**SUMMARY AND EXPLANATION**

Celiac disease (CD) is a serious, lifelong, gastrointestinal disorder that can cause a wide spectrum of clinical symptoms of diarrhea, abdominal distension, weight loss, malnutrition and skin disorders (Dermatitis herpetiformis) due to permanent intolerance to gluten, a complex mixture of storage proteins found in wheat, barley and rye. It was first described by Samuel Gee in 1888.

Studies have found the prevalence of CD to be highly variable from population to population and the true prevalence has been difficult to ascertain. The disparate criteria in diagnosing of CD are often the cause. If only the clinical criteria are used the incidence of CD is much lower compared with incidence established by serological methods. Using serological methods of diagnosis, the incidence of CD in the general population is app. 1 in 100.

The enzyme tissue transglutaminase (tTG) has been identified as the endomysial antigen in CD. A strong indication of CD is the presence of antibodies specific for the tTG.

### tTG Interpretation of Results

1. + The test indicates that there are anti-tTG IgA antibodies in the blood sample. The detection of these antibodies indicates with a high probability an existing celiac disease.
2. 2 lines (T+C) The test indicates that there are no anti-tTG IgA antibodies in the tested blood. An existing celiac disease can virtually be ruled out. If gastrointestinal complaints are present, further medical investigation is necessary.
3. - The test indicates that there are anti-tTG IgA antibodies in the blood sample. The detection of these antibodies indicates with a high probability an existing celiac disease.
4. 1 line only (C)