

## **How to interpret Indeterminate QuantiFERON results**

### Sample value is in the equivocal range

The result value falls very close to the cut off value so we can't be certain it is a true result. This sample should be repeated.

### High background levels means:

There may be excessive levels of circulating IFN- $\gamma$  or presence of heterophile antibodies in the sample so stimulating the cells with the QuantiFERON test will not produce a further IFN- $\gamma$  response. Ideally repeat once with a new sample but if a high background level is found again, there is no value in repeating the QuantiFERON test until the cause of the raised INF- $\gamma$  has been identified and resolved.

### Low mitogen levels means one of the following:

- Insufficient lymphocytes in the sample.
- Inability of patient's lymphocytes to generate IFN- $\gamma$  for example if they are taking drugs that may suppresses their ability to produce INF- $\gamma$ .
- Reduced lymphocyte activity due to improper specimen handling.

Ideally repeat once with a new sample but if a low mitogen level is found again, there is no value in repeating the QuantiFERON test until the cause has been identified and resolved.

### Indeterminate results can also be caused by:

- Incorrect filling/mixing of the Li Heparin or QuantiFERON tubes.
- Longer than 16 hours from venepuncture (taking the sample) to the sample being incubated in the lab

These indeterminate samples should be repeated.

For further information see [WWW.quantiferon.com](http://WWW.quantiferon.com)