CLAIMS:

1. An in-vitro process for the quick determination of the infection status of a *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* infection from whole blood in terms of an active or latent tuberculosis, comprising the steps of:

- stimulating an antigen-specific T cell that is present in a first sample of whole blood with purified protein derivative (PPD) in the presence of antibodies against CD28, or CD28 and CD49d;
- processing of PPD by antigen-presenting cells (APC) by incubating for 1.5 h to 2.5 h, especially for 2 h, at 35 °C to 39 °C, especially at 37 °C, optionally with adding CO_2;
- then adding a secretion inhibitor;
- effecting an intensive mixing; and
- another incubation for a period of at least 2.5 h at a temperature of from 35 °C to 39 °C, and
- determining a cytokine profile from both the intracellular INF-γ production and the intracellular IL-2 production of the antigen-specific T cell; wherein
- the presence of an active tuberculosis is indicated by a shift of the cytokine profile towards IFN-γ single positive cells accompanied by a decrease of IFN-γ/IL-2 double positive T cells.

2. The process according to claim 1, wherein another stimulation with SEB, ESAT-6 and CFP-10 and/or vaccination antigen is effected in addition to said stimulation with PPD.

3. The process according to claim 1 or 2, wherein a negative control is performed by adding a physiological buffer such as PBS 0.9%NaCl or 5%

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- then adding a secretion inhibitor;
- effecting an intensive mixing; and
- another incubation for a period of at least 2.5 h at a temperature of from 35 °C to 39 °C, and
- determining a cytokine profile from both the intracellular INF-γ production and the intracellular IL-2 production of the antigen-specific T cell; wherein
- the presence of an active tuberculosis is indicated by a shift of the cytokine profile towards IFN-γ single positive cells accompanied by a decrease of IFN-γ/IL-2 double positive T cells.

2. The process according to claim 1, wherein another stimulation with SEB, Staphylococcus Enterotoxin B (SEB), ESAT-6 and CFP-10 and/or vaccination antigen is effected in addition to said stimulation with PPD.

3. The process according to claim 1 or 2, wherein a negative control is performed by adding a physiological buffer such as PBS 0.9%NaCl or 5%