

TB Screening Update

Since its initial phased implementation in September 2015, the provincial TB Screening program has now screened 387 patients starting dialysis and has identified 75 cases of latent tuberculosis. This corresponds closely to the percentage of TB carriers among new dialysis patients the program was expected to find.

The TB screening program is a partnership between the BC Renal Agency, BC Centre for Disease Control, and Provincial Labs and is the only program of its kind in the world.

Study of blood collection methods



The BC Renal Agency and Provincial Labs have initiated a validation study of the blood collection method used by the TB screening program with new dialysis patients.

The recommended blood collection method for TB screening is “venipuncture,” using a needle to take the sample from a patient’s vein. However, because venipuncture can be challenging for renal patients, some renal programs have been using blood samples taken from patients’ fistulas and central lines.

The validation study is intended to determine whether there is a clinical difference in the quality of the blood acquired through venipuncture versus from fistulas and central lines when used with TB screening technology.
