admissions where diagnosed HIV prevalence in the local population exceeds two in 1000 population as well as for all patients presenting with certain indicator diseases. The aim of this audit was to determine if HIV testing rates of patients admitted with pneumonia improved after the implementation of opt-out testing for all acute medical admissions.

Methods HIV testing rates were compared for patients admitted with pneumonia before (September 2011) and after (September 2012) implementing opt-out testing for acute medical admissions. Patients were identified from hospital coding data for pneumonia during their inpatient stay. Electronic patient records were used to determine which patients had received a test for HIV during their admission.

Results Seventy-nine patients were admitted with pneumonia in September 2011 and 86 in September 2012. Before opt-out HIV testing, 4/79 (5.1%) patients were tested for HIV during their admission (mean age 63.5 years), with no positive tests. Following the implementation of opt-out testing, 22/86 (25%) patients admitted with pneumonia were tested for HIV (mean age 62.5 years), with no patients testing positive. Since implementing opt-out HIV testing for acute medical admissions the rate of HIV testing in patients admitted with pneumonia increased from 5.1% to 25% (p = 0.0002).

Conclusion Following the implementation of opt-out HIV testing for acute medical admissions, the rate of testing in patients with a diagnosis of pneumonia has significantly increased. However, despite national guidelines and regional opt-out testing for acute medical admissions, a test was only performed in a quarter of eligible patients. Further work needs to be done in all areas of the hospital to increase awareness of HIV testing and to ensure rates of testing continue to rise.

P2.043 ALBUMIN MAY INFLUENCE ELISA TEST RESULTS FOR HIV ANTIBODIES

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There may be interference of albumin in binding of HIV antibodies on HIV specific antigens. This experiment has been done to find out any such possible influence of albumin which may alter the serological test results.

Blood samples of known HIV positive patients were collected after taking consent. Total serum proteins were estimated, HIV antibody tests were performed with the collected samples directly and after mixing egg albumin to raise 25% of the baseline protein in each sample. The ELISA test for HIV antibodies in serums was performed with both types of samples and absorbance values were recorded.

It was found that after addition of egg albumin, the absorbance values were decreased in 66.0% samples and among them in 40.0% samples there was remarkable fall of absorbance levels. In the remaining 34.0% samples there was no change in absorbance values.

This study indicates that albumin present in the blood may influence outcome of ELISA test for HIV antibodies.

P2.045 SERIAL TESTING WITH AN INTERFERON-GAMMA RELEASE ASSAY IN HIV-1-INFECTED INDIVIDUALS

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Background The clinical utility of serial screening for tuberculosis (TB) by interferon-gamma release assays has not been established in HIV-1-infected individuals.

Methods In this prospective study HIV-1-infected subjects underwent repeated QuantiFERON-TB Gold In-tube assay (QFT-GIT) testing at baseline and after 24 months to determine the rate of conversions and reversions in a low TB-incidence country. Data on demographics, history of tuberculosis and HIV-1 parameters were obtained and risk factors associated with conversion or reversion of QFT-GIT results were assessed in a multivariate regression model.

Results Of 947 HIV-infected subjects, 9% (76/846) were QFT-GIT positive, 5% (718/846) were QFT-GIT negative and 6% (52/846) QFT-GIT indeterminate at baseline, respectively. Concordant baseline and follow-up results were observed in 86% (696/794) of subjects. The observed inter-test agreement was 0.827 (95% CI, 0.847–0.899) while the inter-test agreement of serial QFT-GIT testing was moderate (Cohen κ-coefficient = 0.448). QFT-GIT conversions occurred in 9% (63/718) of individuals while QFT-GIT reversions were seen in 33% (2576). Independent predictors for QFT-GIT conversion were origin from high TB incidence country (OR, 1.93; P = 0.024) and intravenous drug abuse (OR, 2.43; P = 0.016). Of the 10 active TB cases during follow-up 5 had concordant positive QFT-GIT results and 2 were QFT-GIT converters.