

## **A new Breath test diagnose TB in minutes**

A simple breath test developed which can diagnose TB infection in minutes.

The conventional method for diagnosis of disease requires the collection of sample, culture followed by biochemical test to confirm the presence of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, the causative agent of TB. The process takes 8-10 weeks.

The new test relies on the experimental observation that when *M. tuberculosis* infects the lungs of humans, they produce volatile organic compounds which is present in exhaled breath of only TB infected people. The method used to test for volatile organic compounds is called secondary electrospray ionization mass spectrometry (SESI-MS). **The technique can find minute traces of such compounds, down to one part per trillion.** The breath test was 85% accurate in detecting patients with active pulmonary tuberculosis.

### **Source of the information**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-2260303/Breath-test-diagnose-TB-minutes-instead-weeks.html>

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/breath-test-for-pulmonary-tuberculosis-85028512.html>