development of active TB, with the prognostic values of tests quantified as IRRs, comparing those with positive results and those with negative results, among contacts and new entrants to the UK. Individuals were considered to have progressed to active TB if they had culture-confirmed TB or were clinically diagnosed with radiological or histological evidence of TB and a

clinician had decided to treat the individual with a full course of anti-TB disease treatment, the definition used for the TB register. In addition, participants were considered to have progressed to active TB only if:

- The participant had no evidence of active TB at the time of enrolment, determined through the review of clinical records.
- The clinical diagnosis of active TB was at least 3 weeks after recruitment/enrolment to the PREDICT study, based on the date of diagnosis (or treatment start date if date of diagnosis was not available).

In the absence of laboratory confirmation of TB, awareness by the clinician of a prior positive IGRA/TST result should not influence the clinical diagnosis of active TB.

Any case that was subsequently denotified was excluded from analyses (i.e. when the clinician reported that the patient did not have TB).

For any cases in which participants were reported to have TB in a follow-up telephone call at 12 or 24 months, the record was searched in the national data set of clinical reports and through the review of case notes at the hospital where the participant was treated. Only cases in which the participant was confirmed to have active TB, meeting the criteria outlined above, were included as a case of TB. The central team ascertaining the diagnosis were blinded to the IGRA and TST status of participants.

Statistical analysis

Primary analysis

The analysis estimated the ability of the tests (TST, T-SPOT.TB and QFT-GIT), individually and in combination, to predict progression to active TB in latently infected individuals, and made comparisons between tests. Estimated rates of progression to active TB were calculated, accounting for the follow-up period for each individual.

The predictive performance of each test (TST, T-SPOT.TB and QFT-GIT) and of each two-step test strategy [using combinations of TST + T-SPOT.TB, TST + QFT-GIT and IGRA (T-SPOT.TB or QFT-GIT) + TST] was summarised by the calculation of IRs of developing active TB in the 'test-positive' and 'test-negative' groups, expressed with 95% CIs computed using Poisson exact methods. In each combination strategy, the second test result was used if the first was positive, meaning that both tests must be positive for a participant to be positive for the strategy. IRs were calculated using all available follow-up data and also at 1 year and 2 years after study entry. The discriminatory predictive value of the test was based on the relative comparison of these rates (the relative IRs comparing those with positive test results and negative test results), together with the prevalence of positive test results (indicating the number of patients who would be treated should the test be used for recommending CPX).

The primary analyses of the performance of tests used only participants with test result data for all three tests. Participants who were treated for LTBI were excluded.

We made pairwise comparisons of the ability of tests and strategies to identify (1) those participants who progress and (2) those participants who do not progress using generalised estimating equation (GEE) marginal regression models.¹⁰⁵ These models estimate (1) ratios of positive test results and (2) ratios of negative test results in those participants who progress compared with those participants who do not, which are comparable to positive and negative likelihood ratios for diagnostic studies. We compute ratios of these ratios to make pairwise comparisons between tests, accounting for the paired data. A marginal regression GEE model was fitted, with the two test results as outcomes (with a positive test result coded as the event) and with test type and progression status as predictors, and an interaction term between test type and progression. The interaction term assessed whether or not the relationship between progression and test positivity was stronger for one test than the other. A similar second model was fitted with test

negative as the outcome, such that the interaction term assessed whether or not the relationship between non-progression and test negativity was stronger for one test than the other. The model accounted for the intra-individual correlation between tests using an unstructured correlation matrix and was configured to give population average estimates. The primary analysis fitted models with a binomial error structure and a log link (as described by Pepe¹⁰⁵). In a sensitivity analysis, we adapted the Poisson model to include follow-up using an offset and obtained identical point estimates to two decimal places and confidence limits to one decimal place. We report the binomial model results.

Regression models were fitted in Stata® version 15.0 (StataCorp LP, College Station, TX, USA).

Positive predictive values and NPVs were also calculated as the percentage of people with a positive result developing TB across all follow-up (PPV) and as the percentage of people with a negative result who did not develop TB (NPV).

Owing to testing processes, a small number of participants had two T-SPOT.TB and/or QFT-GIT tests performed (T-SPOT.TB, $n = 21$; QFT-GIT, $n = 33$). For participants with multiple results for a single test, results from the primary research laboratories were used (Imperial College London and NMRL), with results from Imperial College London being used if the test was carried out at both Imperial College London and NMRL. For some participants, neither T-SPOT.TB result was obtained from Imperial College London or NMRL and, therefore, the result from Oxford Immunotec or SYNLAB (London, UK) was used.

The QuantiFERON TB Gold In-Tube test

The QuantiFERON test results were classified as positive, negative or indeterminate according to the manufacturer's algorithm.¹⁰⁶ For analysis purposes, indeterminate results were treated as missing.

The T-SPOT.TB test

The T-SPOT.TB test can have positive, borderline positive, negative, borderline negative or indeterminate results. All categories of test results were reported. For the majority of participants, the required test information (spot count) was available and T-SPOT.TB test result classifications were calculated by the study team in accordance with the manufacturer's algorithm (*Figure 5*)¹⁰⁷ For 660 tests (7.9% of the 8387 participants, or of the 8366 participants with a duplicate test for 21 participants) in which the necessary information (T-SPOT.TB counts and positive and negative control values) was not provided, the classification of results reported from the laboratory was used in all subsequent analyses.

Indeterminate results were treated as missing, borderline positive results were treated as positive and borderline negative results were treated as negative, in line with the interpretation of results in clinical practice.¹

The Mantoux test

The TST was administered in accordance with national guidelines. Different thresholds for TST positivity were considered. In the primary analysis, participants were considered to have a positive result if they had a skin induration of ≥ 5 mm (this will be referred to as TST^a), consistent with the 2016 NICE guidelines.¹⁴ Alternatively considered was the strategy varying with BCG status, in which a skin induration measuring ≥ 6 mm following the standard TST test was considered a positive result if the participant was not known to have had a BCG vaccination, and in which a skin induration of ≥ 15 mm following the standard TST test indicated a positive result for those known to have had a BCG vaccination, the strategy previously recommended by NICE.⁸⁶ When BCG vaccination status was unknown, BCG vaccination was assumed for those participants who were born outside the UK and, for UK-born participants with unknown BCG vaccination status, a positive or negative TST result could not be obtained. The secondary definition will be referred to as TST^b.

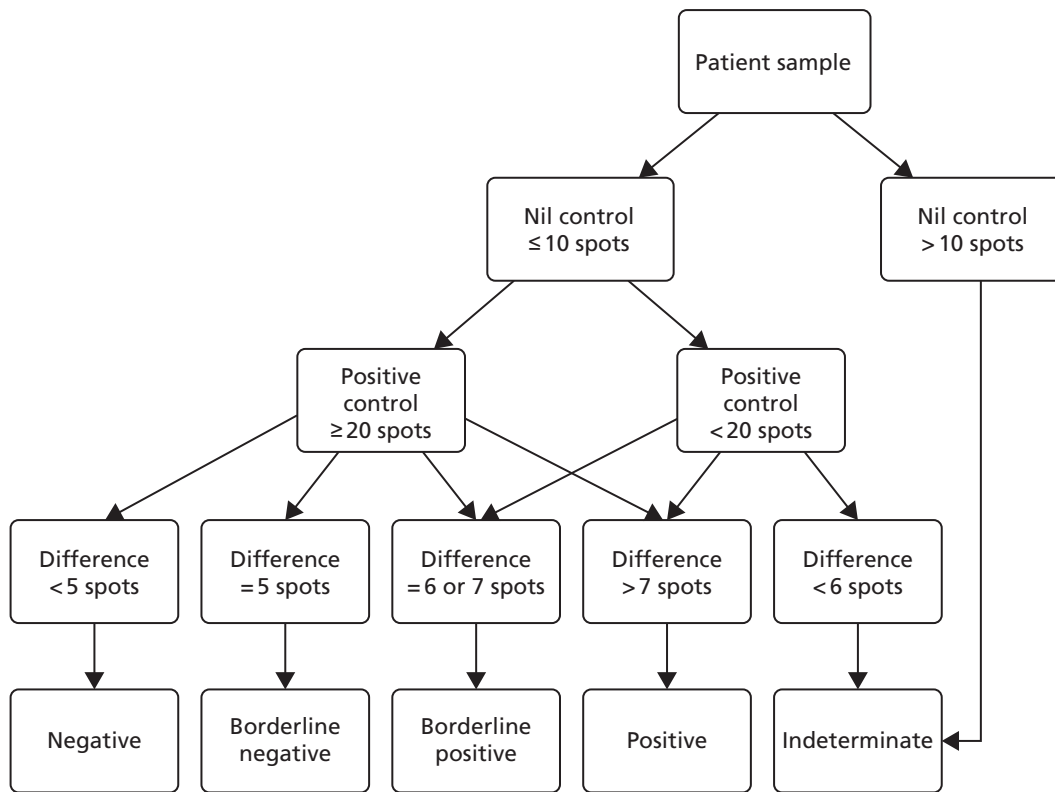


FIGURE 5 T-SPOT.TB result classification algorithm.

Sensitivity analyses

Sensitivity analyses were carried out using all available test data rather than using data only from participants with results for all three tests. Analyses were also performed excluding those participants with BCG vaccination status assumed to generate a TST^b result and those participants with an uncertain progression status because of a short period between testing and diagnosis. Additional sensitivity analyses were performed using data from new entrants only and restricted to 2 years of follow-up, and from contacts of pulmonary TB cases only.

Economic analysis

The decision problem

We developed an individual-level DES model to estimate the effect of different test strategies on risk prediction, use of preventative CPX and BCG vaccination, subsequent incidence of TB, and, hence, costs to the health-care system and health outcomes for patients. We considered a DES model to be most suitable as individual simulation and a bootstrapping approach preserved individual patient data and the correlation between baseline risk factors and the test results. The analysis followed the NICE reference case for public health interventions. Health outcomes were quantified using QALYs, including the impact of TB and treatment-related adverse effects on mortality and health-related quality of life (the utility). EuroQol-5 Dimensions, three-level version scores from the PREDICT study were valued using the UK general population tariff. Costs were estimated from a UK public sector perspective, including costs for case finding, prevention (BCG vaccination and CPX) and treatment of active TB and adverse effects. In the base case, we discounted costs and QALYs at 3.5% per annum and simulated outcomes over a lifetime horizon for a cohort of patients undergoing tests for LTBI.

Population

We evaluated the cost-effectiveness of LTBI testing strategies in the PREDICT cohort. The model used an individual patient data set comprising 4162 contacts and 3795 new entrants without active TB at baseline (total of 7957 participants) with sufficient data: age, sex, BCG vaccination status, baseline EQ-5D score (utility) and contact/new entrant status. We excluded participants with active TB at the baseline assessment, but included those with missing values for one or more baseline LTBI tests (TST, QFT-GIT or T-SPOT.TB) in order to model the impact of missing or indeterminate test results.

For our base-case analyses, we evaluated results for the whole cohort, and also for the two subgroups: new entrants to the UK and contacts. We had initially intended to present stratified analysis for other risk factors: age, BCG vaccination status, previous treatment status and baseline risk (defined by level of exposure or duration and nature of contact; or by country or region of birth for new entrants to the UK). However, an analysis of the PREDICT results did not show any important or statistically significant differences in incidence according to these risk factors (see *Chapter 4*). Instead, we investigated the sensitivity of results for populations at different a priori levels of risk in the absence of preventative treatment (BCG vaccination or CPX). This illustrated the possible effects of changing referral thresholds for LTBI tests, such as the threshold for defining a 'close' contact or 'high-incidence' country of recent residence.

In our modelling protocol, we stated that we would consider additional exploratory analyses in other subgroups, such as people infected with HIV or who have diabetes mellitus, but the numbers of participants in these groups were too low to support such analysis.

Interventions and comparators

We compare 11 approaches to LTBI testing:

0. no test
1. T-SPOT.TB
2. QFT-GIT
3. TST^a: positive if induration is ≥ 5 mm
4. TST^b: positive if induration is ≥ 6 mm without prior BCG vaccination or ≥ 15 mm with prior BCG vaccination
5. TST^a + T-SPOT.TB: positive if both TST^a and T-SPOT.TB are positive
6. TST^a + QFT-GIT: positive if both TST^a and QFT-GIT are positive
7. TST^a + IGRA: positive if TST^a is positive and either T-SPOT.TB or QFT-GIT are positive
8. TST^b + T-SPOT.TB: positive if both TST^b and T-SPOT.TB are positive
9. TST^b + QFT-GIT: positive if both TST^b and QFT-GIT are positive
10. TST^b + IGRA: positive if TST^b is positive and either T-SPOT.TB or QFT-GIT are positive.

In the single-test strategies (1–4), participants who tested positive for LTBI were assumed to undergo diagnostic tests to rule out active TB, then to be offered appropriate treatment (CPX if aged ≤ 35 years), whereas those who tested negative for LTBI would be offered BCG vaccination if eligible (no previous BCG vaccination and age ≤ 35 years). Participants with missing test results for a strategy were assumed not to receive any preventative treatment (CPX or BCG vaccination).

In the dual-test strategies (5, 6, 8 and 9), the second test would only be carried out if the first test result was positive. Participants who tested positive in the second test (T-SPOT.TB or QFT-GIT) would be further evaluated to rule out active TB, and offered CPX or BCG vaccination if appropriate. Participants without a TST result, or with a positive TST result but missing T-SPOT.TB or QFT-GIT data, were assumed to not receive any preventative treatment.

In the three-test strategies (7 and 10), we assumed that participants with a positive TST result would have both IGRAs (T-SPOT.TB and QFT-GIT). Then, if either of the IGRAs were positive, they would be tested for active disease and offered treatment or CPX if appropriate. If both IGRAs were negative they would be

offered a BCG vaccination if appropriate. Participants with an indeterminate result attributable to one or more missing test results would not receive preventative treatment; this included all participants with a missing TST result, and those with a positive TST result and either both IGRAs missing or one negative IGRA and one missing IGRA.

The 'no test' strategy was included as a comparator, which allowed us to investigate changes to the referral thresholds for LTBI testing.

Outcomes

Strategies were evaluated in terms of the health-care costs and health outcomes measured using QALYs. For validation purposes, we also present disaggregated outcomes (numbers of incident TB cases; numbers given a BCG vaccination, CPX and active TB treatment; treatment-related adverse events; deaths from TB; and life-years) and costs [costs of diagnosis, preventative treatment (BCG vaccination and CPX) and active TB treatment (including treatment of adverse effects)].

Modelling methods

Model structure

Figure 6 is a process map of our model. The software used to develop the DES model was SIMUL8 Professional 2017 (SIMUL8 Corporation, Boston, MA, USA).

Cohort selection

The model was programmed so that a cohort of patients with chosen initial characteristics could be selected to run through the pathway, to allow flexible subgroup analysis. However, for this report we present results only for the whole cohort, and for the 'new entrant' and 'contact' subgroups.

Individual participants from the PREDICT cohort were randomly sampled (with replacement) from an individual-level data set from the PREDICT cohort. This data set included individuals' demographic information and baseline characteristics: age, gender, prior BCG vaccination status, utility (EQ-5D scores) and LTBI test results (TST, T-SPOT.TB and QFT-GIT). For the purposes of this analysis, we excluded patients who were diagnosed with active TB at the beginning of the PREDICT study ($n = 175$). This left a data set of 7957 individuals for inclusion in the economic analysis.

The size of the sampled population in the model can be changed, but for the analysis presented below we used a bootstrapping approach; for each probabilistic iteration of the model, we sampled a simulation cohort (with replacement) of the same size as the individual patient data set ($n = 7957$). This scales uncertainty over the distribution of baseline characteristics in our probabilistic sensitivity analysis (PSA) to reflect sampling error in the PREDICT cohort.

Screening, diagnosis and treatment initiation

The model can be set to one of the 11 test strategies, and members of the cohort enter to be offered the chosen strategy. Treatment decisions, such as whether a patient is offered BCG vaccination, CPX or treatment for active TB, depend on the patient's test results and history or demographic data. For example, under strategy 5 (TST^a + T-SPOT.TB), an individual aged ≤ 35 years with no prior BCG vaccination, no active TB, a TST induration of 7 mm and a negative T-SPOT.TB test result would be offered a BCG vaccination. Or, under the same strategy, a patient aged ≤ 35 years, who has had a BCG vaccination, with no TB, a TST induration of 18 mm and a positive T-SPOT.TB result would be offered CPX.

This first section of the model is treated as timeless; patients cannot experience adverse events and their utility is fixed at their baseline EQ-5D value (as observed in PREDICT), but they accrue costs based on choices that are made within the model as per LTBI testing, active TB diagnosis, BCG vaccination and initiation of CPX and treatment of active disease.

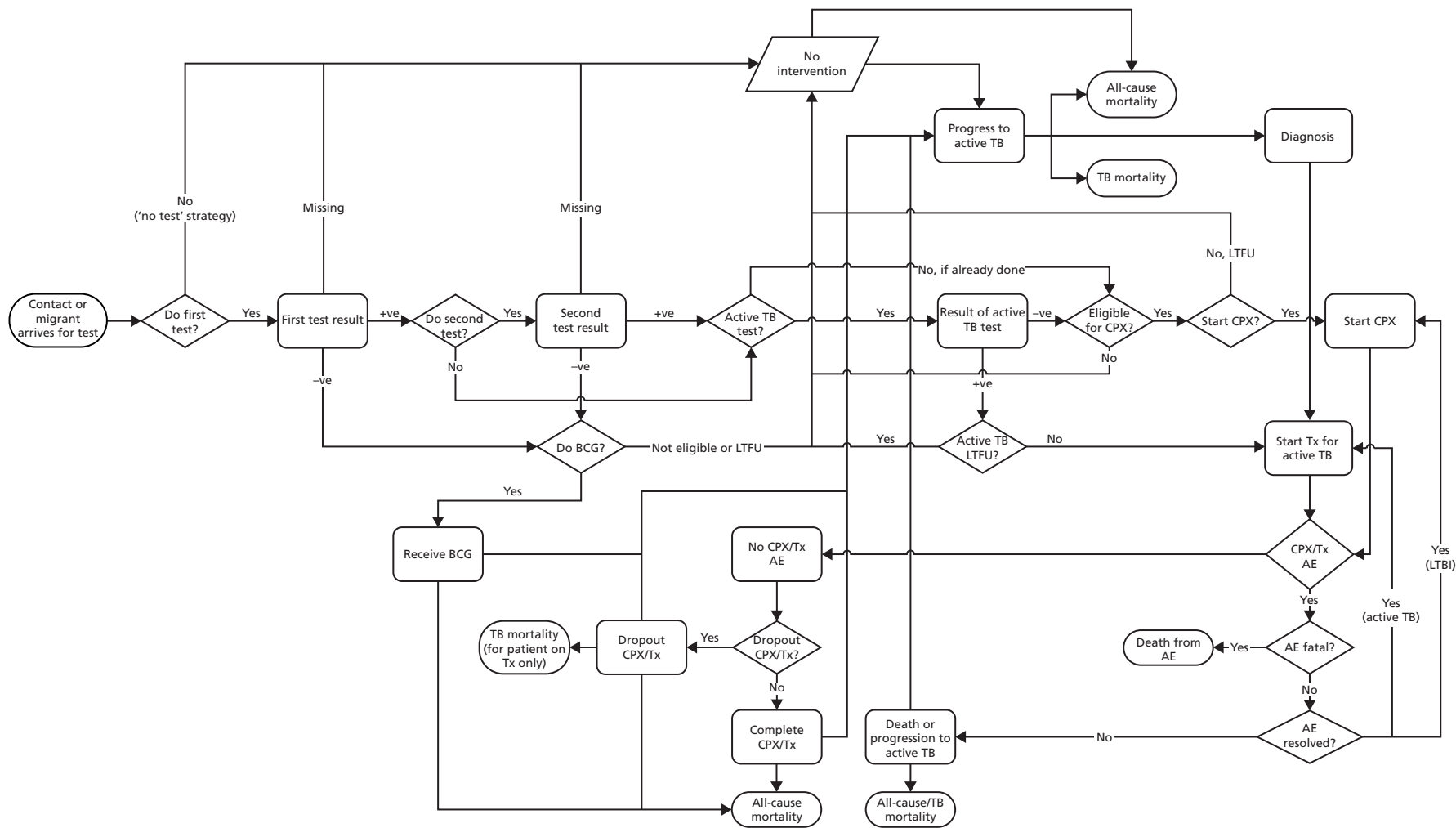


FIGURE 6 Model process map. -ve, negative; +ve, positive; AE, adverse event; LTFU, lost to follow-up; Tx, treatment for active TB.

Health status

Having received tests and treatments, or having been lost to follow-up, participants flow into the second part of the model, in which time starts to elapse. At any time, each member of the cohort who is alive is in one, and only one, of the following health states:

- Active TB and on treatment – participants in this state have been diagnosed with active TB and are being treated. From this state, participants might successfully finish treatment, experience an adverse reaction to treatment and/or drop out of treatment, or they may die from TB or other causes.
- Active TB and not on treatment – this state includes participants with active TB who have not yet been diagnosed, as well as participants who have been diagnosed but have stopped treatment for some reason. From this state, participants might present clinically with symptoms and be diagnosed, or they might die from TB or other causes. Contacts of people with untreated active TB who are at heightened risk enter the model in the ‘no TB and not on CPX’ state.
- No TB and on CPX – these participants do not have TB but have tested positive for LTBI (according to the defined test strategy) and are taking prophylactic treatment. Future possibilities for this group are to complete CPX, have an adverse event and/or stop CPX, progress to TB or to die from other causes.
- No TB and not on CPX – this state includes all participants who do not have TB and are not taking CPX. This is a diverse group including participants who have tested positive for LTBI but did not start CPX or defaulted from CPX, those who have tested negative for LTBI and who may or may not have been vaccinated, as well as those who did not complete the LTBI test(s) or who had indeterminate results. All of these people are at risk of progressing to TB or they might die from other causes.

Note that LTBI is not modelled as a ‘disease state’ as such, but rather it means that each person who does not currently have active TB is at risk of developing active TB. Each person’s risk of an event is estimated using observed IRs in the PREDICT cohort, based on their current status, other characteristics and treatment effects. Then, for each possible event, a time to event is sampled.

Events and outcomes

The possible events are:

- Adverse events from treatment for active TB or CPX – this may result in death, in which case costs and QALYs are calculated. If the individual survives, the adverse event (drug-induced hepatotoxicity) may resolve with the participant continuing treatment, or symptoms may persist, in which case the participant is withdrawn from treatment.
- Dropout from CPX or treatment for active TB – for simplicity, we assume that dropout from CPX and treatment for active TB will take place halfway through the treatment period (after 1.5 months for CPX or 3 months for treatment for active TB). Possible events following dropout from CPX are death and progression to active TB. The next event after dropout from active TB treatment is either reinitiation of treatment (as patients with active disease are likely to re-present at some time), death from TB or death from other causes.
- Complete CPX or treatment for active TB – participants who complete CPX (after 3 months) may still progress to active TB, or die from other causes. Individuals who complete treatment for active TB (after 6 months) may be reinfected but we assume that this would be captured as secondary infection in a new incident cohort and is therefore outside the scope of this model. They may also suffer reactivation. The next event after completing treatment for active TB may therefore be death from other causes or active TB diagnosis if reactivation takes place.
- Progression to active TB – all individuals without current active TB have a risk of progressing to active TB. Those with positive LTBI test results are at higher risk. Once participants progress, they become undiagnosed cases of TB and the next event may be death or active TB diagnosis.
- Active TB diagnosis – individuals with active TB who are not on treatment will develop symptoms and are likely to present clinically, leading to diagnosis and an offer of treatment. We assume a fixed time to diagnosis for these individuals based on the average time between onset of symptoms and diagnosis (3 months).
- Death from active TB or other causes – costs and QALYs are calculated at this point.

Model assumptions

The key modelling assumptions are:

- Only BCG-naive individuals who are aged ≤ 35 years are offered a BCG vaccination, a proportion of whom accept (94% in the base-case model). Any adverse effects of BCG vaccination are assumed to be negligible.
- Only those individuals aged ≤ 35 years are offered CPX; this reflects UK practice and guidelines⁸⁶ during the study period. A proportion of patients who are eligible accept and start CPX (94% in the base case), although they may drop out or suffer an adverse event.
- Death from a CPX-related adverse event (hepatotoxicity) is possible, and is assumed to take place at the start of treatment. Fatal adverse reactions to CPX are very rare; thus, the timing of adverse events during treatment is unlikely to influence the results.
- If the patient survives and the adverse event resolves, the patient resumes CPX but may drop out later. We assume that if the patient resumes CPX they will not experience a second adverse event. If the adverse event is not resolved, the patient stops CPX and will either develop active TB or die from other causes.
- Patients who drop out from CPX are assumed to do so in 1.5 months and incur half of the cost of a complete course (3 months) of CPX. Incomplete CPX provides some protection against progression to active TB, but is less effective than complete CPX.
- After completing CPX patients may still progress to active TB (despite preventative treatment) or die from other causes.
- All individuals have a risk of developing active TB with a hazard conditional on their baseline test results (based on IRs estimated and sampled probabilistically from the PREDICT study). Hazards are estimated based on patients' available test results, using the test or combination of tests with the greatest predictive value.
- Once an individual progresses to active TB they may be diagnosed, die from active TB or die from other causes. For patients who are diagnosed with active TB, the time from TB onset to diagnosis is assumed to be 3 months.
- All those diagnosed with active TB are assumed to start treatment, although they may drop out or suffer an adverse event.
- A treatment-related adverse event can only take place once. Death from an adverse event is possible and is assumed to take place at the start of treatment.
- If the patient survives, and the adverse event resolves, the patient resumes treatment but may drop out later. A second adverse event is not possible.
- If the patient survives but the adverse event is not resolved, the patient stops treatment and will either die from active TB or die from other causes. For simplicity, we have not modelled second and subsequent lines of treatment for patients who experience adverse reactions or resistance to the standard regimen.
- Patients who drop out from treatment for active TB are assumed to do so in 3 months and incur half of the cost of a complete course of 6 months. They do not get any treatment benefits from incomplete treatment for active TB and are still at risk of active TB death, as well as death from other causes. However, patients who have dropped out may be identified through opportunistic testing or clinical presentation, and will be offered a repeat course of treatment.
- Patients who complete treatment for active TB are assumed to be free of TB and will die only from other causes.
- Individuals come into the model with a utility estimated from their PREDICT EQ-5D data. For simplicity, we have assumed that an individual's utility score remains constant as they age. As utility tends to fall with increasing age, QALY differences between strategies will be overestimated.
- Individuals' utility scores are adjusted when they have active TB. A pre-treatment utility multiplier is applied as soon as the patient develops active TB to reflect the impact of emerging TB symptoms prior to treatment. A lower utility multiplier is applied during the first 3 months of treatment to reflect continuing symptoms, inconvenience and distress caused by isolation and adverse effects of treatment that are tolerated. The utility multiplier applied during the last 3 months of treatment is then higher as most patients will have less-severe symptoms by this time, and the prevalence of adverse effects is likely to be lower. After completion of treatment, patients are assumed to return to their initial utility value.¹⁰⁸

- It is assumed that CPX has a negligible impact on utility.¹⁰⁸
- For simplicity, our base-case model does not include transmission from members of the cohort who develop TB to their contacts. This will tend to underestimate the benefits (QALY gain and health-care cost savings) associated with TB prevention. We conducted a scenario analysis with a 'cascade' approach to model the impact of secondary transmission.

Model parameters

Tuberculosis incidence

The incidence of TB was modelled using a Weibull distribution to reflect the falling number of cases over time in the PREDICT cohort. This is expected as contacts of people with active TB are most likely to develop TB close to the time of exposure, and, similarly, migrants from high-incidence countries are at most risk shortly after entry to the country they are migrating to. In the PREDICT cohort, 77 participants were diagnosed with active TB over a total of 20,571.4 person-years at risk. This equates to an overall IR of 0.00374 per person-year. We used a calibration approach to fit a Weibull distribution to these data (*Table 3*). Our best estimate used a scale parameter of 2.5 and a shape parameter of 6. This achieved an IR of 0.00932 in year 1 (matching that in PREDICT), 0.00115 in year 2 (compared with 0.00167 in PREDICT) and 0.00373 averaged over the first 3 years (compared with 0.00375 in PREDICT).

Test performance

Estimates of the predictive performance of the various test strategies were taken from the analysis of PREDICT data presented in *Chapter 3*. For the PSA, we used a chained approach to generate correlated estimates of the TB IRs for patients testing positive or negative for each of the modelled strategies.

We started by estimating IRs for patients with a negative TST^a result [IR(TST^a-)] from the overall incidence of TB in the population (*R*), the proportion of person-years in patients with a positive TST^a result (*p*) and the IRR for TST^a positive compared with TST negative [IRR(TST^a+ vs. TST^a-)]:

$$IR(TST^{a-}) = R / [1 - p + p * IRR(TST^{a+} \text{ vs. } TST^{a-})] \quad (1)$$

The IR for patients with a positive TST^a result is then:

$$IR(TST^{a+}) = IR(TST^{a-}) * IRR(TST^{a+} \text{ vs. } TST^{a-}) \quad (2)$$

For each strategy, the positive predictive performance statistic compared with TST^a was used to estimate the IR for patients with a positive result. Similarly, the negative predictive performance compared with TST^a was used to generate estimates of IRs for patients with negative results for each strategy.

The overall incidence rate (*R*) and the proportion of observed person-years in people with a positive baseline TST^a result (*p*) were sampled from beta distributions. IRRs were sampled using gamma distributions, fitted to the mean and standard error of the multilevel Poisson regression results for each comparison (*Table 4*). The resulting estimates of IRs (per person-year) and hazards are shown in *Table 5*.

TABLE 3 Model parameters: TB IR

Parameter	Base-case value	95% CI	PSA distribution	Source
IR (TB incidence per person-year)	0.00374	0.00296 to 0.00462	Beta (77, 20,494.4)	PREDICT
Hazard multiplier for year 1	2.5	–	–	Fitted Weibull distribution
Shape parameter	6.0	–	–	

TABLE 4 Model parameters: test performance

Parameter	Base-case value	95% CI	PSA distribution	Source
Person-years TST ^a + (%)	0.458	0.451 to 0.465	Beta (9416.8, 11,154.6)	PREDICT
IRR TST ^a + vs. TST ^a -	5.83	2.89 to 9.79	Gamma (10.805, 0.540)	PREDICT
Positive predictive performance: IRR for positive results				
TST ^b vs. TST ^a	1.64	1.28 to 2.04	Gamma (72.087, 0.023)	PREDICT
T-SPOT.TB vs. TST ^a	1.99	1.43 to 2.63	Gamma (41.709, 0.048)	PREDICT
QFT-GIT vs. TST ^a	1.52	1.08 to 2.04	Gamma (38.285, 0.040)	PREDICT
TST ^a + T-SPOT.TB vs. TST ^a	2.39	1.77 to 3.11	Gamma (48.637, 0.049)	PREDICT
TST ^a + QFT-GIT vs. TST ^a	1.97	1.45 to 2.57	Gamma (47.230, 0.042)	PREDICT
TST ^a + IGRA vs. TST ^a	2.01	1.52 to 2.56	Gamma (57.755, 0.035)	PREDICT
TST ^b + T-SPOT.TB vs. TST ^a	2.92	2.09 to 3.89	Gamma (40.152, 0.073)	PREDICT
TST ^b + QFT-GIT vs. TST ^a	2.43	1.72 to 3.27	Gamma (37.737, 0.064)	PREDICT
TST ^b + IGRA vs. TST ^a	2.58	1.88 to 3.40	Gamma (44.298, 0.058)	PREDICT
Negative predictive performance: IRR for negative results				
TST ^b vs. TST ^a	1.35	0.84 to 1.98	Gamma (21.155, 0.064)	PREDICT
T-SPOT.TB vs. TST ^a	1.28	0.70 to 2.04	Gamma (13.761, 0.093)	PREDICT
QFT-GIT vs. TST ^a	1.60	0.88 to 2.55	Gamma (13.997, 0.115)	PREDICT
TST ^a + T-SPOT.TB vs. TST ^a	1.41	0.82 to 2.16	Gamma (16.740, 0.084)	PREDICT
TST ^a + QFT-GIT vs. TST ^a	1.68	0.98 to 2.55	Gamma (17.343, 0.097)	PREDICT
TST ^a + IGRA vs. TST ^a	1.32	0.79 to 1.99	Gamma (18.313, 0.072)	PREDICT
TST ^b + T-SPOT.TB vs. TST ^a	1.58	0.90 to 2.46	Gamma (15.503, 0.102)	PREDICT
TST ^b + QFT-GIT vs. TST ^a	1.83	1.04 to 2.83	Gamma (15.837, 0.115)	PREDICT
TST ^b + IGRA vs. TST ^a	1.52	0.87 to 2.35	Gamma (16.105, 0.095)	PREDICT

TABLE 5 Model parameters: expected TB incidence by test strategy results

Test strategy	Results			
	Positive		Negative	
	Per person-year	Hazard	Per person-year	Hazard
1: no test (all results)	0.00374	0.00375		
4: TST ^a	0.00680	0.00682	0.00117	0.00117
5: TST ^b	0.01115	0.01121	0.00157	0.00157
2: T-SPOT.TB	0.01350	0.01360	0.00149	0.00149
3: QFT-GIT	0.01034	0.01039	0.00187	0.00187
6: TST ^a + T-SPOT.TB	0.01628	0.01641	0.00164	0.00164
7: TST ^a + QFT-GIT	0.01341	0.01350	0.00195	0.00196
8: TST ^a + IGRA	0.01365	0.01374	0.00154	0.00154
9: TST ^b + T-SPOT.TB	0.01984	0.02003	0.00184	0.00185
10: TST ^b + QFT-GIT	0.01654	0.01667	0.00213	0.00213
11: TST ^b + IGRA	0.01754	0.01770	0.00177	0.00178

Each individual in the PREDICT cohort was allocated a best estimate of their TB hazard, conditional on their baseline test results. Overall, there were 36 different combinations of positive, negative and missing/indeterminate results for the four tests measured at baseline (TST^a, TST^b, QFT-GIT and T-SPOT.TB). For each combination, participants were assigned the hazard for the test strategy for which they had a non-missing/indeterminate result with the greatest predictive power (highest IRR for positive vs. negative results). For example, participants with no missing or discordant results were assigned hazards for the TST^b + T-SPOT.TB strategy (0.00682 if positive or 0.00117 if negative). Participants with discordant QFT-GIT and T-SPOT.TB results (one positive and one negative) were assigned to the TST^b + IGRA hazards. The mean hazard rate estimates for each combination are shown in *Table 6*.

Chemoprophylaxis

It was assumed that participants aged ≤ 35 years who tested positive for LTBI would be offered CPX. Parameters related to the uptake of CPX in this eligible group, and the incidence and consequences of adverse reactions to CPX, were based on those used in the Warwick Evidence economic analysis by Auguste *et al.*¹⁰² (*Table 7*). We assumed that, of those participants who experienced a non-fatal adverse event, 50% would resume CPX. We also assumed that, of those participants who started CPX and did not stop because of an adverse event, 85% would complete a full course of 3 months' duration. The remaining 15% of participants who dropped out of CPX were assumed to stop after 1.5 months. The effectiveness of CPX was based on results from the International Union Against Tuberculosis trial,¹¹⁰ as used in the Pooran *et al.*⁹⁵ economic model.

Bacillus Calmette–Guérin vaccination

Patients with a negative test result for LTBI, who were aged ≤ 35 years and who had not previously been vaccinated were assumed to be offered a BCG vaccination. Uptake in this eligible group was assumed to be 94%, following the assumption in the Warwick Evidence analysis¹⁰² for the proportion of patients returning to have a TST result read (see *Table 7*). The efficacy of BCG vaccination was based on a published meta-analysis.¹¹¹

Tuberculosis treatment

Parameters related to the diagnosis and treatment of active disease are shown in *Table 7*. We assumed that diagnosis would take place 3 months after the onset of active TB, at which time all patients would start treatment. A proportion was assumed to experience adverse effects, with a small mortality risk, as in the Warwick Evidence analysis.¹⁰² We assumed that, of those patients with a non-fatal adverse event, 50% would continue treatment. As with CPX, we assumed that 85% of patients (who started treatment for active disease and did not stop because of an adverse event) would complete a full course of 6 months. Those with an incomplete course were assumed to drop out after 3 months of treatment, but to re-present and start a new course of treatment after 3 months. For patients who completed a complete course, treatment was assumed to be 100% effective with no residual mortality risk or loss of utility.

Health impact of tuberculosis

The model applied a case fatality rate for patients who progressed to active TB, based on estimates reported by Crofts *et al.*¹¹² At younger ages, the proportion of participants dying of TB within 12 months of the start of treatment or notification rate was relatively low (1.2% for those aged 15–44 years and 4.8% for those aged 45–54 years), but the risk was much higher for older participants (17.6% for those aged ≥ 65 years) (*Table 8*). For simplicity, we modelled any TB-related deaths as taking place at the time of diagnosis.

Members of the cohort entered the model with an initial utility based on their EQ-5D score at baseline. This value was adjusted on progression to TB to reflect the impact of symptoms on quality of life. For the time between the onset of TB and diagnosis (assumed to be 3 months) in the model, a multiplier of 0.9 was applied to individuals' utility scores. This multiplier was an assumption as utility scores are not available for this pre-diagnostic phase, when symptoms are developing. Utility multipliers for the first 3 months after diagnosis (the 'acute' period), and for the remaining time up to the completion of treatment (the 'post-acute' period), were estimated using a EQ-5D survey of 61 participants with active TB¹¹³

TABLE 6 Assigned hazard rates for each combination of test results in the PREDICT cohort

Combination	Test				Most predictive strategy	Hazard	Comments
	TST ^a	TST ^b	T-SPOT.TB	QFT-GIT			
1	+	+	+	+	TST ^b + T-SPOT.TB+	0.02003	All tests available
2	+	+	+	-	TST ^b + IGRA+	0.01770	Discordant IGRA results
3	+	+	+	?	TST ^b + T-SPOT.TB	0.02003	No QFT-GIT
4	+	+	-	+	TST ^b + IGRA+	0.01770	Discordant IGRA results
5	+	+	-	-	TST ^b + T-SPOT.TB-	0.00185	All tests available
6	+	+	-	?	TST ^b + T-SPOT.TB-	0.00185	No QFT-GIT
7	+	+	?	+	TST ^b + QFT-GIT+	0.01667	No T-SPOT.TB
8	+	+	?	-	TST ^b + QFT-GIT-	0.00213	No T-SPOT.TB
9	+	+	?	?	TST ^b +	0.01121	No T-SPOT.TB or QFT-GIT
10	+	-	+	+	TST ^b + T-SPOT.TB-	0.00185	All tests available
11	+	-	+	-	TST ^b + IGRA-	0.00178	Discordant IGRA results
12	+	-	+	?	TST ^b + T-SPOT.TB-	0.00185	No QFT-GIT
13	+	-	-	+	TST ^b + IGRA-	0.00178	Discordant IGRA results
14	+	-	-	-	TST ^b + T-SPOT.TB-	0.00185	All tests available
15	+	-	-	?	TST ^b + T-SPOT.TB-	0.00185	No QFT-GIT
16	+	-	?	+	TST ^b + QFT-GIT-	0.00213	No T-SPOT.TB
17	+	-	?	-	TST ^b + QFT-GIT-	0.00213	No T-SPOT.TB
18	+	-	?	?	TST ^b -	0.00157	No T-SPOT.TB or QFT-GIT
19	-	-	+	+	TST ^b + T-SPOT.TB-	0.00185	All tests available
20	-	-	+	-	TST ^b + IGRA-	0.00178	Discordant IGRA results
21	-	-	+	?	TST ^b + T-SPOT.TB-	0.00185	No QFT-GIT
22	-	-	-	+	TST ^b + IGRA-	0.00178	Discordant IGRA results
23	-	-	-	-	TST ^b + T-SPOT.TB-	0.00185	All tests available
24	-	-	-	?	TST ^b + T-SPOT.TB-	0.00185	No QFT-GIT
25	-	-	?	+	TST ^b + QFT-GIT-	0.00213	No T-SPOT.TB
26	-	-	?	-	TST ^b + QFT-GIT-	0.00213	No T-SPOT.TB
27	-	-	?	?	TST ^b -	0.00157	No T-SPOT.TB or QFT-GIT
28	?	?	+	+	T-SPOT.TB+	0.01360	No TST
29	?	?	+	-	T-SPOT.TB+	0.01360	No TST
30	?	?	+	?	T-SPOT.TB+	0.01360	Only T-SPOT.TB
31	?	?	-	+	T-SPOT.TB-	0.00149	No TST
32	?	?	-	-	T-SPOT.TB-	0.00149	No TST
33	?	?	-	?	T-SPOT.TB-	0.00149	Only T-SPOT.TB
34	?	?	?	+	QFT-GIT+	0.01039	Only QFT-GIT
35	?	?	?	-	QFT-GIT-	0.00187	Only QFT-GIT
36	?	?	?	?	No test	0.00375	No tests available

-, negative; +, positive; ?, missing/indeterminate.

TABLE 7 Model parameters: CPX, BCG vaccination and treatment of active TB

Parameter	Base-case value	95% CI	PSA distribution	Source
Uptake of CPX (%)	0.94	0.90 to 0.97	Beta (141, 9)	Warwick Evidence ¹⁰²
CPX adverse event (%)	0.0040	0.0007 to 0.0101	Beta (2.7, 664)	Warwick Evidence ¹⁰²
Death from CPX event (%)	0.00002	0.00000 to 0.00010	Beta (0.5, 25,125)	Warwick Evidence ¹⁰²
CPX event resolved (%)	0.50	0.30 to 0.70	Beta (11.51, 11.51)	Assumption
Completion for CPX (%)	0.85	N/A	N/A	Mears <i>et al.</i> ¹⁰⁹
Duration of complete CPX (months)	3	N/A	N/A	NG33 ¹⁴
Duration of incomplete CPX (months)	1.5	N/A	N/A	Assumption
TB cases with complete CPX (%)	0.33	0.24 to 0.43	Beta (32, 65)	IUAT, 1982 ¹¹⁰
TB cases with incomplete CPX (%)	0.78	0.70 to 0.86	Beta (76, 21)	IUAT, 1982 ¹¹⁰
Uptake of BCG vaccination (%)	0.94	0.90 to 0.97	Beta (164, 10.5)	Warwick Evidence ¹⁰²
TB cases averted with BCG vaccination (%)	0.49	0.34 to 0.7	Beta (14.03, 14.60)	Colditz <i>et al.</i> ¹¹¹
Treatment for active TB adverse event (%)	0.0040	0.0007 to 0.0101	Beta (2.7, 664)	Warwick Evidence ¹⁰²
Death from treatment for active TB event (%)	0.00002	0.00000 to 0.00010	Beta (0.5, 25,125)	Warwick Evidence ¹⁰²
Treatment for active TB event resolved (%)	0.50	0.30 to 0.70	Beta (11.51, 11.51)	Assumption
Completion for treatment for active TB (%)	0.85	N/A	N/A	Mears <i>et al.</i> ¹⁰⁹
Duration of complete treatment for active TB (months)	6	N/A	N/A	NG33 ¹⁴
Duration of incomplete treatment for active TB (months)	3	N/A	N/A	Assumption
Time to diagnosis for active TB (months)	3	N/A	N/A	Assumption
Time to presentation for treatment for active TB after initial dropout (months)	3	N/A	N/A	Assumption

IUAT, International Union Against Tuberculosis; N/A, not applicable.

TABLE 8 Model parameters: outcomes (TB case fatality and utility)

Parameter	Base-case value	95% CI	PSA distribution	Source
Case fatality for participants, by age group				
15–44 years	0.012	0.010 to 0.015	Beta (88, 7249)	Crofts <i>et al.</i> ¹¹²
45–64 years	0.048	0.040 to 0.056	Beta (125, 2500)	Crofts <i>et al.</i> ¹¹²
≥ 65 years	0.176	0.160 to 0.191	Beta (413, 1940)	Crofts <i>et al.</i> ¹¹²
Initial utility	N/A	N/A	N/A	PREDICT EQ-5D scores (from this trial)
Utility multiplier				
When active TB progression takes place	0.900	N/A	N/A	Assumption
An acute treatment period during treatment (the first 3 months)	0.675	N/A	N/A	Kruijshaar <i>et al.</i> ¹¹³
For a post-acute treatment period during treatment for active TB	0.813	N/A	N/A	Kruijshaar <i>et al.</i> ¹¹³

N/A, not applicable.

(see *Table 8*). Participants who dropped out of treatment retained the lower, acute-period utility until they re-presented and completed the first 3 months of treatment.

General mortality was modelled by simulating a time to death from other causes (not TB) at the time of model entry for all participants. Individual values were sampled using a Gompertz distribution with life expectancy by age from UK life tables¹¹⁴ and assuming a 5-year standard deviation. As TB is a rare cause of death in the UK, we did not adjust all-cause mortality.

Resource use and costs

The costs of treatments and tests are shown in *Table 9*. We assumed that test strategies involving TST would require two clinic visits, whereas those involving only IGRAs (T-SPOT.TB or QFT-GIT or both) would only require one clinic visit.

Ethics and research governance

This study was approved by the Brent Research Ethics Committee (10/H0717/14). Written informed consent was obtained from all participants. For community recruitment, formal NHS Research and Development permission was sought from the managers or leaders of the institutions to conduct the study on their premises, and to ensure that appropriate areas to protect individuals' privacy were available and were clinically appropriate.

Latent TB infection treatment was recommended only to those aged < 35 years, by their general practitioner, following NICE guidelines at the time of the study. Any treatment for active TB was offered to participants through the TB clinic after communication of the results, separately from the study procedures.

TABLE 9 Model parameters: resource use and costs

Parameter	Base-case value	95% CI	PSA distribution	Source
BCG vaccination	£4	£1 to £10	Gamma (2.46, 1.63)	NICE CG33 ⁸⁵
Adverse event (assumed to be the same for treatment for active TB and CPX)	£397	£161 to £737	Gamma (7.13, 55.64)	Warwick Evidence ¹⁰²
Active TB diagnosis	£434	£353 to £523	Gamma (100, 4.34)	Mears <i>et al.</i> ¹⁰⁹
Treatment for active TB (6 months)	£1114	£906 to £1343	Gamma (100, 11.14)	Mears <i>et al.</i> ¹⁰⁹
CPX (3 months)	£743	£605 to £896	Gamma (100, 7.43)	Mears <i>et al.</i> ¹⁰⁹
TST	£1.22	N/A	N/A	NICE CG117 ⁸⁶
T-SPOT.TB	£71	N/A	N/A	Pareek <i>et al.</i> ¹⁰¹
QFT-GIT	£41	N/A	N/A	Pareek <i>et al.</i> ¹⁰¹
IGRA	£112	N/A	N/A	Assumed to be sum of T-SPOT.TB and QFT-GIT
Clinic visit: TB specialist nursing, adult, face to face	£62	N/A	N/A	Department of Health and Social Care's <i>NHS Reference Costs</i> ¹¹⁵
Number of clinic visits for T-SPOT.TB or QFT-GIT	1	N/A	N/A	Assumption
Number of clinic visits for TST or two-step tests	2	N/A	N/A	Assumption

CG, clinical guideline; N/A, not applicable.

All study data were held in accordance with NHS data protection principles, including the use of secure password-protected systems.

Although this was not a randomised controlled trial, a formal independent data monitoring committee and a trial steering committee were set up (see *Acknowledgements* for a full list of members).

The study was registered with ClinicalTrials.gov (NCT01162265). The full protocol is available at <https://njl-admin.nihr.ac.uk/document/download/2006769> (accessed 12 June 2017).

Chapter 3 Results: progression to active tuberculosis

Baseline participant information

The PREDICT study recruited 10,045 participants between May 2010 and July 2015. Of these participants, 175 were identified as having TB at baseline (i.e. diagnosed or treated < 21 days after being recruited) and an additional 260 participants received treatment for latent TB during the study. Removing those with TB at baseline and those receiving latent TB treatment left 9610 evaluable participants (Figure 7).

Participants were recruited from 54 different NHS centres and community settings located in London, Leicester and Birmingham. Participants were recruited from health-care, work and community settings including places of worship, schools, colleges and workplaces.

Owing to the small numbers of participants who were receiving treatment for LTBI and those who were diagnosed with a HIV infection, further analyses of these groups were not performed.

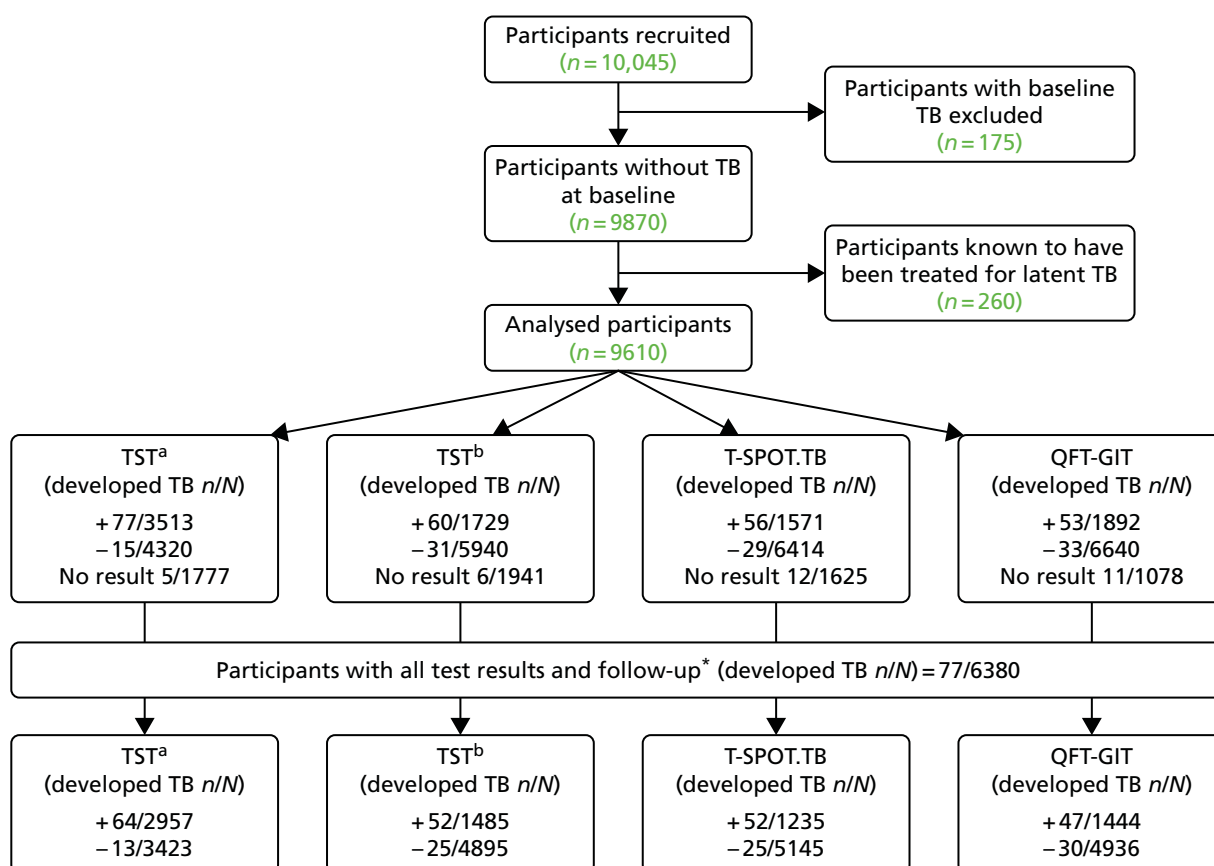


FIGURE 7 Study flow chart. *Six participants did not have data allowing follow-up to be calculated, leaving a total of 6380 participants for analysis. *Table 16* provides further details of 'no results' for each test, *Figure 8* provides all details of available data for all test combinations and *Tables 25, 27 and 28* provide full results for all test combinations. Note that in accordance with national guidelines, only contacts aged < 35 years were offered treatment.

Of the 9610 participants, 4861 individuals (50.6%) had contact with someone with TB and 4749 participants (49.4%) were new entrants to the UK from a high-incidence country. The proportion of participants who reported not being born in the UK was 83.3% ($n = 8008$), and 57.5% ($n = 5526$) were aged ≤ 35 years. Full participant demographics are given in *Table 10*.

A BCG vaccination was reported by 6618 participants (68.9%) and previous contact with TB was reported by 1207 participants (12.6%). Only 55 participants (0.6%) reported being HIV positive. Many of the participants had travelled or lived outside the UK (not including Western Europe, the USA, Canada and Australia) in the last 2 years ($n = 3563$, 37.1%) and before the last 2 years ($n = 3033$, 31.6%). Full participant risk factors are provided in *Table 11*.

Information that was collected for the 4861 participants in the study who had a contact with TB indicated that the most common type of contact with someone with TB was 'household non-sexual', reported by 2402 participants (49.4%). 'Household sexual' contact was reported by 673 contact participants (13.8%). *Table 12* provides full details of contact types.

TABLE 10 Participant demographics

Characteristic	Participants		
	Contacts ($N = 4861$)	New entrants ($N = 4749$)	All ($N = 9610$)
Sex, n (%)			
Female	2400 (49.4)	2329 (49.0)	4729 (49.2)
Male	2433 (50.1)	2376 (50.0)	4809 (50.0)
Missing	28 (0.6)	44 (0.9)	72 (0.8)
Ethnicity, n (%)			
Bangladeshi	201 (4.1)	515 (10.8)	716 (7.5)
Black African	770 (15.8)	368 (7.8)	1138 (11.8)
Black Caribbean	235 (4.8)	7 (0.2)	242 (2.5)
Indian	1352 (27.8)	2629 (55.4)	3981 (41.4)
Mixed	654 (13.5)	238 (5.0)	892 (9.3)
Other	194 (4.0)	126 (2.7)	320 (3.3)
Pakistani	398 (8.2)	508 (10.7)	906 (9.4)
White	942 (19.4)	231 (4.9)	1173 (12.2)
Missing	115 (2.4)	127 (2.7)	242 (2.5)
Age (years), median (IQR)	32 (25–44)	33 (26–51)	33 (26–47)
Missing, n (%)	7 (0.1)	15 (0.3)	22 (0.2)
Age (years), n (%)			
≤ 35	2849 (58.6)	2677 (56.4)	5526 (57.5)
> 35	2005 (41.3)	2057 (43.3)	4062 (42.3)
Missing	7 (0.1)	15 (0.3)	22 (0.2)
UK born, n (%)			
No	3414 (70.2)	4594 (96.7)	8008 (83.3)
Yes	1423 (29.3)	129 (2.7)	1552 (16.2)
Missing	24 (0.5)	26 (0.6)	50 (0.5)

IQR, interquartile range.

TABLE 11 Participant risk factors

Risk factor	Participants		
	Contacts (N = 4861)	New entrants (N = 4749)	All (N = 9610)
Previous TB contact prior to the recent exposure, n (%)	670 (13.8)	537 (11.3)	1207 (12.6)
Missing	156 (3.2)	224 (4.7)	380 (4.0)
Previous TB diagnosis, n (%)	140 (2.9)	213 (4.5)	353 (3.7)
Missing	79 (1.6)	108 (2.3)	187 (2.0)
BCG vaccination, n (%)	3685 (75.8)	2933 (61.8)	6618 (68.9)
Missing	640 (13.2)	882 (18.6)	1522 (15.8)
BCG vaccination, ^a n (%)	4155 (85.5)	3791 (79.8)	7946 (82.7)
Missing	170 (3.5)	24 (0.5)	194 (2.0)
Diabetes mellitus, n (%)	325 (6.7)	481 (10.1)	806 (8.4)
Missing	17 (0.4)	23 (0.5)	40 (0.4)
Haematological malignancy, n (%)	10 (0.2)	6 (0.1)	16 (0.2)
Missing	36 (0.7)	54 (1.1)	90 (0.9)
HIV positive, n (%)	43 (0.9)	12 (0.3)	55 (0.6)
Missing	182 (3.7)	498 (10.5)	680 (7.1)
Smoker, n (%)	1172 (24.1)	635 (13.4)	1807 (18.8)
Missing	31 (0.6)	36 (0.8)	67 (0.7)
Previous transplant, n (%)	15 (0.3)	10 (0.2)	25 (0.3)
Missing	33 (0.7)	42 (0.9)	75 (0.8)
Anti-TNF- α , n (%)	17 (0.4)	15 (0.3)	32 (0.3)
Missing	180 (3.7)	620 (13.1)	800 (8.3)
Immunosuppressive drugs, n (%)	43 (0.9)	32 (0.7)	75 (0.8)
Missing	179 (3.7)	631 (13.3)	810 (8.4)
Problem drug use, n (%)	166 (3.4)	32 (0.7)	198 (2.1)
Missing	23 (0.5)	40 (0.8)	63 (0.7)
Homeless, n (%)	111 (2.3)	73 (1.5)	184 (1.9)
Missing	22 (0.5)	34 (0.7)	56 (0.6)
BMI (kg/m ²), mean (SD)	25.3 (4.9)	25.0 (4.6)	25.1 (4.8)
Missing, n (%)	368 (7.6)	307 (6.5)	675 (7.0)
Occupation, n (%)			
Health care	257 (5.3)	95 (2.0)	352 (3.7)
Social/prison sector	33 (0.7)	9 (0.2)	42 (0.4)
Laboratory/pathology	11 (0.2)	4 (0.1)	15 (0.2)
Agriculture/animal care	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Education	974 (20.0)	708 (14.9)	1682 (17.5)
None	1119 (23.0)	1881 (39.6)	3000 (31.2)
Other	2257 (46.4)	1691 (35.6)	3948 (41.1)
Unknown	210 (4.3)	361 (7.6)	571 (5.9)

continued

TABLE 11 Participant risk factors (continued)

Risk factor	Participants		
	Contacts (N = 4861)	New entrants (N = 4749)	All (N = 9610)
Travel ^b in the last 2 years, n (%)	1822 (37.5)	1741 (36.7)	3563 (37.1)
Missing	159 (3.3)	937 (19.7)	1096 (11.4)
Travel ^b before the last 2 years, n (%)	1630 (33.5)	1403 (29.5)	3033 (31.6)
Missing	414 (8.5)	1099 (23.1)	1513 (15.7)

BMI, body mass index; SD, standard deviation.

a Includes those assumed to have had a BCG vaccination (BCG vaccination data are missing and participant was not born in the UK).

b Travelled or lived outside the UK (not including Western Europe, the USA, Canada and Australia).

TABLE 12 Tuberculosis contact types

Contact type	Contact participants (N = 4861), n (%)
Household sexual	673 (13.8)
Household non-sexual	2402 (49.4)
Health care	141 (2.9)
Education	238 (4.9)
Detention	5 (0.1)
Homeless	23 (0.5)
Other congregate living	1 (0.0)
Travel	6 (0.1)
Workplace/social	747 (15.4)
Other	304 (6.3)

A total of 2211 index cases were identified for the 4861 contacts (i.e. 45.5% of contacts had an identified index case). The number of contacts participating in PREDICT per index case ranged from 1 to 20 (median 2). Most of the index case patients (693/1263, 54.9%) had pulmonary TB, with ($n = 138$) or without ($n = 555$) TB disease at extrapulmonary sites. The infecting species was reported in 875 index cases, being identified as *M. tuberculosis* or *M. tuberculosis* complex in 858 cases and one case, respectively, as *M. bovis* in four cases and *M. africanum* in five cases. Seven index case participants were reported to have mixed infections with members of the *M. tuberculosis* complex (*M. tuberculosis* and *M. africanum*, $n = 5$; *M. tuberculosis* and *M. bovis*, $n = 2$). A total of 549 out of 1263 index case participants (43.5%) were female and the median age was 35 years [interquartile range (IQR) 26–49 years]. Of 1250 index cases in which the participant's country of birth was known, 992 participants (79.4%) were born outside the UK.

Test results

The QFT-GIT tests were carried out in four centres (NMRL, Imperial College London, Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust and SYNLAB) and the T-SPOT.TB test was carried out in three centres (NMRL, Imperial College London and Oxford Immunotec Ltd). The results are summarised in Table 13. Positive test results (positive and borderline positive) were seen for participants when using the T-SPOT.TB test ($n = 1571$, 16.3%), QFT-GIT ($n = 1892$, 19.7%), TST^a ($n = 3513$, 36.6%) and TST^b ($n = 1729$, 18.0%). There were 6520 participants (67.8%) with a non-missing or indeterminate result (positive or negative) for the three tests (T-SPOT.TB, QFT-GIT and TST^a) and 6386 participants (66.5%) had a non-missing or indeterminate result (positive or negative) for all tests

TABLE 13 The T-SPOT.TB, QFT-GIT and TST results

Result	Test, n (%)			
	T-SPOT.TB	QFT-GIT	TST ^a	TST ^b
Positive	1381 (14.4)	1892 (19.7)	3513 (36.6)	1729 (18.0)
Borderline positive	190 (2.0)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Borderline negative	126 (1.3)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Negative	6288 (65.4)	6640 (69.1)	4320 (45.0)	5940 (61.8)
Indeterminate	121 (1.3)	163 (1.7)	N/A	N/A
Error	260 (2.7)	65 (0.7)	N/A	N/A
Missing	1244 (12.9)	850 (8.8)	1777 (18.5)	1941 (20.2)

N/A, not applicable.

including TST^b. An 'error' was reported when a result could not be obtained as a result of the testing procedures, for example because there was not enough sample material.

Some participants had multiple tests carried out (21 participants had two T-SPOT.TB tests and 33 participants had two QFT-GIT tests).

In the following discussion, 'borderline positive' results are categorised as positive; 'borderline negative' results are categorised as negative; and 'error' and 'indeterminate' results are categorised as missing, as only positive and negative results can be used in decision-making.

Evaluation of the combination of results for the different tests showed that, when considering the results from the three tests, T-SPOT.TB, QFT-GIT and TST^a (6520 participants had available data), the results were positive for all three for 797 participants (12.2%) and were negative for all three for 2995 participants (45.9%), and the three results differed for 2728 participants (41.8%). When comparing the results for T-SPOT.TB and TST^a (6843 participants had available data), the results were both positive for 1020 participants (14.9%), were both negative for 3414 participants (49.9%) and disagreed for 2409 participants (35.2%). Comparing the results for QFT-GIT and TST^a (7041 participants had available data), 1113 participants (15.8%) had positive results for both, 3373 participants (47.9%) had a negative result for both and 2555 participants (36.3%) had discordant results.

A total of 6386 participants had a test result for each of T-SPOT.TB, QFT-GIT and TST^b. Of the 6706 participants with T-SPOT.TB and TST^b results, 743 (11.1%) had positive results for both, 4598 (68.6%) had negative results for both and the results disagreed for 1365 participants (20.4%). For the 6897 participants with TST^b and QFT-GIT results, 785 (11.4%) had positive results for both, 4563 (66.2%) had negative results for both and the results for 1549 participants (22.5%) disagreed. Of the 6386 participants with all results, 620 (9.7%) had all positive results, 4026 (63.0%) had all negative results and the results for 1740 participants (27.2%) disagreed.

A comparison of the results for the two IGRAs only (data were available for 7594 participants) showed that 1176 participants (15.5%) had a positive result for both, 5588 participants (73.6%) had a negative result for both, and 830 participants (10.9%) had discordant results. *Tables 14* and *15* show the cross-tabulations of test results, and *Figure 8* shows the completeness of data for each testing combination. Further cross-tabulations of results showing the full categorisation of results (including missing, indeterminate and error) are presented in *Appendix 2, Tables 44* and *45*. Cross-tabulations for participants who did and did not progress to active TB are shown in *Appendix 2, Tables 46–48*.

TABLE 14 Cross-tabulations of test results

QFT-GIT	Test result, n (%)											
	TST ^a positive				TST ^a negative				TST ^a missing			
	T-SPOT.TB positive	T-SPOT.TB negative	T-SPOT.TB missing	T-SPOT.TB total	T-SPOT.TB positive	T-SPOT.TB negative	T-SPOT.TB missing	T-SPOT.TB total	T-SPOT.TB positive	T-SPOT.TB negative	T-SPOT.TB missing	T-SPOT.TB total
Positive	797 (22.7)	249 (7.1)	67 (1.9)	1113 (31.7)	195 (4.5)	230 (5.3)	25 (0.6)	450 (10.4)	184 (10.4)	52 (2.9)	93 (5.2)	329 (18.5)
Negative	173 (4.9)	1791 (51.0)	141 (4.0)	2105 (59.9)	90 (2.1)	2995 (69.3)	288 (6.7)	3373 (78.1)	36 (2.0)	802 (45.1)	324 (18.2)	1162 (65.4)
Missing	50 (1.4)	57 (1.6)	188 (5.4)	295 (8.4)	27 (0.6)	189 (4.4)	281 (6.5)	497 (11.5)	19 (1.1)	49 (2.8)	218 (12.3)	286 (16.1)
Total	1020 (29.0)	2097 (59.7)	396 (11.3)	3513 (100.0)	312 (7.2)	3414 (79.0)	594 (13.8)	4320 (100.0)	239 (13.4)	903 (50.8)	635 (35.7)	1777 (100.0)

Notes
TST^a was considered positive if participants had a skin induration measuring ≥ 5 mm. Percentages are of the total for each test combination.

TABLE 15 Cross-tabulations of test results

QFT-GIT	Test result, n (%)											
	TST ^b positive				TST ^b negative				TST ^b missing			
	T-SPOT.TB positive	T-SPOT.TB negative	T-SPOT.TB missing	T-SPOT.TB total	T-SPOT.TB positive	T-SPOT.TB negative	T-SPOT.TB missing	T-SPOT.TB total	T-SPOT.TB positive	T-SPOT.TB negative	T-SPOT.TB missing	T-SPOT.TB total
Positive	620 (35.9)	124 (7.2)	41 (2.4)	785 (45.4)	356 (6.0)	345 (5.8)	48 (0.8)	749 (12.6)	200 (10.3)	62 (3.2)	96 (4.9)	358 (18.4)
Negative	89 (5.1)	655 (37.9)	56 (3.2)	800 (46.3)	171 (2.9)	4026 (67.8)	366 (6.2)	4563 (76.8)	39 (2.0)	907 (46.7)	331 (17.1)	1277 (65.8)
Missing	34 (2.0)	16 (0.9)	94 (5.4)	144 (8.3)	43 (0.7)	227 (3.8)	358 (6.0)	628 (10.6)	19 (1.0)	52 (2.7)	235 (12.1)	306 (15.8)
Total	743 (43.0)	795 (46.0)	191 (11.0)	1729 (100.0)	570 (9.6)	4598 (77.4)	772 (13.0)	5940 (100.0)	258 (13.3)	1021 (52.6)	662 (34.1)	1941 (100.0)

Notes
TST^b was considered positive if participants without a previous BCG vaccination had a skin induration measuring ≥ 6 mm following the standard TST; for participants with a previous BCG vaccination, a skin induration of ≥ 15 mm following the standard TST indicated a positive result. Percentages are of the total for each test combination.

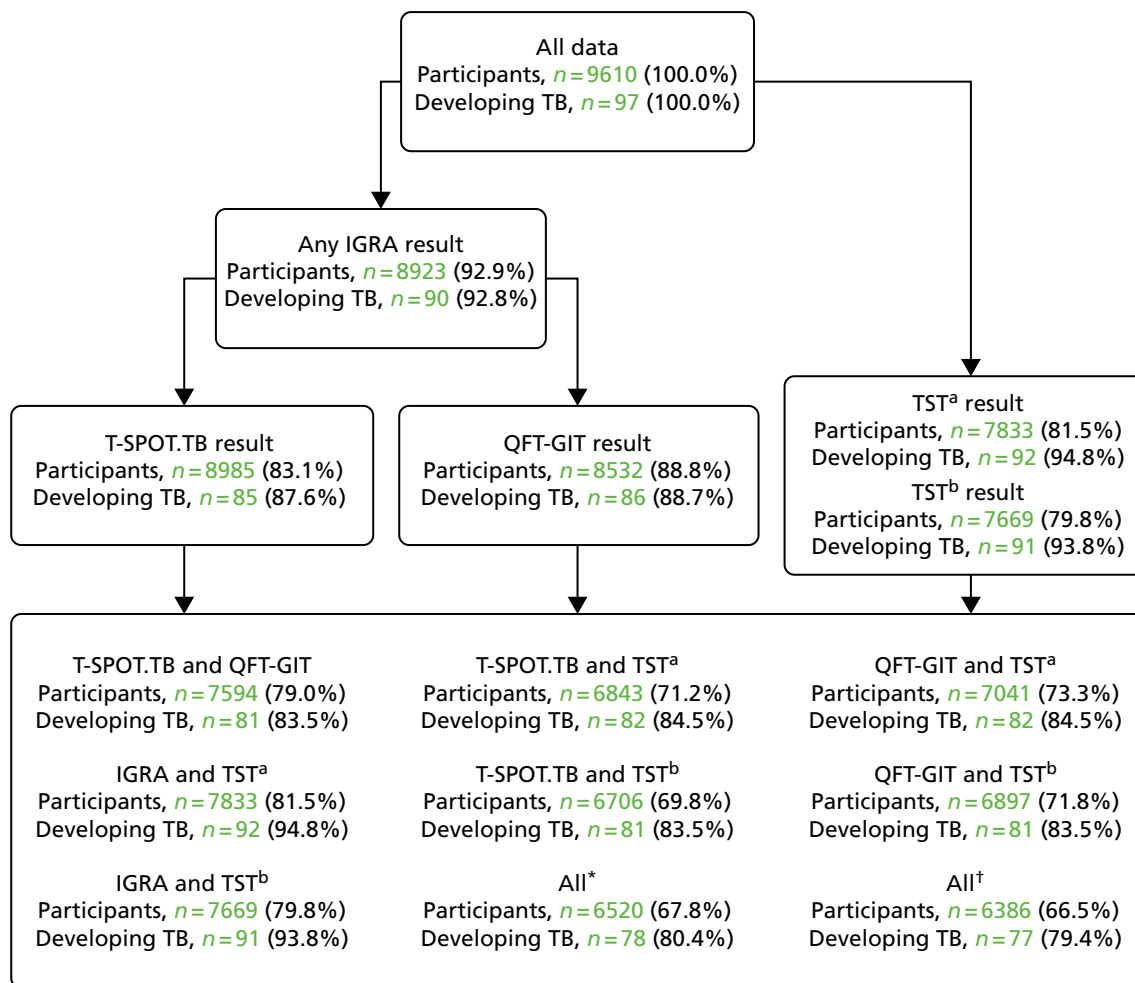


FIGURE 8 Test result combinations. *T-SPOT.TB, QuantiFERON + TST^a; †T-SPOT.TB, QuantiFERON + TST^b. TST^a was considered positive if participants had a skin induration measuring ≥ 5 mm. TST^b was considered positive if participants without a previous BCG vaccination had a skin induration measuring ≥ 6 mm following the standard TST; for participants with a previous BCG vaccination, a skin induration of ≥ 15 mm following the standard TST indicated a positive result.

Progression to active tuberculosis

Of the total number of participants, 97 (1.0%) developed active TB. Of the participants progressing to active TB, 66 (68.0%) were aged ≤ 35 years and 63 (64.9%) were recruited to the study because of contact with an individual with TB. The follow-up duration for participants in the study ranged from 21 days to 5.9 years (for non-progressing participants: range 0.3–5.9 years, mean 2.9 years, median 3.0 years; for progressing participants: range 21 days–4.1 years, mean 0.8 years, median 0.5 years) (*Figure 9*).

Fifty-two out of the 97 participants (53.6%) who progressed to active TB developed TB within 6 months of follow-up (33 contact participants and 19 new entrant participants), and within 12 months 70 participants (72.2%) had progressed to active TB (46 contact participants and 24 new entrant participants). Twenty-seven participants (27.8%) developed active TB after 1 year of follow-up.

The characteristics of the 97 participants who progressed to active TB are summarised in *Table 16*. Forty-five of these participants had pulmonary TB, with ($n = 7$) or without ($n = 38$) TB disease at an extrapulmonary site; the remaining 52 participants had extrapulmonary TB only. Approximately two-thirds of participants were contacts and 48.5% were female. A total of 81 out of 97 participants (83.5%) were born outside the UK. The majority of participants (74.2%) had received a BCG vaccination. Sixteen participants (16.5%) reported contact with a patient with TB prior to the contact that led to their enrolment in the study. At the time of enrolment, four of the participants (4.1%) who went on to develop active TB reported problem drug use and three (3.1%) were homeless.

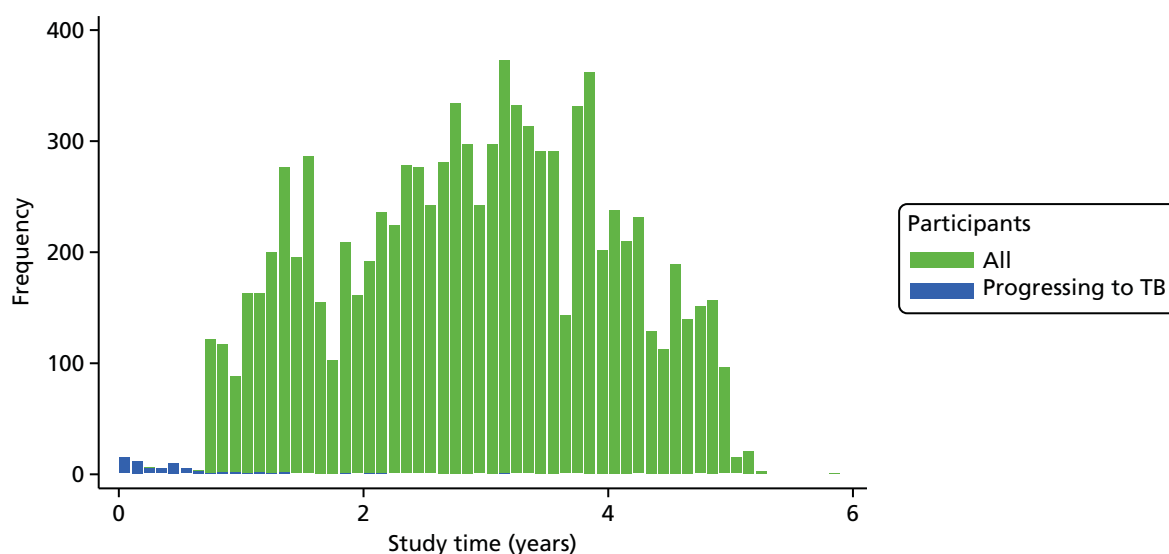


FIGURE 9 Histogram of follow-up duration for participants who progressed to active TB and participants who did not progress to active TB.

TABLE 16 Baseline characteristics of participants who progressed to active TB

Characteristic	Participants	
	Progressing to active TB (N = 97)	With all test results and progressing to active TB (N = 77)
Contact or migrant, n (%)		
Contact	63 (65.0)	51 (66.2)
Migrant	34 (35.1)	26 (33.8)
Sex, n (%)		
Female	47 (48.5)	37 (48.1)
Male	50 (51.6)	40 (52.0)
Age (years), median (IQR)	30 (26–38)	30 (26–38)
Age (years), n (%)		
≤ 35	66 (68.0)	52 (67.5)
> 35	31 (32.0)	25 (32.5)
UK born, n (%)		
No	81 (83.5)	64 (83.1)
Yes	16 (16.5)	13 (16.9)
BCG vaccination, n (%)	72 (74.2) ^a	57 (74.0) ^a
Smoker, n (%)	18 (18.6)	15 (19.5)
BMI (kg/m ²), mean (SD)	23.6 (4.5) ^b	23.4 (4.5) ^c

BMI, body mass index; SD, standard deviation.

^a Information is missing for 14 cases.

^b Information is missing for eight cases.

^c Information is missing for six cases.

There were 14 index case/contact pairs with 24-locus MIRU-VNTR data available for both individuals' infections: 11 of 12 pairs with data on ≥ 22 loci were identical at all available loci and one pair was identical at the 12 loci available.

T-SPOT.TB, QFT-GIT, TST^a and TST^b identified 56 (57.7%), 53 (54.6%), 77 (79.4%) and 60 (61.9%) of the participants developing active TB as positive, respectively. Participants who progressed to active TB accounted for 3.6%, 2.8%, 2.2% and 3.5% of the positive results for T-SPOT.TB, QFT-GIT, TST^a and TST^b (PPVs), respectively, and 0.5%, 0.5%, 0.3% and 0.5% of the negative results for each test, respectively (NPVs of 99.5%, 99.5%, 99.7% and 99.5%) (Table 17).

For the participants aged ≤ 35 years, individuals developing active TB accounted for 4.7%, 3.9%, 2.7% and 4.6% of the positive results for T-SPOT.TB, QFT-GIT, TST^a and TST^b, respectively; for participants aged > 35 years, this was 2.4%, 1.8%, 1.6% and 2.2%, respectively. For contact participants, individuals who progressed to active TB accounted for 4.3%, 3.5%, 2.5% and 3.7% of the positive results for T-SPOT.TB, QFT-GIT, TST^a and TST^b, respectively; for the new entrant participants, this was 2.9%, 2.1%, 1.7% and 3.2%, respectively. Tables 17–19 provide further information.

Primary analyses

For the primary analyses, the data for the 6386 participants who had all test data were used, which included 77 participants who developed active TB. As six of these participants did not have data enabling time in the study to be calculated, the final sample used for the primary analyses was 6380 participants, and 77 of these participants developed TB.

Incidence rates and incidence rate ratios for individual tests

When utilising all follow-up data, the IR of TB per 1000 participants per annum for those with a positive result for T-SPOT.TB was 13.2 (95% CI 9.9 to 17.4), and it was 1.5 (95% CI 1.0 to 2.2) for those with a negative result. For QFT-GIT, the IRs for participants with positive and negative results were 10.1 (95% CI 7.4 to 13.4) and 1.9 (95% CI 1.3 to 2.7). For TST^a, the IRs for participants with positive and negative results were 6.8 (95% CI 5.2 to 8.7) and 1.2 (95% CI 0.6 to 2.0), respectively. For TST^b, the IR for participants with positive results was 11.1 (95% CI 8.3 to 14.6), and it was 1.6 (95% CI 1.0 to 2.3) for those with negative results (Table 20).

When restricting the follow-up of participants to just 1 year, 59 of the 77 participants (76.6%) who progressed to active TB in the total study duration had progressed at this stage. With the 1-year restricted follow-up, the IR of TB per 1000 participants per annum for participants with a positive T-SPOT.TB result was 34.0 (95% CI 24.4 to 46.2), and it was 3.5 (95% CI 2.1 to 5.6) for participants with a negative T-SPOT.TB result. For participants with a positive QFT-GIT test result, the IR was 25.4 (95% CI 17.8 to 35.1), and it was 4.7 (95% CI 3.0 to 7.0) for those with a negative result. For participants with a positive TST^a result, the IR was 17.1 (95% CI 12.7 to 22.6), and it was 2.6 (95% CI 1.2 to 5.0) for those with a positive result; for TST^b, the IR for participants with a positive result was 28.9 (95% CI 2.08 to 39.1), and it was 3.5 (95% CI 2.0 to 5.6) for those with a negative result (Table 21).

When extending the follow-up period to 2 years, the IR decreased. For participants with a positive T-SPOT.TB result, the IR was 20.5 (95% CI 15.1 to 27.2), and it was 2.1 (95% CI 1.3 to 3.2) for participants with a

TABLE 17 Incident TB cases with T-SPOT.TB, QFT-GIT and TST results at baseline

Test result	Test, number of progressors/total number (%)			
	T-SPOT.TB	QFT-GIT	TST ^a	TST ^b
Positive	56/1571 (3.6)	53/1892 (2.8)	77/3513 (2.2)	60/1729 (3.5)
Negative	29/6414 (0.5)	33/6640 (0.5)	15/4320 (0.3)	31/5940 (0.5)
Missing	12/1625 (0.7)	11/1078 (1.0)	5/1777 (0.3)	6/1941 (0.3)

TABLE 18 Incident TB cases with TST^a, TST^b, T-SPOT.TB and QFT-GIT results at baseline, by age group

Test result	Test, number of progressors/total number (%)											
	TST ^a			TST ^b			T-SPOT.TB			QFT-GIT		
	Age group, n/N (%)											
	≤ 35 years	> 35 years	Missing	≤ 35 years	> 35 years	Missing	≤ 35 years	> 35 years	Missing	≤ 35 years	> 35 years	Missing
Positive	53/1995 (2.7)	24/1516 (1.6)	0/2 (0.0)	42/923 (4.6)	18/804 (2.2)	0/2 (0.0)	38/805 (4.7)	18/763 (2.4)	0/3 (0.0)	36/935 (3.9)	17/953 (1.8)	0/4 (0.0)
Negative	8/2804 (0.3)	7/1514 (0.5)	0/2 (0.0)	19/3767 (0.5)	12/2173 (0.6)	0/0 (0.0)	20/4122 (0.5)	9/2284 (0.4)	0/8 (0.0)	22/3991 (0.6)	11/2641 (0.4)	0/8 (0.0)
Missing	5/727 (0.7)	0/1032 (0.0)	0/18 (0.0)	5/836 (0.6)	1/1085 (0.1)	0/20 (0.0)	8/599 (1.3)	4/1015 (0.4)	0/11 (0.0)	8/600 (1.3)	3/468 (0.6)	0/10 (0.0)

Notes
TST^a was considered positive if participants had a skin induration measuring ≥ 5 mm. TST^b was considered positive if participants without a previous BCG vaccination had a skin induration measuring ≥ 6 mm following the standard TST; for participants with a previous BCG vaccination, a skin induration of ≥ 15 mm following the standard TST indicated a positive result.

TABLE 19 Incident TB cases with T-SPOT.TB, QFT-GIT, TST^a and TST^b test results at baseline, by participant type

Test result	Test, number of progressors/total number (%)							
	T-SPOT.TB		QFT-GIT		TST ^a		TST ^b	
	Participant type							
	Contacts	New entrants	Contacts	New entrants	Contacts	New entrants	Contacts	New entrants
Positive	34/800 (4.3)	22/771 (2.9)	33/952 (3.5)	20/940 (2.1)	51/2019 (2.5)	26/1494 (1.7)	38/1036 (3.7)	22/693 (3.2)
Negative	23/3475 (0.7)	6/2939 (0.2)	22/3324 (0.7)	11/3316 (0.3)	9/2249 (0.4)	6/2071 (0.3)	21/3081 (0.7)	10/2859 (0.3)
Missing	6/586 (1.0)	6/1039 (0.6)	8/585 (1.4)	3/493 (0.6)	3/593 (0.5)	2/1184 (0.2)	4/744 (0.5)	2/1197 (0.2)

TABLE 20 The IR and IRR for each single test

Progression measure	Test and result							
	T-SPOT.TB		QFT-GIT		TST ^a		TST ^b	
	Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative
Progression (n/N)	52/1235	25/5145	47/1444	30/4936	64/2957	13/3423	52/1485	25/4895
Total years at risk	3926.2	16,645.3	4649.9	15,921.6	9416.8	11,154.6	4674.8	15,896.6
IR (per 1000 participants per annum)	13.2	1.5	10.1	1.9	6.8	1.2	11.1	1.6
95% CI	9.9 to 17.4	1.0 to 2.2	7.4 to 13.4	1.3 to 2.7	5.2 to 8.7	0.6 to 2.0	8.3 to 14.6	1.0 to 2.3
IRR (per 1000 participants per annum)	8.8		5.4		5.8		7.1	
95% CI	5.5 to 14.2		3.4 to 8.5		3.2 to 10.6		4.4 to 11.4	

TABLE 21 The IR and IRR for each single test at different follow-up lengths

Progression measure	Test and result							
	T-SPOT.TB		QFT-GIT		TST ^a		TST ^b	
	Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative
1 year of follow-up								
Progression (n/N)	41/1235	18/5145	36/1444	23/4936	50/2957	9/3423	42/1485	17/4895
Years at risk	1204.4	5125.3	1418.7	4911.1	2918.9	3410.8	1453.7	4876.0
IR (per 1000 participants per annum)	34.0	3.5	25.4	4.7	17.1	2.6	28.9	3.5
95% CI	24.4 to 46.2	2.1 to 5.6	17.8 to 35.1	3.0 to 7.0	12.7 to 22.6	1.2 to 5.0	20.8 to 39.1	2.0 to 5.6
IRR (per 1000 participants per annum)	9.7		5.4		6.5		8.3	
95% CI	5.6 to 16.9		3.2 to 9.1		3.2 to 13.2		4.7 to 14.6	
2 years of follow-up								
Progression (n/N)	48/1235	21/5145	43/1444	26/4936	57/2957	12/3423	47/1485	22/4895
Years at risk	2340.6	9987.7	2761.4	9566.9	5683.5	6644.8	2824.0	9504.3
IR (per 1000 participants per annum)	20.5	2.1	15.6	2.7	10.0	1.8	16.6	2.3
95% CI	15.1 to 27.2	1.3 to 3.2	11.3 to 21.0	1.8 to 4.0	7.6 to 13.0	0.9 to 3.2	12.2 to 22.1	1.5 to 3.5
IRR (per 1000 participants per annum)	9.8		5.7		5.6		7.2	
95% CI	5.8 to 16.3		3.5 to 9.3		3.0 to 10.3		4.3 to 11.9	

negative result. For participants who had a positive QFT-GIT result, the IR was 15.6 (95% CI 11.3 to 21.0), and it was 2.7 (95% CI 1.8 to 4.0) for those with a negative result. For TST^a, the IR for participants with a positive result was 10.0 (95% CI 7.6 to 13.0), and for those with a negative result it was 1.8 (95% CI 0.9 to 3.2); for TST^b, the IR for participants with a positive result was 16.6 (95% CI 1.2 to 22.1), and for those with a negative result it was 2.3 (95% CI 1.5 to 3.5).

The IRR (the incidence of TB for those with a positive test result compared with those with a negative test result, with adjustment for person-years) for T-SPOT.TB was 8.8 (95% CI 5.5 to 14.2), for QFT-GIT it was 5.4 (95% CI 3.4 to 8.5), for TST^a it was 5.8 (95% CI 3.2 to 10.6) and for TST^b it was 7.1 (95% CI 4.4 to 11.4). Similar IRRs were produced for each test when restricting the follow-up duration to 1 year and 2 years (see *Tables 20 and 21*).

Incidence rates and incidence rate ratios for test strategies

For the two-step strategies, the IRs for positive and negative results were 15.9 (95% CI 11.7 to 21.1) and 1.7 (95% CI 1.1 to 2.4) for TST^a + T-SPOT.TB, respectively; 13.2 (95% CI 9.6 to 17.8) and 2.0 (95% CI 1.4 to 2.7) for TST^a + QFT-GIT, respectively; and 13.4 (95% CI 10.0 to 17.6) and 1.6 (95% CI 1.0 to 2.3) for IGRA + TST^a, respectively. For the two-step strategies including TST^b, the IRs for positive and negative results were 19.6 (95% CI 14.2 to 26.4) and 1.9 (95% CI 1.3 to 2.6) for TST^b + T-SPOT.TB, respectively; 16.4 (95% CI 11.6 to 22.6) and 2.1 (95% CI 1.5 to 2.9) for TST^b + QFT-GIT, respectively; and 17.4 (95% CI 12.7 to 23.2) and 1.8 (95% CI 1.2 to 2.5) for TST^b + IGRA, respectively (*Tables 22 and 23*).

For the two-step strategies using results from each IGRA with the TST^a result, the calculated IRRs were 9.6 (95% CI 6.1 to 15.3) for TST^a + T-SPOT.TB, 6.7 (95% CI 4.3 to 10.5) for TST^a + QFT-GIT and 8.6 (95% CI 5.4 to 13.8) for IGRA + TST^a. For the two-step strategies using results from each IGRA with the TST^b result, the calculated IRRs were 10.6 (95% CI 6.7 to 16.6) for TST^b + T-SPOT.TB, 7.7 (95% CI 4.9 to 12.0) for TST^b + QFT-GIT and 9.8 (95% CI 6.2 to 15.4) for IGRA + TST^a (see *Tables 22 and 23*). See *Appendix 2, Figures 12 and 13*, for tables showing the results for each step of the investigated two-step strategies.

TABLE 22 The IR and IRR for test strategies with TST^a

Progression measure	Test and result					
	TST ^a + T-SPOT.TB		TST ^a + QFT-GIT		TST ^a + IGRA	
	Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative
Progression (n/N)	48/954	29/5426	43/1028	34/5352	51/1199	26/5181
Years at risk	3017.6	17,553.8	3256.1	17,315.3	3813.5	16,757.9
IR (per 1000 participants per annum)	15.9	1.7	13.2	2.0	13.4	1.6
95% CI	11.7 to 21.1	1.1 to 2.4	9.6 to 17.8	1.4 to 2.7	10.0 to 17.6	1.0 to 2.3
IRR (per 1000 participants per annum)	9.6		6.7		8.6	
95% CI	6.1 to 15.3		4.3 to 10.5		5.4 to 13.8	

TABLE 23 The IR and IRR for test strategies with TST^b

Progression measure	Test and result					
	TST ^b + T-SPOT.TB		TST ^b + QFT-GIT		TST ^b + IGRA	
	Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative
Progression (n/N)	43/709	34/5671	38/744	39/5636	45/833	32/5547
Years at risk	2198.1	18,373.3	2311.8	18,259.6	2590.7	17,980.7
IR (per 1000 participants per annum)	19.6	1.9	16.4	2.1	17.4	1.8
95% CI	14.2 to 26.4	1.3 to 2.6	11.6 to 22.6	1.5 to 2.9	12.7 to 23.2	1.2 to 2.5
IRR (per 1000 participants per annum)	10.6		7.7		9.8	
95% CI	6.7 to 16.6		4.9 to 12.0		6.2 to 15.4	

Comparative performance of tests and test strategies

Positive predictive performance

Formal statistical comparisons of the predictive value of positive and negative results of tests and strategies showed that a positive result for TST^a was a significantly poorer predictor of progression to active TB than positive results for all other tests (TST^b, T-SPOT.TB, QFT-GIT, TST^a + T-SPOT.TB, TST^a + QFT-GIT, TST^a + IGRA, TST^b + T-SPOT.TB, TST^b + QFT-GIT and TST^b + IGRA), with TST^b + T-SPOT.TB yielding the largest difference [ratio of likelihood ratio (RLR) 2.92, 95% CI 2.40 to 3.56; $p < 0.001$]. Comparing positive results for tests and strategies with positive results for TST^b alone, T-SPOT.TB (RLR 1.21, 95% CI 1.01 to 1.45; $p = 0.037$), the strategies TST^a + T-SPOT.TB (RLR 1.46, 95% CI 1.23 to 1.74; $p < 0.001$), TST^a + IGRA (RLR 1.22, 95% CI 1.04 to 1.43; $p = 0.014$) and the three combination strategies including TST^b [TST^b + T-SPOT.TB (RLR 1.78, 95% CI 1.51 to 2.10; $p < 0.001$), TST^b + QFT-GIT (RLR 1.48, 95% CI 1.24 to 1.77; $p < 0.001$) and TST^b + IGRA (RLR 1.57, 95% CI 1.36 to 1.82; $p < 0.001$)] were significantly superior predictors of progression.

When comparing positive results for tests and test strategies with positive results for T-SPOT.TB alone, TST^a + T-SPOT.TB (RLR 1.21, 95% CI 1.04 to 1.40; $p = 0.016$), TST^b + T-SPOT.TB (RLR 1.47, 95% CI 1.27 to 1.70; $p < 0.001$), TST^b + QFT-GIT (RLR 1.22, 95% CI 1.01 to 1.49; $p = 0.041$) and TST^b + IGRA (RLR 1.30, 95% CI 1.11 to 1.52; $p = 0.001$) were significantly superior predictors of progression. Compared with positive results for QFT-GIT alone, positive results for T-SPOT.TB (RLR 1.31, 95% CI 1.13 to 1.51; $p < 0.001$), TST^a + T-SPOT.TB (RLR 1.57, 95% CI 1.33 to 1.86; $p < 0.001$), TST^a + QFT-GIT (RLR 1.30, 95% CI 1.15 to 1.47; $p < 0.001$), TST^a + IGRA (RLR 1.32, 95% CI 1.16 to 1.51; $p < 0.001$), and for the three combination strategies including TST^b [TST^b + T-SPOT.TB (RLR 1.92, 95% CI 1.59 to 2.32; $p < 0.001$), TST^b + QFT-GIT (RLR 1.60, 95% CI 1.34 to 1.91; $p < 0.001$) and TST^b + IGRA (RLR 1.70, 95% CI 1.43 to 2.01; $p < 0.001$)] were significantly superior predictors of progression.

When comparing positive results for tests and test strategies with positive results for test strategies including TST^a, compared with TST^a + T-SPOT.TB, TST^b + T-SPOT.TB (RLR 1.22, 95% CI 1.09 to 1.37; $p = 0.001$) was a significantly superior predictor of progression; compared with TST^a + QFT-GIT, TST^a + T-SPOT.TB (RLR 1.21, 95% CI 1.05 to 1.40; $p = 0.007$), and the three combination strategies including TST^b [TST^b + T-SPOT.TB (RLR 1.48, 95% CI 1.25 to 1.75; $p < 0.001$), TST^b + QFT-GIT (RLR 1.23, 95% CI 1.03 to 1.48; $p = 0.022$) and TST^b + IGRA (RLR 1.31, 95% CI 1.14 to 1.50; $p < 0.001$)] were significantly superior predictors of progression; and, compared with TST^a + IGRA, the strategies TST^a + T-SPOT.TB (RLR 1.19, 95% CI 1.09 to 1.31; $p < 0.001$), TST^b + T-SPOT.TB (RLR 1.45, 95% CI 1.26 to 1.68; $p = 0.001$), TST^b + QFT-GIT (RLR 1.21, 95% CI 1.04 to 1.42; $p = 0.016$) and TST^b + IGRA (RLR 1.29, 95% CI 1.14 to 1.45; $p < 0.001$) were significantly superior predictors of progression.

Comparing positive results from tests and test strategies with positive results from test strategies including TST^b showed that when comparing with positive results from TST^b + QFT-GIT, positive results from TST^b + T-SPOT.TB were significantly superior predictors of progression (RLR 1.20, 95% CI 1.05 to 1.37; $p = 0.007$); and, also, when comparing positive results from TST^b + IGRA, positive results from TST^b + T-SPOT.TB were significantly superior predictors of progression (RLR 1.13, 95% CI 1.04 to 1.23; $p = 0.006$). *Table 24* provides all results.

Negative predictive performance

When evaluating the negative predictive performance of tests and strategies, negative results for TST^a + QFT-GIT were significantly poorer predictors of non-progression than negative results for TST^a (RLR 1.68, 95% CI 1.08 to 2.60; $p = 0.021$), T-SPOT.TB (RLR 1.31, 95% CI 1.01 to 1.69; $p = 0.040$) and TST^a + IGRA (RLR 1.27, 95% CI 1.11 to 1.45; $p = 0.001$).

Negative results for TST^b + QFT-GIT were significantly poorer predictors of non-progression than negative results for TST^a (RLR 1.83, 95% CI 1.16 to 2.89; $p = 0.010$), TST^b (RLR 1.36, 95% CI 1.06 to 1.73; $p = 0.014$), T-SPOT.TB (RLR 1.43, 95% CI 1.10 to 1.86; $p = 0.008$), TST^a + T-SPOT.TB (RLR 1.30, 95% CI 1.05 to 1.60; $p = 0.015$), TST^a + IGRA (RLR 1.38, 95% CI 1.12 to 1.70; $p = 0.002$), TST^b + T-SPOT.TB (RLR 1.16, 95% CI 1.00 to 1.33; $p = 0.043$) and TST^b + IGRA (RLR 1.20, 95% CI 1.09 to 1.32; $p < 0.001$). *Table 25* provides all results.

TABLE 24 Pairwise comparisons between tests, showing ratios of likelihood ratios, 95% CIs and *p*-values based on the Wald test

Reference strategy B	Strategy A, ratio of likelihood ratios (95% CI); <i>p</i> -value									
	TST ^a	TST ^b	T-SPOT.TB	QFT-GIT	TST ^a + T-SPOT.TB	TST ^a + QFT-GIT	TST ^a + IGRA	TST ^b + T-SPOT.TB	TST ^b + QFT-GIT	TST ^b + IGRA
TST ^a		1.64 (1.44 to 1.87); < 0.001	1.99 (1.68 to 2.34); < 0.001	1.52 (1.26 to 1.83); < 0.001	2.39 (2.03 to 2.83); < 0.001	1.97 (1.64 to 2.37); < 0.001	2.00 (1.74 to 2.32); < 0.001	2.92 (2.40 to 3.56); < 0.001	2.43 (1.96 to 3.03); < 0.001	2.58 (2.15 to 3.10); < 0.001
TST ^b			1.21 (1.01 to 1.45); 0.037	0.93 (0.76 to 1.13); 0.453	1.46 (1.23 to 1.74); < 0.001	1.20 (1.00 to 1.45); 0.054	1.22 (1.04 to 1.43); 0.014	1.78 (1.51 to 2.10); < 0.001	1.48 (1.24 to 1.77); < 0.001	1.57 (1.36 to 1.82); < 0.001
T-SPOT.TB				0.77 (0.66 to 0.89); < 0.001	1.21 (1.04 to 1.40); 0.016	0.99 (0.84 to 1.17); 0.935	1.01 (0.89 to 1.14); 0.865	1.47 (1.27 to 1.70); < 0.001	1.22 (1.01 to 1.49); 0.041	1.30 (1.11 to 1.52); 0.001
QFT-GIT					1.57 (1.33 to 1.86); < 0.001	1.30 (1.15 to 1.47); < 0.001	1.32 (1.16 to 1.51); < 0.001	1.92 (1.59 to 2.32); < 0.001	1.60 (1.34 to 1.91); < 0.001	1.70 (1.43 to 2.01); < 0.001
TST ^a + T-SPOT.TB						0.82 (0.72 to 0.95); 0.007	0.84 (0.77 to 0.92); < 0.001	1.22 (1.09 to 1.37); 0.001	1.02 (0.86 to 1.21); 0.857	1.08 (0.94 to 1.23); 0.274
TST ^a + QFT-GIT							1.02 (0.93 to 1.11); 0.697	1.48 (1.25 to 1.75); < 0.001	1.23 (1.03 to 1.48); 0.022	1.31 (1.14 to 1.50); < 0.001
TST ^a + IGRA								1.45 (1.26 to 1.68); < 0.001	1.21 (1.04 to 1.42); 0.016	1.29 (1.14 to 1.45); < 0.001
TST ^b + T-SPOT.TB									0.83 (0.73 to 0.95); 0.007	0.88 (0.81 to 0.97); 0.006
TST ^b + QFT-GIT										1.06 (0.97 to 1.16); 0.174
TST ^b + IGRA										

Notes
Values indicate the ratio of positive likelihood ratios comparing strategy A with strategy B.
A value of > 1 indicates that a positive result on Test A is a stronger indicator of probable progression to active TB than a positive result on Test B.

TABLE 25 Pairwise comparisons between tests, showing ratios of likelihood ratios, 95% CIs and *p*-values based on the Wald test

Reference strategy B	Strategy A, ratio of likelihood ratios (95% CI); <i>p</i> -value									
	TST ^a	TST ^b	T-SPOT.TB	QFT-GIT	TST ^a + T-SPOT.TB	TST ^a + QFT-GIT	TST ^a + IGRA	TST ^b + T-SPOT.TB	TST ^b + QFT-GIT	TST ^b + IGRA
TST ^a		1.35 (0.90 to 2.01); 0.147	1.28 (0.77 to 2.12); 0.337	1.60 (0.97 to 2.65); 0.065	1.41 (0.90 to 2.21); 0.134	1.68 (1.08 to 2.60); 0.021	1.32 (0.86 to 2.03); 0.202	1.58 (0.99 to 2.52); 0.053	1.83 (1.16 to 2.89); 0.010	1.52 (0.96 to 2.40); 0.071
TST ^b			0.95 (0.67 to 1.36); 0.784	1.19 (0.84 to 1.68); 0.319	1.05 (0.77 to 1.42); 0.771	1.25 (0.93 to 1.67); 0.142	0.98 (0.72 to 1.34); 0.912	1.17 (0.91 to 1.51); 0.212	1.36 (1.06 to 1.73); 0.014	1.13 (0.89 to 1.43); 0.305
T-SPOT.TB				1.25 (0.97 to 1.61); 0.081	1.10 (0.93 to 1.30); 0.265	1.31 (1.01 to 1.69); 0.040	1.03 (0.82 to 1.3); 0.787	1.24 (0.99 to 1.55); 0.067	1.43 (1.10 to 1.86); 0.008	1.19 (0.92 to 1.53); 0.186
QFT-GIT					0.88 (0.68 to 1.14); 0.324	1.05 (0.88 to 1.24); 0.601	0.82 (0.66 to 1.03); 0.091	0.99 (0.76 to 1.27); 0.916	1.14 (0.92 to 1.41); 0.226	0.95 (0.75 to 1.21); 0.668
TST ^a + T-SPOT.TB						1.19 (0.98 to 1.44); 0.079	0.94 (0.80 to 1.10); 0.426	1.12 (0.96 to 1.31); 0.148	1.30 (1.05 to 1.60); 0.015	1.08 (0.89 to 1.31); 0.438
TST ^a + QFT-GIT							0.79 (0.69 to 0.90); 0.001	0.94 (0.77 to 1.15); 0.569	1.09 (0.94 to 1.27); 0.258	0.91 (0.76 to 1.08); 0.280
TST ^a + IGRA								1.20 (0.96 to 1.48); 0.104	1.38 (1.12 to 1.70); 0.002	1.15 (0.95 to 1.39); 0.143
TST ^b + T-SPOT.TB									1.16 (1.00 to 1.33); 0.043	0.96 (0.86 to 1.07); 0.492
TST ^b + QFT-GIT										0.83 (0.76 to 0.92); < 0.001
TST ^b + IGRA										

Notes

Values indicate the ratio of negative likelihood ratios comparing strategy A with strategy B.

A value of < 1 indicates that a negative result on Test A is a stronger indicator of probable non-progression to active TB than a negative result on Test B.

Association of participant risk factors and progression to active tuberculosis

For the 6380 participants included in the main analysis, further analyses to identify associations of participants' demographic characteristics and risk factors with progression to active TB identified that an increased body mass index (BMI) was associated with a lower IR of progression to active TB (IRR 0.92, 95% CI 0.86 to 0.97; $p = 0.003$). A borderline significant association was seen with haematological malignancy; however, only one participant with haematological malignancy progressed to active TB (Tables 26 and 27).

TABLE 26 Results of Poisson regression models separately fitted for each participant demographic characteristic

Demographic characteristic	Progression to active TB?		IRR	95% CI	p-value
	No	Yes			
Sex (n)					
Male	3173	40	–	–	–
Female	3103	37	0.98	0.63 to 1.54	0.940
Missing	27	0	–	–	–
Participant type (n)					
TB contact	3513	51	–	–	–
New entrant	2790	26	0.70	0.44 to 1.13	0.143
Ethnicity (n)					
Indian	2257	31	–	–	–
White	817	9	0.82	0.39 to 1.72	0.596
Black African	846	7	0.57	0.25 to 1.30	0.184
Mixed	642	7	0.78	0.34 to 1.76	0.545
Pakistani	644	10	1.11	0.55 to 2.27	0.769
Bangladeshi	555	4	0.54	0.19 to 1.53	0.244
Black Caribbean	156	4	1.66	0.58 to 4.69	0.342
Other	222	5	1.77	0.69 to 4.54	0.238
Missing	164	0	–	–	–
Age (years), median (IQR)	31 (25–42)	30 (26–38)	0.99	0.97 to 1.01	0.202
Age (years) (n)					
≤ 35	4008	52	–	–	–
> 35	2294	25	0.85	0.53 to 1.37	0.499
Missing	1	0	–	–	–
UK born (n)					
No	5277	64	–	–	–
Yes	1011	13	1.03	0.57 to 1.87	0.921
Missing	15	0	–	–	–

–, baseline.

Notes

Summaries are frequencies unless otherwise stated.

For categorical risk factors, the top reported category is the reference category.

Missing/unknown categories were not used in modelling.

TABLE 27 Results of Poisson regression models separately fitted for each participant risk factor

Risk factor	Progression to active TB?		IRR	95% CI	p-value
	No	Yes			
Previous TB contact (<i>n</i>)	746	12	1.37	0.74 to 2.54	0.318
Previous TB diagnosis (<i>n</i>)	152	2	1.03	0.25 to 4.19	0.968
BCG vaccination (<i>n</i>)	4553	57	1.17	0.60 to 2.29	0.650
Diabetes mellitus (<i>n</i>)	411	4	–	–	–
Haematological malignancy (<i>n</i>)	10	1	6.76	0.94 to 48.61	0.058
HIV positive (<i>n</i>)	40	0	–	–	–
Smoker (<i>n</i>)	1277	15	0.92	0.53 to 1.62	0.781
Previous transplant (<i>n</i>)	12	0	–	–	–
Anti-TNF- α (<i>n</i>)	18	0	–	–	–
Immunosuppressive drugs (<i>n</i>)	40	0	–	–	–
Problem drug use (<i>n</i>)	141	4	2.23	0.82 to 6.10	0.118
Homeless (<i>n</i>)	120	3	1.80	0.57 to 5.70	0.320
BMI (kg/m ²), mean (SD)	24.5 (4.7)	22.8 (4.5)	0.92	0.86 to 0.97	0.003
Occupation (<i>n</i>)					
Education	1239	16	–	–	–
Health care	254	3	0.90	0.26 to 3.08	0.865
Social/prison sector	32	1	2.40	0.32 to 18.07	0.395
Laboratory/pathology	12	0	–	–	–
Agriculture/animal care	0	0	–	–	–
None	1943	22	0.93	0.49 to 1.77	0.820
Other	2510	32	1.07	0.59 to 1.95	0.818
Unknown	313	3	–	–	–
Travel ^a in the last 3 years (<i>n</i>)	2014	18	0.66	0.38 to 1.13	0.128
Travel ^a before the last 3 years (<i>n</i>)	1738	21	1.13	0.66 to 1.91	0.660

–, baseline; SD, standard deviation.

a Travelled or lived outside the UK (not including Western Europe, the USA, Canada and Australia).

Notes

Summaries are frequencies unless otherwise stated.

Some models did not converge because of a lack of data.

For binary risk factors, presence is compared with absence.

For categorical risk factors, the top reported category is the reference category.

Missing/unknown categories were not used in modelling.

Test performance in new entrants and contacts

The test performance for new entrants and contacts (separately) is shown in *Table 28*; CIs for the IRRs among contacts and new entrants overlapped for all tests. Point estimates of IRRs were higher among new entrants than contacts for T-SPOT.TB, QFT-GIT and TST^b, but not for TST^a. The difference was more marked for T-SPOT.TB for new entrants (IRR 15.7, 95% CI 5.9 to 41.6) than for contacts (IRR 7.2, 95% CI 4.1 to 12.7).

TABLE 28 The IRs and IRRs for new entrants and contacts (separately)

Progression measure	Test and result							
	T-SPOT.TB		QFT-GIT		TST ^a		TST ^b	
	Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative
New entrants only								
Progression (n/N)	21/587	5/2229	17/651	9/2165	21/1253	5/1563	18/586	8/2230
Years at risk	1826.0	6823.5	2036.0	6613.4	3874.5	4775.0	1812.4	6837.0
IR (per 1000 participants per annum)	11.5	0.7	8.3	1.4	5.4	1.0	9.9	1.2
95% CI	7.1 to 17.6	0.2 to 1.7	4.9 to 13.4	0.6 to 2.6	3.4 to 8.3	0.3 to 2.4	5.9 to 15.7	0.5 to 2.3
IRR (per 1000 participants per annum)	15.7		6.1		5.2		8.5	
95% CI	5.9 to 41.6		2.7 to 13.8		2.0 to 13.7		3.7 to 19.5	
Contacts only								
Progression (n/N)	31/648	20/2916	30/793	21/2771	43/1704	8/1860	34/899	17/2665
Years at risk	2100.1	9821.8	2613.8	9308.2	5542.3	6379.6	2862.4	9059.6
IR (per 1000 participants per annum)	14.8	2.0	11.5	2.3	7.8	1.3	11.9	1.9
95% CI	10.0 to 21.0	1.2 to 3.1	7.7 to 16.4	1.4 to 3.4	5.6 to 10.5	0.5 to 2.5	8.2 to 16.6	1.1 to 3.0
IRR (per 1000 participants per annum)	7.2		5.1		6.2		6.3	
95% CI	4.1 to 12.7		2.9 to 8.9		2.9 to 13.2		3.5 to 11.3	

Test performance by demographic group

Table 26 provides further subgroup analysis by age, gender and ethnic group, showing the number of participants progressing to active TB and the IRR for each demographic group. Although there is variation by subgroup, the observed differences were not significant.

Use of Mantoux testing

The difference between the two outcomes of Mantoux testing (TST^a and TST^b) is shown further in Appendix 2, with the combination of results highlighting the additional number of positive results for TST^a compared with TST^b.

Sensitivity analyses

Sensitivity analyses were performed excluding those participants with assumed BCG vaccination status, excluding participants with an unclear progression status, using all available test results rather than only using participants with all test results available, using data from new entrants with 2 years of follow-up only and using data for contacts of pulmonary TB patients only. The results of these analyses are provided in Appendix 2, Tables 50–55.

Chapter 4 Results: economic analysis

Base-case analysis

Stability of results by number of iterations

For the base-case analyses, we performed 5000 PSA iterations for each strategy, using bootstrap samples of 4162 patients for contacts and 3795 for new entrants for each iteration (reflecting the sample sizes available for economic analysis).

Figure 10 shows the incremental effects (mean discounted QALYs per patient for each strategy compared with the 'no test' strategy) for contacts and new entrants at increasing numbers of PSA iterations. The estimates and ranking of test strategies by incremental effect stabilise after around 3500 iterations in the contacts subgroup. Results are less stable in the new entrant subgroup, and there is still some swapping of position among strategies at the cut-off point of 5000 runs. Owing to the very small QALY differences between strategies, longer runs are required to rank strategies confidently according to effectiveness alone, but, at a runtime of about 2 hours per strategy for 5000 iterations, additional runs are computationally prohibitive.

Figure 11 shows incremental net benefit (INB) estimates for the contacts and new entrant subgroups; these are the mean monetary values per patient for each strategy compared with the 'no test' strategy, with QALYs valued at £20,000 (the lower end of the cost-effectiveness threshold range used by NICE). It can be seen that INB is much more stable than QALYs, resolving after about 250 iterations. This suggests that INB differences between strategies are largely driven by cost differences rather than by QALYs.

Clinical outcomes

Key health outcomes from the base-case analysis are shown in Tables 29 and 30 for the contacts and new entrant subgroups, respectively. Strategies are ranked by undiscounted QALYs. It can be seen that without testing or preventative treatment (no test), the estimated mean life expectancy was approximately 47 years for contacts and 44 years for new entrants; these estimates reflect the lower mean age of contacts at baseline in the PREDICT cohort. The mean numbers of QALYs per participant in the contacts and new entrant subgroups were 46.01 and 42.96, respectively. The small differences between QALY and life-year estimates can be explained the high baseline EQ-5D scores for PREDICT participants. The simulated number of TB cases (over the lifetime horizon) per 10,000 people without testing was 189 for contacts and 179 for new entrants. This equates to an annual rate of approximately 42 cases per 100,000 people. For comparison, the rate of TB in the non-UK-born population of England in 2015 was 51 cases per 100,000 people.¹¹⁶ However, the use of a fitted Weibull distribution in our model to estimate the long-term incidence from PREDICT data means that the simulated incidence was much higher in the first year and levelled off over time.

The QALY estimates were higher in all of the LTBI testing strategies than for the 'no test' strategy. This was generally because of the lower number of TB cases predicted, attributable to the use of preventative treatments (CPX). It should be noted, however, that QALYs are not always directly related to the number of TB cases because of QALY losses as a result of adverse reactions to CPX; for example, in the new entrant subgroup, although there are three fewer TB cases with TST^a than with T-SPOT.TB, there are also four more CPX-related adverse events, and, hence, mean QALYs are slightly lower with TST^a than with T-SPOT.TB.

A further ranking of strategies by the number of TB cases that were prevented (compared with 'no test'), cases in which CPX was started and cases in which BCG vaccination was offered is presented in Table 31.

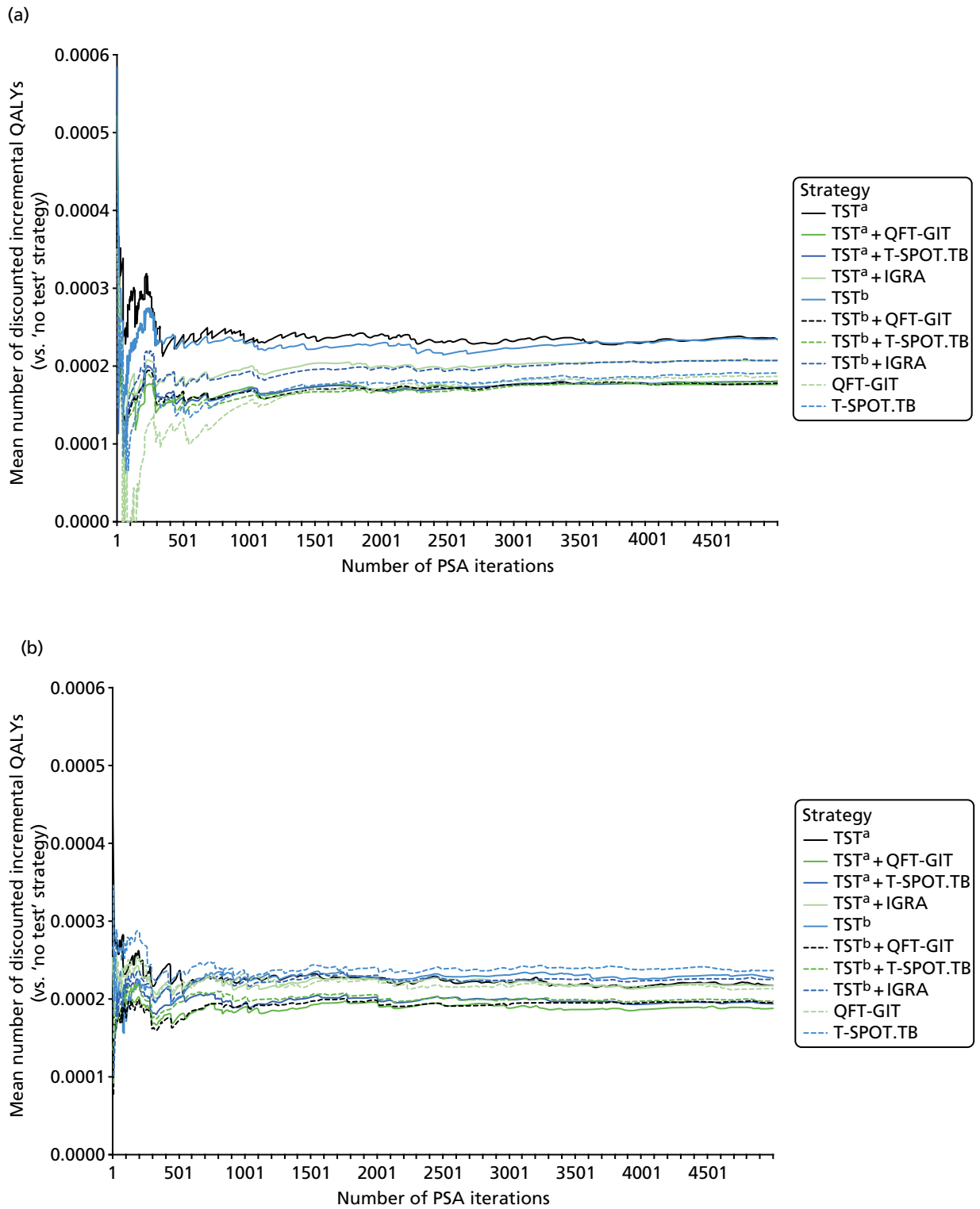


FIGURE 10 Incremental effectiveness (compared with 'no test') by number of iterations. (a) Contacts; and (b) migrants.

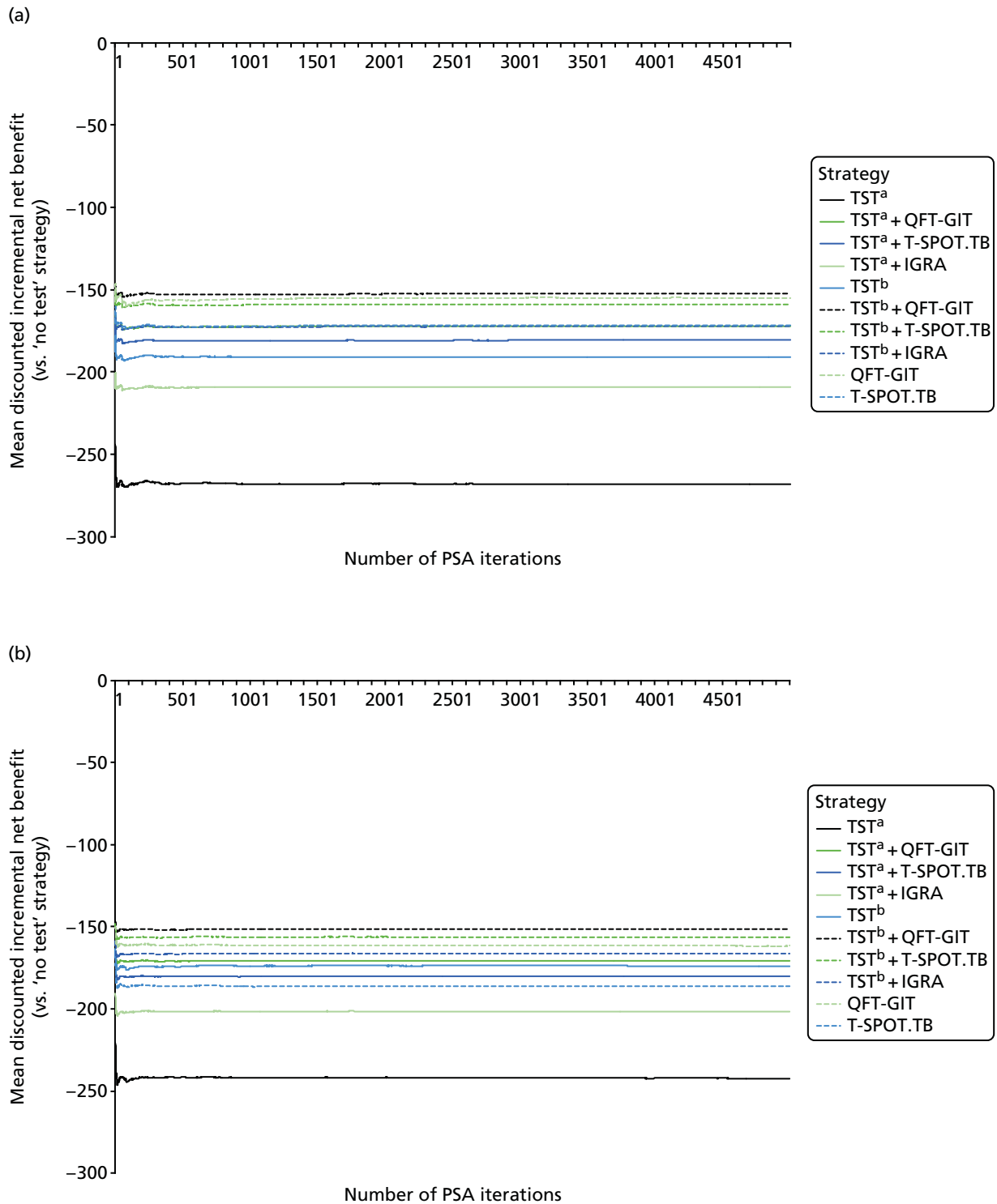


FIGURE 11 Incremental net benefit (compared with 'no test') by number of iterations. (a) Contacts; and (b) migrants.

TABLE 29 Modelled health outcomes for contacts: base case (mean of 5000 PSA iterations)

Strategy	Number of cases (per 10,000 patients offered LTBI test)						Mean per patient (undiscounted)	
	TB	BCG	Started CPX	CPX AE	Started treatment for active TB	Treatment for active TB AE	Life-years	QALYs
10: no test	189	0	0	0.0	189	0.8	46.91772	46.00851
5: TST ^b + QFT-GIT	162	665	365	1.6	162	0.6	46.91782	46.00903
1: TST ^a + QFT-GIT	160	665	533	2.3	160	0.6	46.91781	46.00903
6: TST ^b + T-SPOT.TB	161	665	361	1.6	161	0.6	46.91783	46.00903
2: TST ^a + T-SPOT.TB	161	665	474	2.1	161	0.6	46.91782	46.00904
8: QFT-GIT	157	606	858	3.7	157	0.6	46.91778	46.00906
9: T-SPOT.TB	158	615	668	2.9	158	0.6	46.91780	46.00907
7: TST ^b + IGRA	158	645	438	1.9	158	0.6	46.91784	46.00910
3: TST ^a + IGRA	156	645	648	2.8	156	0.6	46.91782	46.00910
4: TST ^b	152	531	1078	4.6	152	0.5	46.91783	46.00917
0: TST ^a	145	522	2192	9.6	145	0.5	46.91775	46.00921

AE, adverse event.

TABLE 30 Modelled health outcomes for new entrants: base case (mean of 5000 PSA iterations)

Strategy	Number of cases (per 10,000 patients offered LTBI test)						Mean per patient (undiscounted)	
	TB	BCG	Started CPX	CPX AE	Started treatment for active TB	Treatment for active TB AE	Life-years	QALYs
10: no test	179	0	0	0.0	179	0.7	44.44023	42.96137
1: TST ^a + QFT-GIT	145	1132	580	2.5	145	0.5	44.44031	42.96193
5: TST ^b + QFT-GIT	146	1147	401	1.8	146	0.5	44.44034	42.96195
2: TST ^a + T-SPOT.TB	145	1129	578	2.5	145	0.5	44.44031	42.96195
6: TST ^b + T-SPOT.TB	146	1144	407	1.8	146	0.5	44.44033	42.96195
3: TST ^a + IGRA	142	1097	709	3.1	142	0.5	44.44032	42.96200
8: QFT-GIT	139	1040	974	4.2	139	0.5	44.44028	42.96200
7: TST ^b + IGRA	143	1122	473	2.1	143	0.5	44.44035	42.96201
4: TST ^b	141	936	832	3.7	141	0.5	44.44032	42.96202
0: TST ^a	135	884	1815	8.0	135	0.4	44.44023	42.96202
9: T-SPOT.TB	138	1074	905	4.0	138	0.5	44.44032	42.96205

AE, adverse event.

TABLE 31 Strategies ranked by the number of TB cases prevented, cases in which CPX was started and cases in which BCG vaccination was offered

TB cases prevented*		Cases in which			
Strategy	n	CPX was started		BCG vaccination was offered	
		Strategy	n	Strategy	n
Contacts					
10: no test	0.0	11: no test	0.0	11: no test	0.0
5: TST ^b + QFT-GIT	27.3	7: TST ^b + T-SPOT.TB	361.0	1: TST ^a	522.4
6: TST ^b + T-SPOT.TB	27.4	6: TST ^b + QFT-GIT	365.4	5: TST ^b	531.4
2: TST ^a + T-SPOT.TB	28.2	8: TST ^b + IGRA	437.8	9: QFT-GIT	605.8
1: TST ^a + QFT-GIT	28.5	3: TST ^a + T-SPOT.TB	473.9	10: T-SPOT.TB	615.0
7: TST ^b + IGRA	31.0	2: TST ^a + QFT-GIT	532.7	8: TST ^b + IGRA	644.7
9: T-SPOT.TB	31.2	4: TST ^a + IGRA	647.9	4: TST ^a + IGRA	644.7
8: QFT-GIT	32.3	10: T-SPOT.TB	668.1	6: TST ^b + QFT-GIT	665.0
3: TST ^a + IGRA	32.5	9: QFT-GIT	858.0	2: TST ^a + QFT-GIT	665.0
4: TST ^b	36.9	5: TST ^b	1077.7	7: TST ^b + T-SPOT.TB	665.0
0: TST ^a	44.3	1: TST ^a	2191.7	3: TST ^a + T-SPOT.TB	665.0
New entrants					
10: no test	0.0	11: no test	0.0	11: no test	0.0
5: TST ^b + QFT-GIT	32.3	6: TST ^b + QFT-GIT	401.3	1: TST ^a	883.9
6: TST ^b + T-SPOT.TB	32.7	7: TST ^b + T-SPOT.TB	406.6	5: TST ^b	935.7
1: TST ^a + QFT-GIT	33.4	8: TST ^b + IGRA	473.2	9: QFT-GIT	1039.7
2: TST ^a + T-SPOT.TB	33.7	3: TST ^a + T-SPOT.TB	577.9	10: T-SPOT.TB	1074.5
7: TST ^b + IGRA	35.7	2: TST ^a + QFT-GIT	579.7	4: TST ^a + IGRA	1097.2
3: TST ^a + IGRA	37.1	4: TST ^a + IGRA	708.6	8: TST ^b + IGRA	1121.8
4: TST ^b	37.7	5: TST ^b	832.1	3: TST ^a + T-SPOT.TB	1129.2
8: QFT-GIT	40.0	10: T-SPOT.TB	905.3	2: TST ^a + QFT-GIT	1132.0
9: T-SPOT.TB	40.2	9: QFT-GIT	973.8	7: TST ^b + T-SPOT.TB	1144.0
0: TST ^a	44.0	1: TST ^a	1814.8	6: TST ^b + QFT-GIT	1146.7

*Compared with the 'no test' strategy.

Cost-effectiveness

Tables 32 and 33 show the estimated mean discounted costs and QALYs per participant by strategy under the base-case analysis, for the two subgroups. The 'no test' strategy had the lowest costs and QALYs. The incremental costs for the LTBI testing strategies compared with 'no test' were between £156 (TST^b + QFT-GIT) and £273 (TST^a) for contacts and between £155 (TST^b + QFT-GIT) and £247 (TST^a) for new entrants. The additional cost yielded few extra QALYs; there was a mean gain of around 0.0002 per patient. Although none of the strategies under this base-case scenario appeared to be cost-effective compared with 'no test', the primary objective of this study was to assess the most cost-effective test or combination of tests and not to assess the cost-effectiveness of contact tracing or migrant tracing. Other QALY benefits will accrue from contact tracing and migrant screening through the detection of active TB and from the prevention of subsequent transmission, which we have not accounted for in the base case. Nevertheless, the comparison of strategies remains valid as the probable subsequent benefit was directly proportional to the extent to which each testing strategy prevented incident cases.

TABLE 32 The modelled costs and effects in contacts: base case (mean of 5000 PSA iterations)

Strategy	Mean per patient (discounted)		Incremental (vs. no test)			
	Cost (£)	QALYs	Cost (£)	QALYs	INB* (£)	Probability† (%)
0: TST ^a	301.53	22.131076	272.96	0.0002367	-268.22	0.0
3: TST ^a + IGRA	241.73	22.131048	213.15	0.0002081	-208.99	0.0
4: TST ^b	224.24	22.131074	195.67	0.0002347	-190.97	0.0
2: TST ^a + T-SPOT.TB	212.93	22.131021	184.36	0.0001811	-180.74	0.0
7: TST ^b + IGRA	205.05	22.131047	176.48	0.0002076	-172.33	0.0
1: TST ^a + QFT	204.41	22.131019	175.84	0.0001788	-172.26	0.0
9: T-SPOT.TB	204.07	22.131031	175.49	0.0001917	-171.66	0.0
6: TST ^b + T-SPOT.TB	191.09	22.131021	162.51	0.0001808	-158.90	0.7
8: QFT	187.25	22.131027	158.68	0.0001872	-154.94	35.6
5: TST ^b + QFT	184.73	22.131019	156.16	0.0001795	-152.57	63.7
10: no test	28.57	22.13084	0.00	0.0000000	0.00	-

*Incremental net benefit at a cost-effectiveness threshold of £20,000 per QALY, compared with 'no test'.

†Probability that the strategy is the most cost-effective of the LTBI test strategies (at £20,000 per QALY).

TABLE 33 The modelled costs and effects in new entrants: base case (mean of 5000 PSA iterations)

Strategy	Mean per patient (discounted)		Incremental (vs. no test)			
	Cost (£)	QALYs	Cost (£)	QALYs	INB* (£)	Probability† (%)
0: TST ^a	273.62	21.042235	246.59	0.0002179	-242.23	0.0
3: TST ^a + IGRA	233.06	21.042235	206.03	0.0002178	-201.67	0.0
9: T-SPOT.TB	218.03	21.042253	191.00	0.0002359	-186.28	0.0
2: TST ^a + T-SPOT.TB	211.15	21.042212	184.12	0.0001949	-180.22	0.0
4: TST ^b	205.43	21.042244	178.40	0.0002272	-173.86	0.0
1: TST ^a + QFT	201.63	21.042205	174.60	0.0001881	-170.84	0.0
7: TST ^b + IGRA	197.80	21.042242	170.77	0.0002249	-166.27	0.0
8: QFT	192.88	21.042230	165.85	0.0002134	-161.58	3.8
6: TST ^b + T-SPOT.TB	187.27	21.042215	160.24	0.0001983	-156.27	2.4
5: TST ^b + QFT	182.32	21.042213	155.29	0.0001963	-151.36	93.7
10: no test	27.03	21.042017	0.00	0.0000000	0.00	-

*Incremental net benefit at a cost-effectiveness threshold of £20,000 per QALY, compared with 'no test'.

†Probability that the strategy is the most cost-effective of the LTBI test strategies (at £20,000 per QALY).

The most cost-effective of the LTBI strategies was TST^b + QFT-GIT because, although the QALY gain was lower than for some of the other strategies (e.g. TST^b alone in both subgroups), it was cheaper. The estimated INB differences between the LTBI test strategies were small. In particular, in both subgroups, very similar INB estimates were obtained for the three most cost-effective test strategies: (1) TST^b + QFT-GIT, (2) TST^b + T-SPOT.TB and (3) QFT-GIT alone. Despite this, the conclusion that TST^b + QFT-GIT was the most cost-effective of the LTBI test strategies was relatively robust in the PSA. In the contacts subgroup, the estimated probability that TST^b + QFT-GIT was the most cost-effective of the LTBI test strategies was 64%, followed by QFT-GIT alone (with 36% probability). Using a higher cost-effectiveness threshold of £30,000 per QALY gained, the estimated probabilities were 59% for TST^b + QFT-GIT and 39% for QFT-GIT alone. In the new entrant subgroup, the estimated probability that TST^b + QFT-GIT was the most cost-effective of the LTBI test strategies was 94% at a cost-effectiveness threshold of £20,000 per QALY and 87% at a cost-effectiveness threshold of £30,000 per QALY.

Sensitivity analyses

We conducted a number of one-way and two-way sensitivity analyses to test the robustness of the base-case results to key uncertainties in model parameters. The results for most sensitivity analyses were estimated from 500 PSA iterations. Although longer model runs are preferred, these analyses offer fairly robust indications of how parameter changes are likely to influence cost-effectiveness.

Doubled baseline incidence of tuberculosis in both subgroups

When the baseline incidence of TB was doubled for contacts (*Table 34*), compared with the base-case analysis (see *Table 32*) only the TST^a + QFT and TST^b + IGRA strategies swap positions. In the new entrants' subgroup, doubling the baseline incidence of TB does not alter the position of strategies and the difference in probability of cost-effectiveness is marginal (*Table 35*). Although the increasing costs observed with doubling the TB incidence accrues from treating more TB cases, the lowered INBs suggest that the LTBI test strategies become more cost-effective at higher TB incidences.

TABLE 34 The modelled costs and effects in contacts: double baseline TB incidence (mean of 500 PSA iterations)

Strategy	Mean per patient (discounted)		Incremental (vs. no test)			
	Cost (£)	QALYs	Cost (£)	QALYs	INB* (£)	Probability† (%)
0: TST ^a	321.64	22.112022	266.04	0.0005891	-254.26	0
3: TST ^a + IGRA	264.09	22.111876	208.50	0.0004435	-199.63	0
4: TST ^b	245.71	22.111962	190.12	0.0005292	-179.53	0
2: TST ^a + T-SPOT.TB	235.90	22.111813	180.30	0.0003803	-172.70	0
1: TST ^a + QFT-GIT	227.36	22.111821	171.76	0.0003876	-164.01	0
7: TST ^b + IGRA	227.56	22.111866	171.96	0.0004335	-163.29	0
9: T-SPOT.TB	226.54	22.111830	170.95	0.0003973	-163.00	0
6: TST ^b + T-SPOT.TB	214.12	22.111801	158.53	0.0003676	-151.18	1
8: QFT-GIT	209.72	22.111825	154.13	0.0003918	-146.29	47
5: TST ^b + QFT-GIT	207.74	22.111815	152.15	0.0003817	-144.52	52
10: no test	55.59	22.111433	0.00	0.0000000	0.00	-

*Incremental net benefit at a cost-effectiveness threshold of £20,000 per QALY, compared with 'no test'.

†Probability that the strategy is the most cost-effective of the LTBI test strategies (at £20,000 per QALY).

TABLE 35 The modelled costs and effects in new entrants: double baseline TB incidence (mean of 500 PSA iterations)

Strategy	Mean per patient (discounted)		Incremental (vs. no test)			
	Cost (£)	QALYs	Cost (£)	QALYs	INB* (£)	Probability† (%)
0: TST ^a	292.83	21.025638	239.92	0.0005958	-228.00	0
3: TST ^a + IGRA	253.59	21.025557	200.68	0.0005144	-190.39	0
9: T-SPOT.TB	237.81	21.025593	184.90	0.0005507	-173.89	0
2: TST ^a + T-SPOT.TB	232.12	21.025512	179.21	0.0004695	-169.82	0
4: TST ^b	225.86	21.025552	172.95	0.0005102	-162.75	0
1: TST ^a + QFT-GIT	222.65	21.025478	169.74	0.0004361	-161.01	0
7: TST ^b + IGRA	218.61	21.025536	165.70	0.0004941	-155.81	0
8: QFT-GIT	212.66	21.025574	159.75	0.0005312	-149.12	13
6: TST ^b + T-SPOT.TB	208.52	21.025496	155.61	0.0004535	-146.54	5
5: TST ^b + QFT-GIT	203.53	21.025463	150.62	0.0004203	-142.22	82
10: no test	52.91	21.025042	0.00	0.0000000	0.00	-

*Incremental net benefit at a cost-effectiveness threshold of £20,000 per QALY, compared with 'no test'.

†Probability that the strategy is the most cost-effective of the LTBI test strategies (at £20,000 per QALY).

Decreased cost per patient of T-SPOT.TB to equal that of QuantiFERON TB Gold In Tube

Compared with the base-case cost-effectiveness results, *Tables 36 and 37* show that when the costs of T-SPOT.TB and QFT-GIT are equal, at £41, the T-SPOT.TB -based LTBI strategies become optimal. Among contacts, T-SPOT.TB was the most cost-effective strategy, whereas TST^b + T-SPOT.TB was the most cost-effective strategy among new entrants.

TABLE 36 The modelled costs and effects in contacts: cost of T-SPOT.TB equal to QFT (mean of 500 PSA iterations)

Strategy	Mean per patient (discounted)		Incremental (vs. no test)			
	Cost (£)	QALYs	Cost (£)	QALYs	INB* (£)	Probability† (%)
0: TST ^a	301.33	22.134428	272.38	0.0002381	-267.62	0
3: TST ^a + IGRA	229.49	22.134375	200.54	0.0001853	-196.83	0
4: TST ^b	224.36	22.134422	195.40	0.0002329	-190.74	0
1: TST ^a + QFT-GIT	204.75	22.134354	175.79	0.0001647	-172.50	0
2: TST ^a + T-SPOT.TB	200.70	22.134348	171.74	0.0001586	-168.57	0
7: TST ^b + IGRA	198.67	22.134373	169.71	0.0001838	-166.03	0
8: QFT-GIT	187.69	22.134321	158.73	0.0001318	-156.10	0
6: TST ^b + T-SPOT.TB	184.72	22.134340	155.76	0.0001509	-152.74	1
5: TST ^b + QFT-GIT	184.99	22.134356	156.03	0.0001665	-152.70	0
9: T-SPOT.TB	174.38	22.134336	145.42	0.0001467	-142.49	99
10: no test	28.96	22.134189	0.00	0.0000000	0.00	-

*Incremental net benefit at a cost-effectiveness threshold of £20,000 per QALY, compared with 'no test'.

†Probability that the strategy is the most cost-effective of the LTBI test strategies (at £20,000 per QALY).

TABLE 37 The modelled costs and effects in new entrants: cost of T-SPOT.TB equal to QFT (mean of 500 PSA iterations)

Strategy	Mean per patient (discounted)		Incremental (vs. no test)			
	Cost (£)	QALYs	Cost (£)	QALYs	INB* (£)	Probability† (%)
0: TST ^a	273.49	21.045602	246.11	0.0002356	-241.40	0
3: TST ^a + IGRA	223.57	21.045583	196.19	0.0002165	-191.86	0
4: TST ^b	205.62	21.045569	178.25	0.0002025	-174.20	0
1: TST ^a + QFT-GIT	201.82	21.045546	174.44	0.0001788	-170.87	0
2: TST ^a + T-SPOT.TB	201.63	21.045569	174.25	0.0002023	-170.20	0
7: TST ^b + IGRA	193.45	21.045575	166.07	0.0002079	-161.91	0
8: QFT-GIT	192.83	21.045586	165.46	0.0002190	-161.08	1
9: T-SPOT.TB	188.04	21.04560	160.66	0.0002336	-155.99	16
5: TST ^b + QFT-GIT	182.55	21.045539	155.17	0.0001718	-151.74	46
6: TST ^b + T-SPOT.TB	182.94	21.045563	155.57	0.0001959	-151.65	38
10: no test	27.38	21.045367	0.00	0.0000000	0.00	-

*Incremental net benefit at a cost-effectiveness threshold of £20,000 per QALY, compared with 'no test'.

†Probability that the strategy is the most cost-effective of the LTBI test strategies (at £20,000 per QALY).

Further increased baseline incidence by multiples of 2 for TST^b + QuantiFERON TB Gold In-Tube compared with no test

In *Tables 38* and *39*, the baseline incidence of TB is increased by multiples of 2 and the comparison is only between TST^b + QFT-GIT and no test. This analysis was carried out to explore a TB incidence threshold or range for cost-effectiveness and for model validation, rather than to explore cost-effectiveness among LTBI test strategies. TST^b + QFT-GIT appeared to become cost-effective at a lower incidence in new entrants than in contacts. However, the high incidences that are required to achieve cost-effectiveness in both subgroups (compared with no test) are probably overestimated, as the analysis did not account for the benefits from LTBI testing, because the number of individuals who were offered CPX or a BCG vaccination was fixed at for all scenarios.

TABLE 38 The modelled costs and effects: baseline incidence of TB increased by multiples of 2 in contacts – TST^b + QFT-GIT vs. no test (mean of 500 PSA iterations)

Incidence	Mean per patient (discounted)		Incremental (vs. no test)		
	Cost (£)	QALYs	Cost (£)	QALYs	INB* (£)
Incidence X4	250.22	22.07031	145.25	0.000829	-128.66
Incidence X8	329.25	21.99264	134.06	0.00178	-98.47
Incidence X16	457.58	21.85984	119.08	0.003896	-41.16
Incidence X18	490.25	21.82729	116.49	0.004309	-30.32
Incidence X20	515.22	21.80021	114.38	0.004800	-18.39
Incidence X22	533.86	21.78072	112.94	0.005150	-9.94
Incidence X26	582.56	21.72964	109.58	0.006059	11.60

*Incremental net benefit at a cost-effectiveness threshold of £20,000 per QALY, compared with 'no test'.

TABLE 39 The modelled costs and effects: baseline incidence of TB increased by multiples of 2 in new entrants – TST^b + QFT-GIT vs. no test (mean of 500 PSA iterations)

Incidence	Mean per patient (discounted)		Incremental (vs. no test)		
	Cost (£)	QALYs	Cost (£)	QALYs	INB* (£)
Incidence X4	242.89	20.98666	142.37	0.000897	-124.44
Incidence X8	316.03	20.91454	128.50	0.001999	-88.51
Incidence X16	436.56	20.79132	109.68	0.004382	-22.04
Incidence X18	467.96	20.76073	106.11	0.004839	-9.33
Incidence X20	492.26	20.73590	103.20	0.005407	4.94
Incidence X22	510.24	20.71721	100.97	0.005792	14.86
Incidence X26	557.77	20.66879	96.15	0.00679	39.65

*Incremental net benefit at a cost-effectiveness threshold of £20,000 per QALY, compared with 'no test'.

Changed chemoprophylaxis uptake to 59.9% and chemoprophylaxis completion rate to 57%, as stated in the Tuberculosis in England 2016 report²

We tested lower proportions of CPX uptake (59.9%) and CPX completion (57%) as reported in the *Tuberculosis in England 2016 report*.² Tables 40 and 41 indicate that, with fewer individuals being offered CPX and completing CPX, QFT-GIT was the most cost-effective LTBI strategy with a probability of cost-effectiveness of 98% for contacts and 84% for new entrants.

Used a 20-year time horizon

Compared with a lifetime horizon in the base case, Tables 42 and 43 show an almost identical ordering of strategies. However, there is a huge drop in QALYs, from about 22.0 to 14.0 in contacts and from about 21.0 to 13.6 in new entrants. Compared with QALYs, the drop in costs from the base case is negligible.

TABLE 40 The modelled costs and effects at a 59.9% CPX uptake rate and a 57% CPX completion rate in contacts (mean of 500 PSA iterations)

Strategy	Mean per patient (discounted)		Incremental (vs. no test)			Probability [†] (%)
	Cost (£)	QALYs	Cost (£)	QALYs	INB* (£)	
0: TST ^a	249.02	22.13418	220.06	-0.000005	-220.15	0
3: TST ^a + IGRA	226.93	22.13420	197.98	0.000014	-197.69	0
2: TST ^a + T-SPOT.TB	202.27	22.13421	173.31	0.000016	-172.99	0
4: TST ^b	198.88	22.13422	169.92	0.000035	-169.21	0
7: TST ^b + IGRA	195.30	22.13421	166.34	0.000023	-165.89	0
1: TST ^a + QFT	192.29	22.13421	163.33	0.000018	-162.96	0
9: T-SPOT.TB	188.68	22.13417	159.73	-0.000016	-160.04	0
6: TST ^b + T-SPOT.TB	183.12	22.13420	154.16	0.000013	-153.90	0
5: TST ^b + QFT	176.61	22.13422	147.65	0.000027	-147.11	2
8: QFT	167.34	22.13415	138.39	-0.000039	-139.17	98
10: no test	28.96	22.13419	0.00	0.000000	0.00	-

*Incremental net benefit at a cost-effectiveness threshold of £20,000 per QALY, compared with 'no test'.
[†]Probability that the strategy is the most cost-effective of the LTBI test strategies (at £20,000 per QALY).

TABLE 41 The modelled costs and effects at a 59.9% CPX uptake rate and a 57% CPX completion rate in new entrants (mean of 500 PSA iterations)

Strategy	Mean per patient (discounted)		Incremental (vs. no test)			
	Cost (£)	QALYs	Cost (£)	QALYs	INB* (£)	Probability [†] (%)
0: TST ^a	230.28	21.04539	202.90	0.000021	-202.48	0
3: TST ^a + IGRA	216.77	21.04541	189.40	0.000047	-188.45	0
2: TST ^a + T-SPOT.TB	197.92	21.04542	170.55	0.000054	-169.47	0
9: T-SPOT.TB	196.84	21.04541	169.46	0.000041	-168.63	0
1: TST ^a + QFT	188.40	21.04540	161.02	0.000036	-160.30	0
7: TST ^b + IGRA	187.25	21.04541	159.88	0.000045	-158.97	0
4: TST ^b	186.12	21.04539	158.75	0.000023	-158.28	0
6: TST ^b + T-SPOT.TB	178.26	21.04542	150.88	0.000053	-149.83	0
5: TST ^b + QFT	173.40	21.04540	146.03	0.000034	-145.34	16
8: QFT-GIT alone	170.04	21.04540	142.66	0.000034	-141.97	84
10: no test	27.38	21.04537	0.00	0.000000	0.00	-

*Incremental net benefit at a cost-effectiveness threshold of £20,000 per QALY, compared with 'no test'.

[†]Probability that the strategy is the most cost-effective of the LTBI test strategies (at £20,000 per QALY).

TABLE 42 The modelled costs and effects at a 20-year time horizon: contacts (mean of 500 PSA iterations)

Strategy	Mean per patient (discounted)		Incremental (vs. no test)			
	Cost (£)	QALYs	Cost (£)	QALYs	INB* (£)	Probability [†] (%)
0: TST ^a	298.94	13.99950	273.40	0.000506	-263.27	0
3: TST ^a + IGRA	239.42	13.99937	213.88	0.000376	-206.36	0
4: TST ^b	221.80	13.99944	196.26	0.000441	-187.44	0
2: TST ^a + T-SPOT.TB	210.54	13.99932	184.99	0.000325	-178.49	0
1: TST ^a + QFT-GIT	202.00	13.99932	176.45	0.000326	-169.92	0
7: TST ^b + IGRA	202.66	13.99936	177.11	0.000363	-169.86	0
9: T-SPOT.TB	201.71	13.99934	176.16	0.000343	-169.30	0
6: TST ^b + T-SPOT.TB	188.63	13.99931	163.09	0.000313	-156.82	0
8: QFT-GIT	185.02	13.99933	159.47	0.000338	-152.72	38
5: TST ^b + QFT-GIT	182.21	13.99931	156.67	0.000318	-150.30	62
10: no test	25.55	13.99899	0.00	0.000000	0.00	-

*Incremental net benefit at a cost-effectiveness threshold of £20,000 per QALY, compared with 'no test'.

[†]Probability that the strategy is the most cost-effective of the LTBI test strategies (at £20,000 per QALY).

TABLE 43 The modelled costs and effects at a 20-year time horizon: new entrants (mean of 500 PSA iterations)

Strategy	Mean per patient (discounted)		Incremental (vs. no test)			
	Cost (£)	QALYs	Cost (£)	QALYs	INB* (£)	Probability† (%)
0: TST ^a	271.35	13.62039	247.11	0.000487	-237.37	0
3: TST ^a + IGRA	230.96	13.62032	206.72	0.000413	-198.46	0
9: T-SPOT.TB	215.81	13.62036	191.57	0.000451	-182.54	0
2: TST ^a + T-SPOT.TB	208.95	13.62028	184.71	0.000376	-177.18	0
4: TST ^b	203.33	13.62032	179.09	0.000412	-170.85	0
1: TST ^a + QFT	199.44	13.62027	175.20	0.000360	-168.00	0
7: TST ^b + IGRA	195.73	13.62030	171.49	0.000396	-163.56	0
8: QFT	190.61	13.62035	166.37	0.000440	-157.58	5
6: TST ^b + T-SPOT.TB	185.16	13.62027	160.92	0.000363	-153.65	2
5: TST ^b + QFT	180.14	13.62025	155.90	0.000346	-148.97	93
10: no test	24.24	13.61991	0.00	0.000000	0.00	-

*Incremental net benefit at a cost-effectiveness threshold of £20,000 per QALY, compared with 'no test'.

†Probability that the strategy is the most cost-effective of the LTBI test strategies (at £20,000 per QALY).

Allowing for transmission

The results for a modelled transmission scenario are reported in *Appendix 2, Tables 58 and 59*. Our approach to modelling transmission was based on the assumption that, for every case of active TB in the original cohorts (4162 in the contacts subgroup and 3795 in the new entrants subgroup), four new secondary contacts were traced. The traced contacts, drawn randomly from the original contacts cohort, were introduced into the model and subsequently followed the same pathway as individuals from the original cohort. For instance, of 4162 participants in the original cohort, 79 developed active TB (i.e. there were 79 index cases, each accounting for four secondary cases randomly drawn into the model) (see *Appendix 2, Table 58*). The number of secondary cases is slightly higher than the sum of 4 and 79 because some of the secondary contacts also develop active TB, resulting in additional participants being introduced into the model.

Chapter 5 Discussion

Main findings

Diagnostic accuracy

We assessed the ability of 12 screening strategies to predict the development of active TB through latent TB detection that used IRRs comparing those with positive and negative screening results. The point estimate of the IR for active TB per annum was 10-fold or more higher in those with a positive IGRA result or in whom the TST^b strategy was applied. TST^a was less predictive, at about a sevenfold higher IR when comparing those with a positive test result and those with a negative test result. Although T-SPOT.TB and combinations of T-SPOT.TB with various thresholds of TST appeared to perform better, the confidence limits for all strategies overlapped.

The TST^a approach identified more progressors than any other strategy. The IRs in the TST^a-positive and TST^a-negative groups were lower than in the corresponding positive and negative groups identified by the other individual tests, although we did not find evidence that these differences were real rather than chance occurrences. The poorer predictive value of the TST^a approach than of IGRAs was consistent with the greater number of false-positive results because of a previous BCG vaccination; this was expected in this TST strategy that did not take prior vaccination into account. In the secondary analysis, assessing contacts and migrants separately, progression rates were higher among contacts than among migrants, although, again, this may have been attributable to chance.

Although no test was clearly superior to other tests or test strategies in all test dimensions, for PPV, all strategies appeared to be better than TST^a alone. The combination of T-SPOT.TB alone, QFT-GIT alone and TST^b (in that order) appears to be the most favourable option for predicting the development of active TB. Although the effect was more modest, combining TST^b with any of the IGRAs also appeared to be better than TST^b alone. The approaches using T-SPOT.TB or QFT-GIT alone were also not as good in their PPVs as strategies that combine TST with the respective IGRA.

For the NPVs of tests and strategies, all tests appeared to have high predictive values. Compared with TST^a + QFT-GIT, TST^a, T-SPOT.TB and TST^a + IGRA appeared to be the best approaches. Compared with TST^b + QFT-GIT, TST^a, TST^b, T-SPOT.TB, TST^a + T-SPOT.TB, TST^a + IGRA and TST^b + IGRA were better.

Cost-effectiveness

We developed a DES model to estimate the cost-effectiveness of alternative testing strategies for LTBI in two high-risk subgroups: contacts of people with active TB and recent migrants from high-incidence countries. The model used individual data from the PREDICT cohort to characterise baseline risk factors and test results in these subgroups, simulated the LTBI screening process and, when appropriate, preventative treatment with CPX or a BCG vaccination. The model accounted for missing and indeterminate test results, as observed in PREDICT, and simulated imperfect uptake and completion of preventative treatment and related adverse events. TB incidence was simulated over the individuals' lifetimes, using available information on their actual test results and estimates of the prognostic value of tests from the statistical analyses, with adjustment for the effects of any preventative treatment. Public sector costs were estimated, including LTBI testing, preventative treatment and treatment of adverse events and active TB. Health outcomes were estimated in the form of QALYs, calculated from simulated survival and quality-of-life impact of incident TB and adverse events. The costs and QALYs were both discounted at the current recommended rate of 3.5% per year.

In these populations (contacts of people with active TB and recent migrants from high-incidence countries), although none of the test strategies was cost-effective, our base-case assumptions and parameters limited the application of this analysis to a comparison of strategies with no testing for the following reasons:

- The model did not reflect transmission of infection, and so would underestimate health gain and cost savings from TB prevention.
- The model did not account for cases of active TB detected at baseline, which, if asymptomatic, may be detected through further investigation following a positive LTBI test.

Partly attributable to these assumptions, the estimated QALY gains of 0.0002 per person were small, despite LTBI testing and treatment preventing TB cases, for an additional cost of between £150 and £270. The model predicted that LTBI testing and preventative treatment would prevent between 27 and 44 cases of TB in a population of 10,000 people over the lifetime horizon, depending on the test strategy. To achieve this, between 361 and 2192 people would need to start CPX and between 522 and 1146 people would need to have a BCG vaccination. In general, strategies with a higher number of individuals starting CPX had fewer patients developing active TB. However, diminishing returns were observed, with fewer additional cases prevented from successive increases in the number of individuals given CPX.

The most cost-effective LTBI test strategy was QFT-GIT following a positive TST^b result, which had an estimated cost per QALY gained (compared with no testing) of > £790,000 in new entrants or > £870,000 in contacts. The less discriminating strategies (i.e. the strategies that generate the greatest number of LTBI-positive results, such as TST^a), and consequently those in which the greatest numbers of patients received CPX, were generally the least cost-effective, suggesting that CPX costs are the main driver of cost-effectiveness. Although less obvious, the cost of the IGRAs does also influence cost-effectiveness. In particular, we noted that TST^b + QFT-GIT and TST^b + T-SPOT.TB prevented about the same number of TB cases and yielded similar QALY increases, but TST^b + QFT-GIT appeared to be more cost-effective as it was cheaper.

Comparison with previous studies

Head-to-head interferon gamma release assay versus tuberculin skin test comparison studies

This study provides a comprehensive comparison of latent TB testing strategies. Prior comparison studies have largely been in high-incidence countries, where the risk of reinfection limits the applicability of results to the UK. Four head-to-head comparison studies^{23,80,81,104} have been published in low-incidence countries. Only one of these studies⁸¹ compared the TST with each of the commercially available IGRAs; the other three^{23,80,104} utilised QFT-GIT alone. Sample sizes ranged from 339 to 1335 people, and all four studies included ≤ 15 individuals who progressed to active TB. None directly compared rates of TB development between individuals with positive and negative baseline test results.

Our study is the largest study of the predictive values of IGRAs published to date, in terms of both the number of participants and the number of progressions to active TB in a low-incidence setting. This has allowed us to quantify the prognostic value of IGRAs, in direct comparisons with the TST, with a high degree of precision and taking into account follow-up duration. The results are directly relevant to clinical practice in the UK because the study population comprised individuals who are being targeted for screening in national policies.

Of the four previous studies, two reported point estimates of PPV for IGRA that were higher than those for the TST (17% for IGRA vs. 2% for TST²³ and 13% for IGRA vs. 5% for TST¹⁰⁴). The other two studies reported a similar PPV for IGRA and TST (3% for IGRA vs. 2% for TST⁸⁰ and 3% for IGRA vs. 3% for TST⁸¹). The TST threshold that was used in these studies differed. We found only limited differences between the PPVs of T-SPOT.TB, QFT-GIT, TST^a and TST^b, which ranged from 2.2% for TST^a to 3.6% for T-SPOT.TB.

Our estimates of NPV were high ($\geq 99.5\%$) for all four tests; this was consistent with the four previous studies, all of which reported NPVs of $\geq 98\%$.

Comparison with previous estimates of interferon gamma release assay predictive value

The pooled IRR (comparing individuals with a positive IGRA result with those with a negative result) from a previous meta-analysis was 2.11 (95% CI 1.29 to 3.46) for IGRA, 1.60 (95% CI 0.94 to 2.72) for TST with a 10-mm cut-off point and 1.43 (95% CI 0.75 to 2.72) for TST with a 5-mm cut-off point.¹⁶ Results for IGRAs published since the systematic review¹¹⁷ included hazard ratios ranging from 2.0⁵⁴ to 42.4,²⁹ odds ratios of 2.10–14.9^{35,76} and rate ratios of 2.12–73.9.^{24,75} Our estimates for T-SPOT.TB and QFT-GIT were 8.8 (95% CI 5.5 to 14.2) and 5.4 (95% CI 3.4 to 8.5), respectively; these were higher than the pooled estimate and broadly consistent with the less extreme estimates from the later studies.

Our estimates of PPV were at the lower end of those previously reported (see *Table 1*), but were fairly similar to the pooled estimate of 2.7% (95% CI 2.3% to 3.2%) from a meta-analysis of risk groups.¹⁵ The PPV for the development of active TB depends in part on the incidence of TB in the study population, being higher when the incidence is higher; consistent with this, the pooled estimate among high-risk groups was 6.8% (95% CI 5.6% to 8.3%).¹⁵ Although our study focused on high-risk groups within the UK, the incidence here is still relatively low compared with the high-burden countries in which many of the previous studies were conducted. Our estimates of NPV were similar to those previously published; for example, the meta-analysis produced a pooled estimate of 99.7% (95% CI 99.5% to 99.8%).¹⁵

The PREDICT study therefore confirmed the relatively low PPV of IGRA for the development of active TB disease. Several factors contributed to this relatively poor performance. First, the test detects an immune response to *M. tuberculosis* antigens, rather than the presence of the organism itself. A positive result therefore did not necessarily indicate that the bacterium was present in the body and able to reactivate to cause disease. Second, although there were accepted cut-off values to define positive and negative IGRA results, categorical results may vary within the same individual, particularly if they were close to the cut-off value.¹¹⁸ Further analysis of the PREDICT data will help to determine the utility of quantitative (rather than categorical) IGRA results in predicting active TB.

Strengths and limitations

To our knowledge, this is the largest study that has compared the two commercially available IGRAs with the TST to study their predictive value. Both contacts and migrants were invited to participate in the study based on standardised criteria, limiting selection bias for inclusion in the study. We used four different approaches to identify participants who progressed to active TB, maximising ascertainment of the outcome. Every participant in our primary analysis had all three assays, making the estimates for the tests comparable; in addition, a sensitivity analysis using all available participants generated similar results. The assessment of exposure, outcome and covariates was done using the same standards for all participants, minimising the chance of information bias. We utilised standardised testing methods for both IGRAs in five laboratories, and TST was administered using the Mantoux test by our trained research nurses to decrease measurement error.

We also sought to minimise so-called 'incorporation bias', which is likely to arise when IGRA results are incorporated into the reference standard for diagnosis of active TB (i.e. if the IGRA result influences the clinician's investigation for, or diagnosis of, TB, then those classified as having active TB would be more likely to have been from the IGRA-positive group, consequently favouring IGRAs). Although IGRAs are part of the UK guidance, we limited the analysis to participants who were not treated for latent TB, minimising incorporation bias. Participants were deliberately recruited from the groups that were not eligible for treatment to ensure a higher probability of progression and to decrease incorporation bias.

The assessment for active TB by the central team was completed blind to IGRA results. As those participants who were recruited in primary care were not referred for treatment of latent TB, we further

minimised bias in subsequent active TB diagnoses. These measures minimised any bias arising from either TST- or IGRA-positive results, leading to further TB investigations that might be more extensive than they would be for those with a negative TST or IGRA results; this is the so-called 'work-up bias'.

Despite the large sample size and numerous strengths of our design, our study has some limitations. Although follow-up within the UK was extensive, it is likely that any participants who have left the UK would not have been included in the progression data. We may therefore have underestimated the overall progression rate; however, this effect is likely to be similar for the positive and negative groups as defined by each assay.

High-quality studies of the predictive values of IGRAs require microbiological confirmation of cases.¹⁶ We sought culture confirmation of all cases; however, consistent with variable confirmation rates for TB in the UK, not all cases in this cohort were culture confirmed. Among the cases with culture confirmation and results of MIRU-VNTR typing for both the index case and subsequent progressing case, nearly all had the same fingerprint, with only two cases differing by one locus. This is consistent with the conclusion that, at least for these cases, the observed incident cases are likely to have progressed from recent infection (i.e. as a result of the contact with the index case just prior to recruitment). However, we cannot exclude the possibility that index cases and contacts became infected with the same strain from a shared or different source. Among migrants, we did not have information on the related source cases as transmission might have occurred many years prior to recruitment to this study or overseas. We conducted a sensitivity analysis, removing participants whose diagnosis of active TB was uncertain, and our results remained consistent with the main analysis. Despite our large sample size, the trial may not have been adequately powered to detect differences in subgroup analyses.

A further weakness of our study was the self-reported nature of comorbidities. We did not test participants for a HIV infection or diabetes mellitus. Furthermore, our study protocol included secondary objectives to investigate the prognostic value of IGRAs compared with TST for predicting active disease in HIV-infected individuals, including those from high-burden countries and among those having treatment for LTBI. The small number of participants having LTBI treatment and with self-reported HIV infection prevented us from undertaking such analysis. Future analysis of this cohort should include record linkage to the national HIV database to determine the predictive value of these assays in HIV-infected populations.

The health economic model had several strengths. The PREDICT study represents a much stronger evidence base for modelling the predictive performance of LTBI test strategies than was available for previous economic evaluations, with three main advantages. First, the cohort provides a coherent source of baseline data, including risk factors and TST, QFT-GIT and T-SPOT.TB test results for large samples of new entrants and contacts being tested for LTBI in the UK. These data integrate correlations between test results and between individual characteristics, test results and eligibility for preventative treatment. Second, the long-term follow-up and predictive modelling of TB incidence bypasses the problems of conventional diagnostic accuracy in the absence of a reliable reference standard test. Third, this evidence source enables the comparison of two commercially available IGRAs (T-SPOT.TB and QFT-GIT) and TST strategies with a single cut-off point (an induration of ≥ 5 mm) or with different cut-off points for BCG-naive and BCG-experienced patients (indurations of ≥ 5 mm and ≥ 15 mm, respectively). The model also allows for costs and delays in treatment associated with missing or indeterminate results for each of these tests, as observed in the PREDICT cohort.

However, the model is subject to a number of limitations. Most significantly, in this project we were not able to model the full population effect of better LTBI testing and treatment on the transmission of *M. tuberculosis*. Thus, our model is likely to underestimate the health benefits and cost savings associated with preventing progression within the cohort, making LTBI testing appear less cost-effective than it is actually likely to be. If the rate of TB transmission in the community is very high, the net benefit per index case prevented might be much higher than our estimate, possibly to the extent that a less discriminating test than TST⁺ + QFT-GIT would become optimal. Adapting the economic model into a full-population dynamic model is therefore a priority for future research. In a sensitivity analysis, we extended the model

to estimate the impact of transmission using a simple cascading approach in which, for every case of active TB (index case), four new secondary contacts entered the model through contact tracing. This demonstrated that the addition of transmission made little difference to the cost-effectiveness results, given the low incidence of TB in the PREDICT cohort. Although more cases of TB were simulated when transmission was considered, the number of additional cases was small: 3–6 secondary cases were generated in the model from contacts of 50–80 cases in the initial cohorts. Further analysis that varies the number of contacts traced per case and TB incidence in the population being screened may be worth exploring.

Quality-adjusted life-years were similar to life-years, which is partly attributable to the high quality of life reported in the cohort: most participants reported a 'perfect' health state (an EQ-5D score of 11111). This might reflect the nature of the population, which was mostly made up of young healthy individuals. However, it is also possible that there might have been a degree of reporting bias; for example, new entrants to the UK or people from vulnerable groups who were being tested for TB might not want to report ill health. We also note that the QALY loss attributable to TB symptoms and treatment was relatively modest; this is because of the rarity of progression and assumptions about the duration of symptoms and impact on quality of life. We further note that, for simplicity, we did not introduce a reduction in quality of life associated with ageing in the model. This means that the QALY estimates for all scenarios are likely to be overestimated.

Other potentially important limitations of our analysis relate to the availability and use of data from PREDICT, the paucity of good-quality evidence to inform some input parameter estimates, and our modelling assumptions. First, we note that of the 9610 PREDICT participants included in the total analysis (this excludes 175 participants who were treated for active TB and 260 who were treated for latent TB), 7957 had sufficient data for inclusion in our simulation data set (age, sex, BCG vaccination status, baseline EQ-5D score and contact/migrant status). We did not attempt imputation for these missing data and, therefore, our sample might be subject to selection bias, making the results less generalisable. We did include patients in our data set who had missing or indeterminate results for one or more of the LTBI tests, in order to model the costs and treatment delay associated with incomplete testing. This did, however, necessitate assumptions to estimate TB hazard rates for the individuals within the simulation (see *Table 6*). In addition, for participants with results for all three LTBI tests (TST, T-SPOT.TB and QFT-GIT), we estimated hazards based only on the pair of tests with the best predictive value (the highest IRR for positive vs. negative results). A more powerful approach might be to estimate hazards from a predictive equation including all three tests and information on other baseline risk factors as covariates. We might also be able to improve on our method for extrapolating incidence beyond the PREDICT follow-up period. We used a simple calibration approach to fit a Weibull distribution to the observed IRs over 1, 2 and 3 years of follow-up. A more thorough approach would be to estimate and compare alternative survival functions, using statistical measures of fit (such as the Akaike information criterion) and also to consider other external data for validation (e.g. considering the long-term incidence projection in relation to national data). Finally, the model included a number of simplifying assumptions and some of the sources for input parameter estimates were weak. In particular, estimates of rates of uptake, completion and duration of treatment, delay from onset of symptoms to TB diagnosis and incidence and resolution of treatment-related adverse events were based on informal estimates and might be improved. Assumptions were also required to estimate the extent of utility loss associated with TB symptoms and treatment.

Clinical implications

Our results have implications for UK, and global, LTBI screening among contacts of TB cases and recent migrants from high-TB-burden countries. In the UK, there are implications for NICE guideline recommendations on contact investigation and for the NHS England/PHE screening programme.

The current recommendation by NICE¹⁴ for contacts is to offer the Mantoux test using a 5-mm threshold as the more cost-effective option, and to consider IGRAs if TST is not available. Our results suggest that a two-step process using the more nuanced TST^b strategy, which stratifies the TST by prior BCG vaccination, followed by an IGRA is the most cost-effective approach. Further analysis should examine the best combination of risk factors among contacts that predicts greater cost-effectiveness.

The NHS England/PHE national TB screening programme for migrants from high-TB-burden countries recommends a single IGRA as the optimal screening strategy. Our results suggest that a combination of the TST and IGRA would provide better value for money. Data from this cohort should be used to investigate the cost-effectiveness of the national screening programme, taking into account subsequent transmission and baseline active TB cases detected. As the current analysis focuses primarily on the comparison of the testing strategies using the entire cohort, it would be appropriate to examine various thresholds; this could include limiting CEA to those arriving in the last 2 years or 5 years.

The global effort to expand LTBI screening to high-risk groups should take into account the relative cost-effectiveness of screening in various populations. Low-TB-incidence countries, in which risk-group-based screening is currently recommended by WHO, should examine which groups are most likely to benefit from treatment to inform national testing policy.

Implications for research

Our results suggest that the probability of cases arising as a result of new infection in this low-incidence setting, the absolute risk of progression in IGRA- or TST-positive individuals and the discriminatory power of these tests are all low. Further research to develop new markers with better predictive ability utilising transcriptomics, new antigens and cytokines, metabolomics and proteomics are ongoing.

Our results indicate that the need for tests with improved predictive value remains. Ongoing work with the PREDICT biobank will probably result in better biomarkers for progression and the development of new assays. The cost-effectiveness of these new assays, using progression data from this study, should be assessed.

It is also likely that the future risk of TB and, therefore, the ability of biomarkers to correctly predict who will develop active TB, is influenced by subsequent changes that are not apparent at baseline. For example, exogenous events such as a new HIV infection after the time of the IGRA or TST or the development of other immunocompromising conditions or treatment that suppresses immunity will alter the risk of progression to active TB. The follow-up data collected should inform analysis that takes into account these changing risks in predictive models.

The low probability of progression to active TB, based on IGRAs and the TST, limits the value of latent TB screening and treatment, making the development of an affordable vaccine that will prevent progression to active TB in those already exposed to TB more important. The widespread treatment of populations in which people may have a positive IGRA or TST result is unlikely to be cost-effective if it is not focused on the highest-risk groups.

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PREDICT study team: Ibrahim Abubakar, David Adeboyeke, Sarah Anderson, Nabeela Bari, Jack Barker, Helen Booth, Graham Bothamley, Helen Burgess, Felix Chua, Dean Creer, Mathina Darmalingam, Robert N Davidson, Martin Dedicoat, Jonathan J Deeks, Francis Drobniowski, Anne Dunleavy, Jose Figueroa, Chris Griffiths, Pranab Haldar, Mimi Haseldean, Andrew Hayward, Norman Johnson, Onn Min Kon, Heinke Kunst, Ajit Lalvani, Marc Lipman, Stefan Losewicz, Saranya Sridhar, Joanne Lord, William Lynn, Bobby Mann, Heather Milburn, John Moore-Gillon, Geoff Packe, Manish Pareek, Simon Tiberi, Anton Pozniak, Frances Sanderson, Jo Southern and John Watson.

Trial Steering Committee: Professor Bertel S Squire (chairperson) and Dr Sani Aliyu, Dr Stuart Baugh and Aurora Dawson (members).

Data Monitoring Committee: Dr Ann Chapman (chairperson) and Dr Adrian Smith and Dr John Innes (members).

The conduct of the study and supervision of study staff was led by Dr Jo Southern at PHE.

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Contributions of authors

All authors contributed to writing the report. In addition:

Ibrahim Abubakar (Professor of Infectious Disease Epidemiology) conceptualised the study and oversaw recruitment and the conduct of the study.

Ajit Lalvani (Professor of Medicine) was involved in the conceptualisation of the study and contributed to the oversight of the laboratory analysis.

Jo Southern (Senior Scientist) co-ordinated the study from inception to completion.

Alice Sitch (Lecturer in Medical Statistics) undertook the statistical analysis and wrote the statistical section of the report.

Charlotte Jackson (Research Associate) contributed to the analysis of the data.

Oluchukwu Onyimadu (Senior Research Assistant in Health Economics) conducted the economic analysis.

Marc Lipman (Consultant Physician and Reader in Medicine) contributed to the study design and recruitment.

Jonathan J Deeks (Professor of Biostatistics) contributed to the conceptualisation of the study and supervision of the statistical analysis.

Chris Griffiths (Professor of Primary Care) contributed to the study design and recruitment.

Graham Bothamley (Consultant Physician and Professor) contributed to the study design and recruitment.

Onn Min Kon (Consultant Physician and Professor) contributed to the study design and recruitment.

Andrew Hayward (Professor of Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Inclusion Health Research) contributed to the conceptualisation of the study.

Joanne Lord (Professor of Health Economics) designed and supervised the economic analysis.

Francis Drobniowski (Professor) contributed to the conceptualisation of the study, and laboratory analysis and oversight.

Publications

Jackson C, Southern J, Lalvani A, Drobniowski F, Griffiths CJ, Lipman M, *et al.* Diabetes mellitus and latent tuberculosis infection: baseline analysis of a large UK cohort [published online ahead of print 15 May 2018]. *Thorax* 2018.

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Data-sharing statement

All data requested should be submitted to the corresponding author for consideration. Access to anonymised data may be granted following review.

Patient data

This work uses data provided by patients and collected by the NHS as part of their care and support. Using patient data is vital to improve health and care for everyone. There is huge potential to make better use of information from people's patient records, to understand more about disease, develop new treatments, monitor safety, and plan NHS services. Patient data should be kept safe and secure, to protect everyone's privacy, and it's important that there are safeguards to make sure that it is stored and used responsibly. Everyone should be able to find out about how patient data are used. #datasaveslives You can find out more about the background to this citation here: <https://understandingpatientdata.org.uk/data-citation>.

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Appendix 1 List of participating sites

- Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust.
- Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust.
- Homerton Hospital.
- North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust.
- Whittington Hospital.
- Barnet and Chase Farm NHS Hospitals Trust.
- Barts Health NHS Trust.
- Charing Cross Hospital.
- Northwick Park Hospital.
- Central Middlesex Hospital.
- Ealing Hospital.
- St George's Hospital.
- Whipps Cross University Hospital.
- Newham General Hospital.
- Tower Hamlets PCT.
- City and Hackney PCT.
- University College London Hospital.
- Newham PCT.
- Westminster PCT.
- Lambeth PCT.
- Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust.
- Croydon Health Services NHS Trust.
- Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.
- King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.
- South London Healthcare NHS Trust.
- West Middlesex University Hospital.
- Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust.
- Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust.
- Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals NHS Trust.
- NHS Brent (PCT).
- NHS Harrow (PCT).
- NHS Hillingdon (PCT).
- Leicester PCT.
- Greenwich Teaching PCT.
- Heart of Birmingham PCT.
- NHS Hounslow (PCT).
- NHS Birmingham.
- South Birmingham PCT.
- Solihull PCT.
- Kingston PCT.
- Croydon PCT.
- Sutton and Merton PCT.
- Wandsworth PCT.
- Sandwell PCT.
- Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust.
- Barnet PCT.
- Camden PCT.
- Enfield PCT.
- Haringey Teaching PCT.

- Hammersmith and Fulham PCT.
- Ealing PCT.
- Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals.
- University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust.
- Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust.

Appendix 2 Supplementary results

TABLE 44 Full cross-tabulation of results with TST^a; values are (progressors) total numbers

QFT-GIT result	T-SPOT.TB result						Missing	Total
	Positive	Borderline positive	Borderline negative	Negative	Indeterminate	Error		
TST ^a positive								
Positive	(39) 745	(2) 52	24	(3) 225	11	16	(3) 40	(47) 1113
Negative	(7) 124	(1) 49	41	(13) 1750	(1) 34	27	80	(22) 2105
Indeterminate	18	0	1	(1) 30	2	1	(1) 20	(2) 72
Error	6	0	1	9	0	0	0	16
Missing	(2) 21	5	0	16	0	3	(4) 162	(6) 207
Total	(48) 914	(3) 106	67	(17) 2030	(1) 47	47	(8) 302	(77) 3513
TST ^a negative								
Positive	(2) 170	(2) 25	8	222	4	7	14	(4) 450
Negative	(2) 56	(7) 34	29	2966	54	89	145	(1) 3373
Indeterminate	0	(1) 0	0	33	1	1	19	(1) 54
Error	3	0	1	30	0	1	0	35
Missing	20	4	4	121	1	0	(1) 258	(1) 408
Total	(4) 249	(6) 63	42	3372	60	98	(1) 436	(15) 4320
TST ^a missing								
Positive	(1) 174	10	6	46	(1) 3	27	63	329
Negative	26	10	7	(2) 795	8	84	232	1162
Indeterminate	5	0	3	10	2	0	17	37
Error	2	0	0	8	0	3	1	14
Missing	11	1	1	27	1	1	(1) 193	235
Total	(1) 218	21	17	(2) 886	(1) 14	115	(1) 506	(5) 1777

TABLE 45 Full cross-tabulation of results with TST^b; values are (progressors) total numbers

QFT-GIT result	T-SPOT.TB result							Total
	Positive	Borderline positive	Borderline negative	Negative	Indeterminate	Error	Missing	
TST ^b positive								
Positive	(36) 585	35	12	(2) 112	6	8	(3) 27	(41) 785
Negative	(6) 68	(1) 21	19	(7) 636	(1) 16	8	32	(15) 800
Indeterminate	14	0	0	10	1	0	(1) 11	(1) 36
Error	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	7
Missing	(2) 12	2	0	5	0	2	(1) 80	(3) 101
Total	(44) 685	(1) 58	32	(9) 763	(1) 23	18	(5) 150	(60) 1729
TST ^b negative								
Positive	(5) 317	(1) 39	20	(3) 325	8	15	25	(9) 749
Negative	(3) 111	60	50	(13) 3976	71	107	188	(16) 4563
Indeterminate	4	0	1	(2) 52	2	2	28	(2) 89
Error	3	0	1	38	0	1	0	43
Missing	29	7	4	131	1	1	(4) 323	(4) 496
Total	(8) 464	(1) 106	76	(18) 4522	82	126	(4) 564	(31) 5940
TST ^b missing								
Positive	(1) 187	(1) 13	6	56	(1) 4	27	65	(3) 358
Negative	27	12	8	(2) 899	9	85	237	(2) 1277
Indeterminate	5	0	3	11	2	0	17	38
Error	2	0	0	9	0	3	1	15
Missing	11	1	1	28	1	1	(1) 210	(1) 253
Total	(1) 232	(1) 26	18	(2) 1003	(1) 16	116	(1) 530	(6) 1941

TABLE 46 Cross-tabulations of test results for progressors

QFT-GIT	Test result, <i>n</i> (%)											
	TST ^a positive				TST ^a negative				TST ^a missing			
	T-SPOT.TB positive	T-SPOT.TB negative	T-SPOT.TB missing	T-SPOT.TB total	T-SPOT.TB positive	T-SPOT.TB negative	T-SPOT.TB missing	T-SPOT.TB total	T-SPOT.TB positive	T-SPOT.TB negative	T-SPOT.TB missing	T-SPOT.TB total
Positive	41 (53.2)	3 (3.9)	3 (3.9)	47 (61.0)	2 (13.3)	2 (13.3)	0 (0.0)	4 (26.7)	1 (20.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (20.0)	2 (40.0)
Negative	8 (10.4)	13 (16.9)	1 (1.3)	22 (28.6)	2 (13.3)	7 (46.7)	0 (0.0)	9 (60.0)	0 (0.0)	2 (40.0)	0 (0.0)	2 (40.0)
Missing	2 (2.6)	1 (1.3)	5 (6.5)	8 (10.4)	0 (0.0)	1 (6.7)	1 (6.7)	2 (13.3)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (20.0)	1 (20.0)
Total	51 (66.2)	17 (22.1)	9 (11.7)	77 (100.0)	4 (26.7)	10 (66.7)	1 (6.7)	15 (100.0)	1 (20.0)	2 (40.0)	2 (40.0)	5 (100.0)

TABLE 47 Cross-tabulations of test results for non-progressors

QFT-GIT	Test result, <i>n</i> (%)											
	TST ^a positive				TST ^a negative				TST ^a missing			
	T-SPOT.TB positive	T-SPOT.TB negative	T-SPOT.TB missing	T-SPOT.TB total	T-SPOT.TB positive	T-SPOT.TB negative	T-SPOT.TB missing	T-SPOT.TB total	T-SPOT.TB positive	T-SPOT.TB negative	T-SPOT.TB missing	T-SPOT.TB total
Positive	756 (22.0)	246 (7.2)	64 (1.9)	1066 (31.0)	193 (4.5)	228 (5.3)	25 (0.6)	446 (10.4)	183 (10.3)	52 (2.9)	92 (5.2)	327 (18.5)
Negative	165 (4.8)	1778 (51.7)	140 (4.1)	2083 (60.6)	88 (2.0)	2988 (69.4)	288 (6.7)	3364 (78.1)	36 (2.0)	800 (45.1)	324 (18.3)	1160 (65.5)
Missing	48 (1.4)	56 (1.6)	183 (5.3)	287 (8.4)	27 (0.6)	188 (4.4)	280 (6.5)	495 (11.5)	19 (1.1)	49 (2.8)	217 (12.2)	285 (16.1)
Total	969 (28.2)	2080 (60.5)	387 (11.3)	3436 (100.0)	308 (7.2)	3404 (79.1)	593 (13.8)	4305 (100.0)	238 (13.4)	901 (50.8)	633 (35.7)	1772 (100.0)

TABLE 48 Cross-tabulations of test results for progressors

QFT-GIT	Test result, <i>n</i> (%)											
	TST ^b positive				TST ^b negative				TST ^b missing			
	T-SPOT.TB positive	T-SPOT.TB negative	T-SPOT.TB missing	T-SPOT.TB total	T-SPOT.TB positive	T-SPOT.TB negative	T-SPOT.TB missing	T-SPOT.TB total	T-SPOT.TB positive	T-SPOT.TB negative	T-SPOT.TB missing	T-SPOT.TB total
Positive	36 (60.0)	2 (3.3)	3 (5.0)	41 (68.3)	6 (19.4)	3 (9.7)	0 (0.0)	9 (29.0)	2 (33.3)	0 (0.0)	1 (16.7)	3 (50.0)
Negative	7 (11.7)	7 (11.7)	1 (1.7)	15 (25.0)	3 (9.7)	13 (41.9)	0 (0.0)	16 (51.6)	0 (0.0)	2 (33.3)	0 (0.0)	2 (33.3)
Missing	2 (3.3)	0 (0.0)	2 (3.3)	4 (6.7)	0 (0.0)	2 (6.5)	4 (12.9)	6 (19.4)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (16.7)	1 (16.7)
Total	45 (75.0)	9 (15.0)	6 (10.0)	60 (100.0)	9 (29.0)	18 (58.1)	4 (12.9)	31 (100.0)	2 (33.3)	2 (33.3)	2 (33.3)	6 (100.0)

TABLE 49 Cross-tabulations of test results for non progressors

QFT-GIT	Test result, <i>n</i> (%)											
	TST ^b positive				TST ^b negative				TST ^b missing			
	T-SPOT.TB positive	T-SPOT.TB negative	T-SPOT.TB missing	T-SPOT.TB total	T-SPOT.TB positive	T-SPOT.TB negative	T-SPOT.TB missing	T-SPOT.TB total	T-SPOT.TB positive	T-SPOT.TB negative	T-SPOT.TB missing	T-SPOT.TB total
Positive	584 (35.0)	122 (7.3)	38 (2.3)	744 (44.6)	350 (5.9)	342 (5.8)	48 (0.8)	740 (12.5)	198 (10.2)	62 (3.2)	95 (4.9)	355 (18.3)
Negative	82 (4.9)	648 (38.8)	55 (3.3)	785 (47.0)	168 (2.8)	4013 (67.9)	366 (6.2)	4547 (77.0)	39 (2.0)	905 (46.8)	331 (17.1)	1275 (65.9)
Missing	32 (1.9)	16 (1.0)	92 (5.5)	140 (8.4)	43 (0.7)	225 (3.8)	354 (6.0)	622 (10.5)	19 (1.0)	52 (2.7)	234 (12.1)	305 (15.8)
Total	698 (41.8)	786 (47.1)	185 (11.1)	1669 (100.0)	561 (9.5)	4580 (77.5)	768 (13.0)	5909 (100.0)	256 (13.2)	1019 (52.7)	660 (34.1)	1935 (100.0)

TST ^a	No TB	TB	Total
Negative	3410	13	3423
Positive	2893	64	2957
Total	6303	77	6380

T-SPOT.TB	No TB	TB	Total
Negative	1987	16	2003
Positive	906	48	954
Total	2893	64	2957

QFT-GIT	No TB	TB	Total
Negative	1908	21	1929
Positive	985	43	1028
Total	2893	64	2957

IGRA	No TB	TB	Total
Negative	1745	13	1758
Positive	1148	51	1199
Total	2893	64	2957

FIGURE 12 Two-step strategies with TST^a as the first test.

TST ^b	No TB	TB	Total
Negative	4870	25	4895
Positive	1433	52	1485
Total	6303	77	6380

T-SPOT.TB	No TB	TB	Total
Negative	767	9	776
Positive	666	43	709
Total	1433	52	1485

QFT-GIT	No TB	TB	Total
Negative	727	14	741
Positive	706	38	744
Total	1433	52	1485

IGRA	No TB	TB	Total
Negative	645	7	652
Positive	788	45	833
Total	1433	52	1485

FIGURE 13 Two-step strategies with TST^b as the first test.

T-SPOT.TB	No TB	TB	Total
Negative	5120	25	5145
Positive	1183	52	1235
Total	6303	77	6380

TST ^a	No TB	TB	Total
Negative	277	4	281
Positive	906	48	954
Total	1183	52	1235

TST ^b	No TB	TB	Total
Negative	517	9	526
Positive	666	43	709
Total	1183	52	1235

QFT-GIT	No TB	TB	Total
Negative	250	10	260
Positive	933	42	975
Total	1183	52	1235

FIGURE 14 Two-step strategies with T-SPOT.TB as the first test.

TABLE 50 Sensitivity analysis: IRs and IRRs when excluding those with assumed BCG vaccination status

Progression measure	TST ^b result		TST ^b result (assumed BCG vaccination status excluded)	
	Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative
Progression (<i>n/N</i>)	52/1485	25/4895	44/1320	23/4273
Years at risk	4674.8	15,896.6	4173.9	13,882.2
IR (per 1000 participants per annum)	11.1	1.6	10.5	1.7
95% CI	8.3 to 14.6	1.0 to 2.3	7.7 to 14.2	1.1 to 2.5
IRR (per 1000 per annum)	7.1		6.4	
95% CI	4.4 to 11.4		3.8 to 10.5	

TABLE 51 Sensitivity analysis: IRs and IRRs for each single test when excluding less-certain progressors

Progression measure	Test and result							
	T-SPOT.TB		QFT-GIT		TST ^a		TST ^b	
	Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative
No exclusions								
Progression (n/N)	52/1235	25/5145	47/1444	30/4936	64/2957	13/3423	52/1485	25/4895
Years at risk	3926.2	16,645.3	4649.9	15,921.6	9416.8	11,154.6	4674.8	15,896.6
IR (per 1000 per annum)	13.2	1.5	10.1	1.9	6.8	1.2	11.1	1.6
95% CI	9.9 to 17.4	1.0 to 2.2	7.4 to 13.4	1.3 to 2.7	5.2 to 8.7	0.6 to 2.0	8.3 to 14.6	1.0 to 2.3
IRR (per 1000 per annum)	8.8		5.4		5.8		7.1	
95% CI	5.5 to 14.2		3.4 to 8.5		3.2 to 10.6		4.4 to 11.4	
Excluding less-certain progressors								
Progression (n/N)	49/1232	23/5143	44/1441	28/4934	60/2953	12/3422	48/1481	24/4894
Years at risk	3925.5	16,644.9	4649.2	15,921.2	9415.9	11,154.5	4673.9	15,896.5
IR (per 1000 per annum)	12.5	1.4	9.5	1.8	6.4	1.1	10.3	1.5
95% CI	9.2 to 16.5	0.9 to 2.1	7.7 to 14.2	1.2 to 2.5	4.9 to 8.2	0.6 to 1.9	7.6 to 13.6	1.0 to 2.2
IRR (per 1000 per annum)	9.0		5.4		5.9		6.8	
95% CI	5.5 to 14.8		3.4 to 8.6		3.2 to 11.0		4.2 to 11.1	

TABLE 52 Sensitivity analysis: IRs and IRRs using all available test data (for participants with study time data)

Progression measure	Test and result							
	T-SPOT.TB		QFT-GIT		TST ^a		TST ^b	
	Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative
Must have data for all tests (n = 6380)								
Progression (n/N)	52/1235	25/5145	47/1444	30/4936	64/2957	13/3423	52/1485	25/4895
Years at risk	3926.2	16,645.3	4649.9	15,921.6	9416.8	11,154.6	4674.8	15,896.6
IR (per 1000 per annum)	13.2	1.5	10.1	1.9	6.8	1.2	11.1	1.6
95% CI	9.9 to 17.4	1.0 to 2.2	7.4 to 13.4	1.3 to 2.7	5.2 to 8.7	0.6 to 2.0	8.3 to 14.6	1.0 to 2.3
IRR (per 1000 per annum)	8.8		5.4		5.8		7.1	
95% CI	5.5 to 14.2		3.4 to 8.5		3.2 to 10.6		4.4 to 11.4	
All available data for each test								
Progression n/N	56/1566	29/6402	53/1888	33/6624	77/3510	15/4315	60/1726	31/5935
Years at risk	4633.6	19,506.8	5605.5	19,541.2	10,831.2	13,365.2	5285.7	18,372.6
IR (per 1000 per annum)	12.1	1.5	9.5	1.7	7.1	1.1	11.4	1.7
95% CI	9.1 to 15.7	1.0 to 2.1	7.1 to 12.4	1.2 to 2.4	5.6 to 8.9	0.6 to 1.9	8.7 to 14.6	1.1 to 2.4
IRR (per 1000 per annum)	8.1		5.6		6.3		6.7	
95% CI	5.2 to 12.7		3.6 to 8.6		3.6 to 11.0		4.4 to 10.4	

TABLE 53 Sensitivity analysis: IRs and IRRs using data for new entrants who were followed up for 2 years (no exclusions)

Progression measure	Test and result							
	T-SPOT.TB		QFT-GIT		TST ^a		TST ^b	
	Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative
Progression (n/N)	11/280	3/994	9/318	5/956	11/588	3/686	9/283	5/991
Years at risk	940.9	3321.8	1075.9	3186.8	1967.9	2294.7	948.4	3314.2
IR (per 1000 per annum)	11.7	0.9	8.4	1.6	5.6	1.3	9.5	1.5
95% CI	5.8 to 20.9	0.2 to 2.6	3.8 to 15.9	0.5 to 3.7	2.8 to 10.0	0.3 to 3.8	4.3 to 18.0	0.5 to 3.5
IRR (per 1000 per annum)	12.9		5.3		4.3		6.3	
95% CI	3.6 to 46.4		1.8 to 15.9		1.2 to 15.3		2.1 to 18.8	

TABLE 54 Sensitivity analysis: IRs and IRRs using data from contacts of patients with pulmonary TB (no exclusions)

Progression measure	Test and result							
	T-SPOT.TB		QFT-GIT		TST ^a		TST ^b	
	Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative
Progression (n/N)	9/171	4/804	8/212	5/763	13/509	0/466	10/264	3/711
Years at risk	584.5	2752.4	741.8	2595.1	1725.2	1611.6	885.2	2451.6
IR (per 1000 per annum)	15.4	1.5	10.8	1.9	7.5	0.0	11.3	1.2
95% CI	7.0 to 29.2	0.4 to 3.7	4.7 to 21.3	0.6 to 4.5	4.0 to 12.9	0.0 to 2.3	5.4 to 20.8	0.3 to 3.6
IRR (per 1000 per annum)	10.6		5.6		N/A		9.2	
95% CI	3.3 to 34.4		1.8 to 17.1		N/A		2.5 to 33.5	

N/A, not available.

TABLE 55 Combinations of TST results

Progression measure	TST ^a /TST ^b results		
	Positive/positive	Positive/negative	Negative/negative
Progression (n/N)	52/1485	13/3423	12/1472
Years at risk	4674.8	4742.0	11,154.6
IR (per 1000 per annum)	11.1	2.5	1.2
95% CI	8.3 to 14.6	1.3 to 4.4	0.6 to 2.0

NoteIt is not possible to be TST^a negative and TST^b positive.

Used a 1.5% discount rate for quality-adjusted life-years while retaining a 3.5% discount rate for costs

Maintaining the base-case discount rate of 3.5% for costs, we adjusted the discount rate for effects to 1.5% and, when necessary, we applied an instantaneous rate (the natural log of 1.5%). Compared with the base case, the three most cost-effective strategies maintain their positions in both subgroups, with similar probabilities of cost-effectiveness. There is, however, a notable increase in the number of discounted QALYs in both subgroups.

TABLE 56 The modelled costs and effects based on a discount rate of 3.5% for costs and 1.5% for QALYs: contacts (mean of 500 PSA iterations)

Strategy	Mean per patient (discounted)		Incremental (vs. no test)		£20,000 per QALY	
	Cost (£)	QALYs	Cost (£)	QALYs	INB* (£)	Probability† (%)
0: TST ^a	301.33	32.43492	272.38	0.00046	263.18	0
3: TST ^a + IGRA	242.07	32.43482	213.12	0.000359	205.93	0
4: TST ^b	224.36	32.4349	195.40	0.000441	186.58	0
2: TST ^a + T-SPOT.TB	213.28	32.43477	184.32	0.000315	178.01	0
9: T-SPOT.TB	204.38	32.43476	175.42	0.000302	169.39	0
1: TST ^a + QFT-GIT	204.75	32.43478	175.79	0.000323	169.34	0
7: TST ^b + IGRA	205.34	32.43482	176.39	0.000356	169.27	0
6: TST ^b + T-SPOT.TB	191.39	32.43476	162.43	0.000303	156.37	0
8: QFT-GIT	187.69	32.43474	158.73	0.000279	153.15	40
5: TST ^b + QFT-GIT	184.99	32.43478	156.03	0.000324	149.55	60
10: no test	28.96	32.43446	0.00	0	0.00	0

*Incremental net benefit at a cost-effectiveness threshold of £20,000 per QALY, compared with 'no test'.

†Probability that strategy is the most cost-effective of the LTBI test strategies (at £20,000 per QALY).

TABLE 57 The modelled costs and effects based on a discount rate of 3.5% for costs and 1.5% for QALYs: new entrants (mean of 500 PSA iterations)

Strategy	Mean per patient (discounted)		Incremental (vs. no test)		£20,000 per QALY	
	Cost (£)	QALYs	Cost (£)	QALYs	INB* (£)	Probability† (%)
0: TST ^a	273.49	30.55115	246.11	0.00046	236.92	0
3: TST ^a + IGRA	233.27	30.55111	205.89	0.000418	197.54	0
9: T-SPOT.TB	218.04	30.55114	190.66	0.000449	181.69	0
2: TST ^a + T-SPOT.TB	211.33	30.55108	183.95	0.000393	176.09	0
4: TST ^b	205.62	30.55108	178.25	0.000394	170.37	0
1: TST ^a + QFT-GIT	201.82	30.55105	174.44	0.00036	167.25	0
7: TST ^b + IGRA	198.08	30.55109	170.70	0.000401	162.68	0
8: QFT-GIT	192.83	30.55112	165.46	0.000433	156.80	7
6: TST ^b + T-SPOT.TB	187.57	30.55107	160.19	0.00038	152.59	2
5: TST ^b + QFT-GIT	182.55	30.55103	155.17	0.000346	148.25	91
10: No test	27.38	30.55069	0.00	0	0.00	0

*Incremental net benefit at a cost-effectiveness threshold of £20,000 per QALY, compared with 'no test'.

†Probability that strategy is the most cost-effective of the LTBI test strategies (at £20,000 per QALY).

TABLE 58 The modelled costs and effects allowing for transmission: contacts (mean of 5000 PSA iterations)

Strategy	Original cohort (contacts)				Secondary contacts of index cases				Mean costs (£) (discounted)	Mean number of QALYs combined (discounted)
	Number of TB cases	Number in cohort	TB incidence per 10,000 patients	Mean number of discounted QALYs	Number of TB cases	Number of secondary contacts	TB incidence per 10,000 patients	Mean number of discounted QALYs		
0: TST ^a	60	4162	145	22.13163	4	250	150	22.11595	302	22.13084
1: TST ^a + QFT-GIT	67	4162	160	22.13151	5	278	166	22.11877	204	22.13082
2: TST ^a + T-SPOT.TB	67	4162	161	22.13150	5	279	166	22.11905	213	22.13083
3: TST ^a + IGRA	65	4162	156	22.13155	4	271	162	22.11736	242	22.13080
4: TST ^b	63	4162	152	22.13160	4	263	158	22.11746	224	22.13087
5: TST ^b + QFT-GIT	67	4162	162	22.13151	5	280	167	22.11921	185	22.13084
6: TST ^b + T-SPOT.TB	67	4162	161	22.13150	5	280	166	22.11915	191	22.13083
7: TST ^b + IGRA	66	4162	158	22.13155	4	274	163	22.11805	205	22.13084
8: QFT-GIT	65	4162	157	22.13154	4	271	162	22.11755	187	22.13080
9: T-SPOT.TB	66	4162	158	22.13152	4	273	162	22.11852	204	22.13085
10: no test	79	4162	189	22.13122	6	330	195	22.12407	29	22.13076

TABLE 59 The modelled costs and effects allowing for transmission: new entrants (mean of 5000 PSA iterations)

Strategy	Original cohort (contacts)				Secondary contacts of index cases				Mean costs (£) combined (discounted)	Mean QALYs combined (discounted)
	Number of TB cases	Number in cohort	TB incidence per 10,000 patients	Mean number of discounted QALYs	Number of TB cases	Number of secondary contacts	TB incidence per 10,000 patients	Mean number of discounted QALYs		
0: TST ^a	51	3795	135	21.04275	3	212	150	22.11809	275	21.09962
1: TST ^a + QFT-GIT	55	3795	145	21.04265	4	230	166	22.11829	202	21.10401
2: TST ^a + T-SPOT.TB	55	3795	145	21.04265	4	229	166	22.11728	211	21.10384
3: TST ^a + IGRA	54	3795	142	21.04270	4	224	162	22.11736	234	21.10249
4: TST ^b	54	3795	141	21.04274	4	223	157	22.11721	206	21.10220
5: TST ^b + QFT-GIT	56	3795	146	21.04266	4	232	167	22.11816	182	21.10445
6: TST ^b + T-SPOT.TB	55	3795	146	21.04266	4	231	167	22.11774	187	21.10430
7: TST ^b + IGRA	54	3795	143	21.04271	4	226	163	22.11729	198	21.10307
8: QFT-GIT	53	3795	139	21.04269	4	219	162	22.11858	193	21.10139
9: T-SPOT.TB	53	3795	138	21.04270	4	219	163	22.11843	217	21.10130
10: No test	68	3795	179	21.04237	6	285	194	22.12137	27	21.11764

A decorative graphic consisting of numerous thin, parallel green lines that curve from the left side of the page towards the right, creating a sense of movement and depth.

**EME
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