The potential danger of a solely interferon-γ release assay-based approach to testing for latent Mycobacterium tuberculosis infection in children

The study reported by Lucas et al is a valuable addition to recent publications that have compared the performance of commercial interferon-γ release assays (IGRAs) with that of the tuberculin skin test (TST) for the diagnosis of latent tuberculosis infection (LTB) in high-risk children. However, we believe that the principal conclusions are not supported by the data provided and that a more guarded interpretation is warranted.

In agreement with previous studies in children, Lucas et al found significant discordance between the results of IGRA and TST. Specifically, of 420 T-SPOT.TB and 460