

TABLE I. TWO-STEP TESTING

In some persons with LTBI, reaction to tuberculin may wane over years. When these persons are skin tested years after infection, they may have a negative reaction. However, the skin test may stimulate (or "boost") their ability to react to tuberculin, resulting in a positive reaction to a subsequent test. With serial testing, the boosted reaction may be misinterpreted as a newly acquired infection. Two-step testing is used to establish a reliable baseline TST status and reduce the likelihood that a boosted reaction will be misinterpreted as a recent infection. Two-step testing is performed by administering a skin test; if that test result is negative, then a second-step test should be given one to three weeks later. A positive reaction to the second-step test of the two-step test probably represents a boosted reaction. The boosted reaction should not be considered a TST conversion. Two-step testing should be used only for baseline screening and never should be used in a contact investigation.