

► Tuberculin Skin Test (TST)



"Vaccination is good protection"

This test is used to determine whether someone has been infected by the germ that causes tuberculosis. Tuberculosis (TB) is a disease that appears months or years after infection by the germ. The TB germ may affect a variety of organs such as the lungs, bones, and kidneys. Only tuberculosis of the lungs is contagious.

DISEASES

Tuberculosis is spread by:

- Inhaling very small droplets produced when someone infected with contagious tuberculosis of the lungs coughs or sneezes.

Tuberculosis causes:

- Coughing
- Phlegm
- Fatigue
- Fever
- Weight loss
- Sweating

Possible complications of tuberculosis include:

- Pleuritis (an infection of the covering of the lungs)
- Meningitis (an infection of the lining covering the brain)

The Vaccine

The tuberculin skin test is used to see if someone has been infected with TB germ that causes tuberculosis or establish a baseline for those who might be exposed to tuberculosis (travelers or healthcare students and workers).

The tuberculin skin test is very safe.

EFFECTS

Possible side effects

- You may experience redness, swelling, and itching around the TST site.
- On rare occasions, you may develop a skin rash immediately after or within 24 hours of the test.
- On very rare occasions, the test may cause a serious local reaction (blisters or sores).

What to do

- Apply a cold, damp cloth to the TST site.
- Do not irritate the TST site (e.g., vigorously washing, scratching, or wiping) or put anything on it (e.g., bandage, ointment).
- See a health care provider.
- See a health care provider.

Severe allergic reactions are rare.

Should a severe allergic reaction occur, it would begin immediately and the person who gave the test will be able to treat it. That's why you should stay on site for at least 15 minutes after receiving the test.

For more information, ask the person who did the test or another health care provider.



▶ Tuberculosis Vaccine (BCG)



"Vaccination is good protection"

This vaccine protects you against tuberculosis (TB) and its complications. Tuberculosis is a disease that appears months or years after infection by the TB germ. The TB germ may affect various organs such as the lungs, bones, and kidneys. Only tuberculosis of the lungs is contagious.

| DISEASES | Tuberculosis is spread by: | Tuberculosis causes: | Possible complications of tuberculosis include: |
|----------|---|---|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inhaling very small droplets produced when someone with contagious tuberculosis of the lungs coughs or sneezes. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coughing Phlegm Fatigue Fever Weight loss Sweating | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pleuritis (an infection of the covering of the lungs) Meningitis (an infection of the lining covering the brain) |
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The Vaccine

Vaccination is a way to protect yourself against tuberculosis and its complications. In Ontario, the vaccine is only given to certain children living in environments that put them at high risk of catching the disease.

Babies and children are first checked to ensure they are not infected with HIV or suffering from any immune system problem.

The tuberculosis vaccine is safe. Undesirable reactions are usually minor. They occur in fewer than 2% of children under 1 year old.

Inform your health care provider if your child has an allergy to any vaccine or latex.

| EFFECTS | Possible side effects | What to do |
|---------|--|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three to eight weeks after vaccination, a sore should appear at the injection site. This reaction proves the vaccination was a success. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cover the lesion until it crusts over, then leave it exposed. |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The person sometimes develop swelling in the glands (lymphnodes) in the armpit or above the collarbone next to the arm where the vaccine was injected. Rarely, the swelling may be accompanied by redness, blistering, or pus (0.2 to 4 cases per 1,000 doses). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See a health care provider. |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generalized infection may occur, but almost always only in those with weakened immune systems (less than 2 cases per million doses). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See a health care provider. |
| | No severe allergic reactions have been reported. | |

Should a severe allergic reaction occur, it would begin immediately and the person who gave the vaccine will be able to treat it. That's why you should stay on site for at least 15 minutes after the vaccination.

For more information, ask the person who gave you the vaccine or another health care provider.

