

Evaluation of IFN- γ level in peripheral blood mononuclear cell of childhood tuberculosis treated by lactic acid bacteria multi cultures

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ABSTRACT: At least a half million children in the world are suffering from TB every year and 64.000 children died from TB in 2011. Previous works indicated the ability of probiotic in stimulating the production of IL-12 and IFN- γ which subsequently increased the role of type Th1 responses and improved the balance of Th1-Th2. Antigen combination of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (*Mtb*) and Lactic Acid Bacteria (LAB) initiated synergistic increase of IFN- γ bigger than the level induced by *Mtb* or LAB. This study aimed to analyze the administration effects of LAB multi cultures (*Lactobacillus acidophilus*, *Lactobacillus bulgaricus*, *Lactobacillus casei*, *Bifidobacterium bifidum*, *Bifidobacterium animalis*, *Lactobacillus plantarum*, *Streptococcus thermophilus*) to the secretion of IFN- γ on peripheral blood mononuclear cell (PBMC) culture supernatant of childhood tuberculosis patients under medication. The PBMC of the patients isolated from *whole blood* was culture-treated in 4 groups: (1) without treatment (-*MtbCell*, -LAB), (2) incubation with *Mtb*, without LAB administration (+*MtbCell*, -LAB), (3) with LAB administration, without incubation with *Mtb* (-*MtbCell*, +LAB), and (4) incubation with *Mtb* and LAB administration (+*MtbCell*, +LAB), to subsequently be taken the supernatant and to examine IFN- γ by using *enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay*. There was a significant difference in IFN- γ assay ($p = 0.006$) between group (1) compared to the group (4). Addition of the LAB multi cultures increased the secretion of IFN- γ supernatant on the PBMC culture supernatant of childhood tuberculosis patients under medication. The LAB increased 6.31% of IFN- γ level, while treatment with LAB and *Mtb* increased IFN- γ level up to 15.79% compared to IFN- γ level in the PBMC without treatment.

KEYWORDS: *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*; lactic acid bacteria; peripheral blood mononuclear cell; IFN- γ .

1. INTRODUCTION

The incidence of Tuberculosis (TB) in children has been estimated at 6% of the total TB incidences. The number of positive pulmonary TB patients who are still high in Indonesia with a prevalence of 281/100,000 population and an incidence of 187/100,000 population in 2011 puts children in a vulnerable group [1,2,3].

Infection by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (*Mtb*) unlike other bacterial infections has its own peculiarities, because these bacteria live intracellular. This is one of the factors that complicated treatment [4]. There is an important role for macrophages and T cells in destroying *Mtb* by which the macrophages activated produce several cytokines including interleukin (IL) 12 which can stimulate the IFN- γ production by Th1 cells and Natural Killer (NK) cells [5,6]. The IFN- γ is tasked to strengthen the potential of phagocytes from macrophages infected with the *Mtb* by stimulating the formation of phagolysosomes and free radicals to destroy DNA and cell walls of *Mtb* so that growth is inhibited and subsequently eliminated [4,7].

Bhavanam et al. reported characteristic of immune responses of human peripheral blood mononuclear cell (PBMC) infected by *Mtb* H37Ra [5]. Level of the IFN- γ and other immune parameters were observed at three until eight days after treatment. The levels of INF- γ , TNF- α , IL-4, IL-6, IL-10 and IL-17 in the supernatants of *Mtb*-infected PBMCs peaked on third day and decreased on the fifth day and eighth day [8].

Recent developments, the use of immune modulator attract attention to overcome TB, mainly due to an increase in the percentage of patients who are resistant to anti-TB drugs. The immune modulator is expected to be used to repair or rebuild immune system that is less than perfect or dysfunction [9]. Today's development of immune modulator in the world of the pharmaceutical industry has taken a lot of attention

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and research from academics, both medicinal plants and probiotics, especially Lactic Acid Bacteria (LAB) groups [6,10,11]. The use of probiotic and LAB is increasingly popular, because of its activity both as an antimicrobial and immune modulator. *Lactobacillus acidophilus* was reported to be able to increase TNF- α serum of mice [12]. Ghadimi et al. succeeded in proving that the combination of *Mtb* antigen with *Lactobacillus rhamnosus* GG (LGG) or *Bifidobacterium bifidum* MF 20/5 (BW) caused a synergistic increase in IFN- γ which was statistically greater than the level induced by *Mtb* or each of these probiotics [7]. In previous studies, LAB multi culture (*Lactobacillus acidophilus*, *Lactobacillus bulgaricus*, *Lactobacillus casei*, *Bifidobacterium bifidum*, *Bifidobacterium animalis*, *Lactobacillus plantarum*, *Streptococcus thermophilus*) was shown to be active in inhibiting the growth of extended-spectrum beta-lactamases (ESBL) and methicilin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) bacteria [13], while *Lactobacillus plantarum* was also shown to be able to inhibit the growth of *Streptococcus mutans* [14]. In this study effect of the LAB multicultures on the IFN- γ secretion in PBMC culture supernatant of childhoods TB in medication has been evaluated. The treatment to PBMC was performed by LAB multi cultures, without and combined with *Mtb*-Cells (*MtbC*).

2. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

2.1. Qualification of patients

Patients who were used as subjects in this study had different characters included age, gender; status of medication and other related conditions, although they still met the inclusion criteria (Table 1).

Table 1. Qualification of childhood TB patients.

No	Patients characters	Qualification
1	Aged	2-14 years old
2	Gender	Female 35.3%; Male 64.7%
3	Type of TB	Intra pulmonary 52.9%; extra pulmonary 47.1%
4	Medication status	Intensive 35.7%; ongoing (II-XII) 64.7%

2.2. Determination of IFN- γ level in serum

Determination of IFN- γ level in subject's serum based on the age, gender, type of TB and medication phase (Table 2) showed no significant differences between the groups.

Table 2. Serum level of IFN- γ .

No	Groups	N	Mean (pg/mL)	
1	Aged	2-7 years old	7	0.0870000
		8-13 years old	10	0.0811000
2	Gender	Female	6	0.0883333
		Male	11	0.0809091
3	Type of TB	Intra pulmonary	9	0.0838889
		extra pulmonary	8	0.0831250
4	Medication status	Intensive	6	0.0793333
		ongoing (II-XII)	11	0.0858182
5	Disease severity	severe	6	0.0885000
		mild	11	0.0808182
6	Average of serum IFN- γ			0.08353 \pm 0.0105

2.3. Determination of IFN- γ level in the PBMC samples

The IFN- γ level in the PBMC culture supernatant of 17 patients with childhood TB who were undergoing treatment achieved 0.076 pg/mL of 0.132 pg/mL with an average of 0.095 pg/mL. Furthermore, in the treatment with *MtbC*, LAB and (*MtbC* +LAB), average of the IFN- γ level obtained were of 0.078-0.114 pg/mL, 0.075-0.115 pg/mL, and 0.090-0.179 pg/mL respectively (Table 3).

It was rational if the highest results were obtained by *MtbC* and LAB treatment. Fluctuation data might be caused by condition of the patients taken randomly, but are still controlled by inclusion factors. In this study the treatment of *MtbC* and LAB was only carried out with one concentration, so that in future studies it is necessary to optimize both concentrations. On the other hands, the patient status such as malnutrition and medication phase might be affected the measurement results.

The IFN- γ level increased by 6.32% and 15.79% compared to control (without treatment) for (-*MtbC*, +LAB) and (+*MtbC*, +LAB) respectively. The IFN- γ level 0.09694 pg/mL showed an insignificant increase in treatment with *MtbC* without LAB compared to the control of 0.09518 pg/mL (Figure 1). The highest IFN- γ supernatant level of 0.11000 pg/mL was obtained after treatment with (+*MtbC*, +LAB).

Table 3. Sample characteristic based on the IFN- γ level in PBMC supernatant.

Sample	IFN- γ supernatant level (pg/mL)			
	Without treatment	+ <i>MtbC</i> , -LAB	- <i>MtbC</i> , +LAB	+ <i>MtbC</i> , +LAB
1	0.076	0.078	0.075	0.091
2	0.092	0.101	0.095	0.116
3	0.080	0.083	0.076	0.090
4	0.097	0.096	0.096	0.110
5	0.132	0.112	0.109	0.115
6	0.098	0.114	0.107	0.108
7	0.106	0.112	0.113	0.115
8	0.104	0.109	0.109	0.107
9	0.110	0.101	0.111	0.125
10	0.107	0.104	0.115	0.179
11	0.084	0.095	0.088	0.096
12	0.098	0.101	0.088	0.100
13	0.089	0.089	0.110	0.102
14	0.094	0.097	0.111	0.105
15	0.087	0.093	0.105	0.096
16	0.087	0.075	0.107	0.097
17	0.077	0.088	0.107	0.124
Mean \pm SD	0.0952 \pm 0.0141	0.0969 \pm 0.0117	0.1013 \pm 0.0127	0.1104 \pm 0.0376

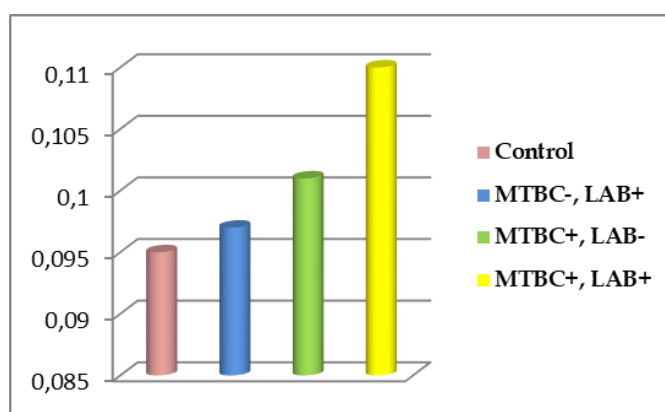


Figure 1. Average of IFN- γ level in PBMC supernatant of control and treatment groups.

2.4. Statistical analysis

Anova test proved a significant difference in IFN- γ levels ($p = 0.04$) only between the control supernatant IFN group (-*MtbC*, -LAB) compared to the IFN- γ treatment supernatant group (+*MtbC*, +LAB). The analysis continued with Least Significant Different (LSD) to ascertain which groups were significantly different (CI -95%, $p < 0.05$). The LSD of serum, supernatant control, and supernatant treatment were denoted in Table 4.

Table 4. Result of least significant different test.

Sample group (SG)	Kind of Sample (SK)	Mean Difference (SG-SK)	Sig.
Serum	Control supernatant	-0.011647*	0.021
	Supernatant (+ <i>MtbC</i> , -LAB)	-0.013412*	0.008
	Supernatant (- <i>MtbC</i> , +LAB)	-0.017765*	0.001
	Supernatant (+ <i>MtbC</i> , +LAB)	-0.026471*	0.000
Control supernatant	Serum	-0.011647*	0.021
	Supernatant (+ <i>MtbC</i> , -LAB)	-0.001765	0.723
	Supernatant (- <i>MtbC</i> , +LAB)	-0.06118	0.220
	Supernatant (+ <i>MtbC</i> , +LAB)	-0.14824*	0.004
Supernatant (+<i>MtbC</i>, -LAB)	Serum	-0.13412*	0.008
	Control supernatant	-0.001765	0.723
	Supernatant (- <i>MtbC</i> , +LAB)	-0.004353	0.382
	Supernatant (+ <i>MtbC</i> , +LAB)	-0.013059*	0.010
Supernatant (-<i>MtbC</i>, +LAB)	Serum	-0.017765	0.001
	Control supernatant	-0.006118*	0.220
	Supernatant (+ <i>MtbC</i> , -LAB)	-0.004353*	0.382
	Supernatant (+ <i>MtbC</i> , +LAB)	-0.008706	0.083
Supernatant (+<i>MtbC</i>, +LAB)	Serum	-0.026471*	0.000
	Control supernatant	-0.014824*	0.004
	Supernatant (+ <i>MtbC</i> , -LAB)	-0.013050*	0.010
	Supernatant (- <i>MtbC</i> , +LAB)	-0.008706	0.083

The paired t-test results for samples with IFN- γ level of untreated (as a 'pre' condition) and treated supernatant (as a 'post' condition) showed significantly different results only between IFN- γ control group and IFN- γ supernatant (+*MtbC*, +LAB), with $p = 0.006$.

The *Mtb* in macrophage culture which is then followed by phagocytosis *Mtb* by macrophages is a potent signal for the production of IL-12 by activated macrophages, where the components in lipoarabinomannan (LAM) that compose the cell wall of *Mtb* is an external factor that can stimulate activated macrophages to produce IL-12 as the initial regulation of the immune response. The *Mtb* and Mycobacterial product are strong inducers for IL-12. Secretion of IL-12 will collaborate indirectly with IL-1 and TNF to stimulate T cells and NK to produce IFN- γ [5,15].

The LAB with its activity as an immune modulator is known to have the ability to produce and maintain at least three mucosal immune system activities, namely: a) anti-microbial and pro-inflammatory abilities mediated by Th-1 cytokines such as IL-12, TNF α and IFN- γ ; b) anti-inflammatory activity and oral tolerance, which are induced and maintained by Th-2 cytokines, the main ones being IL-10 and TGF- β ; c) stimulation of the adaptive immune response, including local and systemic IgG and IgA synthesis mainly due to IL-4 and IL-5 [16].

The presence of two inducers (*Mtb* and LAB) for IFN- γ production increased PBMC activity. This result was in line with Ghadimi's research which proved that the presence of *Mtb* antigens has been shown to increase IFN- γ and nitric oxide (NO) secretion in PBMC culture supernatant. Addition of the LAB also caused a significant increase in the IFN- γ secretion when compared with controls. The combination of antigen *Mtb* and LAB led to the occurrence of synergistic increase in IFN-NO and the addition of NO amount, where the increase in the occurring levels was proven to be statistically greater than the amount of IFN- γ produced from each treatment/incubation with *Mtb* and LAB in PBMC culture [7].

It was found that the IFN- γ levels increased after treatment through incubation together with LAB without *Mtb* (-*MtbC*, +LAB), incubation with *Mtb* and administration of LAB (+*MtbC*, +LAB) in PBMC cultures of childhood TB during treatment. This phenomenon showed that even though the *Mtb* and LAB were potential inducers for PBMCs to produce IFN- γ , the increase in IFN- γ levels induced by LAB was greater than that induced by *MtbC*.

This result was in accordance with the study of Ghadimi et al. who proved that the administration of *Mtb* or LAB antigen caused a significant increase in IFN- γ secretion when compared with controls. The combination of antigen *Mtb* with LAB *Lactobacillus rhamnosus* GG (LGG) and *Bifidobacterium bifidum* MF 20/5 (Bw) led to the occurrence of synergistic increase in IFN- γ , where the increase in levels was proven to be

statistically greater than the amount of IFN- γ produced from each treatment (incubation with *Mtb* or LAB only) [7].

The results of this study need to be followed up with *in vivo* research to investigate ability of the LAB as an immune modulator in preventing infection in healthy animals infected with *Mtb*, in order to find out how they affect the recovery process of these animals. The next studying the future will expected to be carried out clinical trials to assay the ability of LAB as an immune modulator in samples of healthy childhood with positive TB contacts and in active latent TB childhood.

3. CONCLUSION

The administration of multiculture of Lactic Acid Bacteria (*Lactobacillus acidophilus*, *Lactobacillus bulgaricus*, *Lactobacillus casei*, *Bifidobacterium bifidum*, *Bifidobacterium animalis*, *Lactobacillus plantarum*, *Streptococcus thermophilus*) liquid caused increased of IFN- γ secretion in peripheral blood mononuclear cell culture supernatant of childhood TB treatment. The LAB increased 6.31% IFN- γ level, while treatment with LAB and *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* increased IFN- γ level up to 15.79% compared to IFN- γ level in the PBMC without treatment.

4. MATERIALS AND METHODS

4.1. Materials

Human IFN γ (R&D system) Cat.No. DIF50, FBS (sigma) 100 mL Cat.No. F6178, Histo-paque (sigma) 100 mL Cat.No. 1077, Rowell Park Memorial Institute (RPMI)-1640 culture medium (Sigma, Munich, Germany), TC plate 24 well (SPL) Cat.No. 300024, ELISA Reader.

4.2. Samples collection

The study population was TB patients aged 2 to 14 years who were treated/underwent outpatient care at the pediatric Respirioly Poly Dr. Soetomo Hospital Surabaya and Hajj Hospital Surabaya during two weeks. Samples were taken from population that met the inclusion criteria. The unit of analysis of the sample was PBMC, all blood cells that have one nucleus, namely lymphocytes, monocytes and macrophages, which were separated from peripheral blood cells using the density gradient centrifugation method using a Ficoll-Paque solution/reagent [17]. The sampling method used non probability sampling with sampling techniques consecutive sampling, where all subjects present and meeting the selection criteria were included in the study until the number of samples needed was met.

4.2.1. Inclusion criteria

The PBMCs of childhood TB who were diagnosed by a pediatrician and were undergoing anti-TB drug therapy at a dose adjusted to the patient's condition. Parents agreed that their children were involved in the study and were willing to sign an informed consent sheet.

4.2.2. Exclusion criteria

Blood samples occur hemolysis/damage, there was a drop out, there was a significant cell death in culture and cell, cannot be assessed.

4.3. Number of samples

The estimated sample size needed in this study was calculated based on the sample formula for *in vitro* design according to Federer's formula, namely: $(n-1)(t-1) > 15$, where (t) is the amount of treatment, and (n) is the number of samples in the treatment group. The amount of treatment (t) was 4: IFN- γ supernatant without any treatment, IFN- γ supernatant incubated with *Mtb* without LAB, IFN- γ supernatant with LAB without *Mtb*, IFN- γ supernatant with *Mtb* and LAB, then the minimum number of samples obtained for each group was 6 people. To anticipate the possibility of drop out by 10%, so that the sample size used in the study is at least 7 samples per treatment group.

4.4. Bacterial strains

The bacterial strain of LAB used in this study was a multi culture consisted of *Lactobacillus acidophilus*, *Lactobacillus bulgaricus*, *Lactobacillus casei*, *Bifidobacterium bifidum*, *Bifidobacterium animalis*, *Lactobacillus plantarum*, and *Streptococcus thermophilus* obtained from the Microbiology Laboratory of the Faculty of

Pharmacy, Universitas Airlangga [13]. The isolates of *Lactobacillus acidophilus* FNCC-0051, *Lactobacillus plantarum* FNCC-0027, and *Lactobacillus casei* were obtained from the Universitas Gadjah Mada Center for Food and Nutrition Studies. *Lactobacillus bulgaricus*, *Bifidobacterium bifidum* and *Bifidobacterium animalis* strains were obtained from the Biology Service Unit at the Universitas Airlangga Faculty of Science and Technology. *Streptococcus thermophilus* strains were obtained from the Laboratory of Nutrition Biochemistry, Faculty of Animal Husbandry, Universitas Gadjah Mada. The *Mtb* bacterial strain was virulent H37Rv *Mtb* obtained from the Tuberculosis Laboratory Institute of Tropical Disease, Universitas Airlangga.

4.5. Data collection

The diagnosis was made by a pediatrician based on microbiological examination (direct microscopic examination of smear/tissue biopsy to find smear/TB culture examination) and or use a scoring system with a score of > 6 [18].

Parents of patients were given an explanation of the description of the research that will be conducted, including the purpose, benefits and procedures for examination and treatment that will be experienced by the research subject as contained in the informed consent sheet to the parents/guardians of the research subject. Parents who were willing to include their children in the study signed the informed consent sheet as the research subject. Venous blood (5mL) was taken from pediatric TB patients who took place in the study.

Parents/guardians of previous research subjects were asked for their approval to do the blood collection process by signing the medical action approval sheet. The 5 mL venous whole blood was then put into vacutainer with EDTA and together with the ice pack sent to the ITD Laboratory, Universitas Airlangga. The IFN- γ examination by ELISA was done using the Quantikine Human IFN- γ immune assay Cat. kit. No. DIF5096 tests. The ELISA examination was conformed to the standard procedures.

4.6. Preparation of Lactic Acid Bacteria multi cultures

Preparation of multi culture LAB was carried out in the Microbiology Laboratory of the Faculty of Pharmacy, Universitas Airlangga. Each bacteria from the stock culture was sub-cultured by taking one Ose , inoculated in the fresh of De Man Rogosa and Shaerpe (MRS, Oxoid) slant agar medium, incubated at 37°C for 24 hours [19]. The turbidity of the microorganism was adjusted to McFarland's 0.5 M and the necessary dilution was done in order to get the final concentration as 2×10^8 CFU/mL. One mL of the inoculum put in 10 mL of sterile MRS Broth and then incubated again for 48 hours to obtain LAB starter [19]. One mL of each starter was put into the test tube, mixed and then made serial dilution for calculating the total plate count (TPC) of the multi culture. One mL of the LAB multi culture input into a test tube containing 9 mL of saline (NaCl 0.9%) solution, homogenized with vortex, in order to make a dilution to 10^{10} [13]. The suspension from 10^{-4} to 10^{-8} dilutions was taken 1 mL and put aseptically into a sterile petri dish and added 12 mL of MRS agar media. The Petri dishes were shaken to homogenize, so that the bacteria spread evenly and left to solidify. The number of bacterial growth was calculated by TPC method [19]. The suspension used in this study was containing colonies of 2×10^8 CFU/mL or 2×10^7 CFU/100 μL .

4.7. Preparation of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* suspension cell

The preparation of the suspension of *Mtb* was carried out in the tuberculosis laboratory of ITD, Universitas Airlangga, Surabaya. The *Mtb* H37Rv ATCC-27294 colonies aged 3-4 weeks in Lowenstein-Jensen (LJ) media were taken with a loop (2 mm diameter) suspended into 5 mL RPMI medium (+ 3% glycerin + 10% serum 209 HIPHS) in tube + glass beads (diameter 2 mm; 6-8 beads), vortexed until homogeneous suspension was obtained, then left 30 minutes. The upper portion of *Mtb* equivalent to 7.5×10^5 per mL (S) was taken 0.2 mL suspended in 3.8 mL RPMI (S1) until the content of *Mtb* was equivalent to 1.5×10^5 CFU/mL [20].

4.8. Separation of PBMC

The PBMCs preparation was carried out in the Leprosy ITD laboratory, Universitas Airlangga, Surabaya. 5 mL of venous whole blood patients were put into container with EDTA and together with ice packs were sent to the ITD Laboratory. Centrifugation was carried out for 10 minutes at 3,000 rpm to separate the serum, and then taken 1 mL, stored in deep freeze (-20°C) until used for serum IFN- γ examination [21].

The subject's vein blood was 5 mL in EDTA tubes, after taking a small amount of the serum, PBS 5 mL was added (1:1). The blood and PBS were then inserted into the falcon which contains the ficoll slowly. Centrifugation was done at 2400 rpm, 400 g was performed for 30-40 minutes at room temperature. The

centrifuged blood separated into 4 layers from bottom to the top, namely the sediment was erythrocytes, the ficoll, a gray white buffy coat layer like a ring; which was a mononuclear cell population and the blood plasma layer.

Buffy coat was transferred as much as possible without contamination of erythrocytes into sterile tubes, then diluted 1:3 in PBS solution, then centrifuged in histopaque (3:1, vol/vol) (Sigma chemical co, St. Louis, Mo). The fraction containing monocyte cells was transferred into a sterile centrifuge tube and rinsed with 2x PBS solution. The viability of monocyte cells was determined using trypan blue exclusion (> 95%). The number of mononuclear cell populations obtained was calculated using the blood meter count chamber. PBMC patients was obtained with a concentration of 2×10^6 was then stored in deep freeze until culture was used [17].

4.9. Preparation and treatment of PBMC

Implementation of mononuclear cell culture and administration of the treatment was carried out in the ITD Tuberculosis Laboratory at Universitas Airlangga, Surabaya. $\pm > 2 \times 10^6$ /mL of PBMC incubated with 0.5×10^5 CFU/mL *Mtb* for 48 hours, and then treated by $\geq 2 \times 10^8$ CFU/mL multicultures and then incubated for 48 hours [7].

The isolated mononuclear cells taken 200 μ L were put into wells 1, 2, 3 and 4 using 24-well culture plates (Nunc, Roskilde, Denmark), then added 500 μ L of RPMI-1640 culture medium, 10% FBS (called complete medium) had been added before. Incubation was carried out for 1 hour at 37°C and 5% CO₂. Replace RPMI 500 μ L by removing the previous medium and reinserting the new medium. 100 μ L of LAB multi cultures bacteria was added to well 2, 100 μ L of *Mtb* in well 3 and well 4, then incubated for 2x24 hours at 37°C and 5% CO₂. Ghadimiet al. treated $\pm > 2 \times 10^6$ /mL PBMC incubated with 0.5×10^5 CFU/mL *Mtb* for 48 hours [7].

The RPMI replacement was done again, and then LAB multi culture were added to the well 4. The incubation was done again for 2x24 hours at 37°C and 5% CO₂.

The next process was harvest and centrifuge 1600 rpm for 5 minutes to remove mononuclear cells. The cell-free supernatant were then sterilized by filtering with a 0.2 μ m pore size (Millipore, Germany) or whited filter paper, then stored at -80°C until used for IFN analysis [7].

4.9.1. Analysis of IFN- γ by ELISA kit

The kit used was Quantikine Human IFN- γ Immunoassay Cat. No. DIF50 96 tests. Assay was done by preparing the subject at room temperature, preparing all reagents and standards as specified then adding 100 μ L of the RD1-51 diluent assay to each well. After 100 minutes the standard subject or control was added to each well for 15 minutes, incubated for 2 hours, aspirated, and washed 4 times, then added 200 μ L conjugate to each well, incubated for 2 hours, aspirated, and washed 4 times. 200 μ L substrate solutions then added to each well. Incubation was carried out for 30 minutes by avoiding light, then ad 50 μ L stop solution was added each well and read at 450 nm for 30 minutes correction 540 nm or 570 nm [21].

4.9.2. Data analysis

Data from medical records, interviews, observations and examination results were then carried out by editing, coding and data entry. The data obtained were analyzed using a pair t test statistical test (test for 2 paired samples) to determine the significance of IFN- γ level differences in the culture before and after treatment by incubation with *Mtb* without administration of LAB (+*Mtb*C, -LAB), LAB administration without incubation with *Mtb* (-MTBC, +LAB), incubation with *Mtb* and administration of LAB (+*Mtb*C, +LAB). The p values less than 0.05 were considered significant.

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Conflict of interest statement: The authors declared no conflict of interest in the manuscript.

Ethics committee approval: This study was approved by the Universitas Airlangga Research Ethics Board (150/Panke.KKE/II/2015) and all design of research was performed in accordance with institutional guidelines and regulations. Informed written consents were obtained from all study participants.

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