

POSSIBLES REACTIONS

After 48 to 72 hours, a red spot or a small lump may appear at the injection site. Only HEALYH CARE WORKERS who is trained to do so can measure the diameter of this lump and determine if your test is negative or positive.



A negative reaction

A negative reaction means that you probably have never been in contact with the tuberculosis bacterium.

A positive reaction

A positive reaction means that you have already encountered the tuberculosis bacterium and that your organism has developed a defence against it. This is what is called the tuberculosis infection.

It is probable that you will be asked to pass additional examinations such as chest x-rays and a physical check-up, in order to ensure that you do not have tubercular disease. The doctor may also suggest that you take preventive treatment.

There is no need to repeat the test if the reaction has already been positive.

For more information about tuberculosis or if there some questions, contact us:

Tuberculosis clinic

(514) 345-4931 ext. 6066 or 3937

Réalisation

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TUBERCULOSIS SKIN TEST



INFORMATIONS FOR PARENTS



CHU Sainte-Justine
Le centre hospitalier
universitaire mère-enfant

Pour l'amour des enfants

Université
de Montréal

SERVICE DES
MALADIES INFECTIEUSES

Your child needs to have a tuberculosis screening or Tuberculosis Skin Test. This leaflet will give you all the information you need.

WHY DOING TUBERCULOSIS SKIN TEST (TST) ?

The TST is used to determine if a person has been exposed to the Tuberculosis bacteria. This test is indicated for several reasons:

- ✓ People with symptoms consistent with TB
- ✓ People with abnormal radiography suggestive of an old or active infection
- ✓ Immigrants or refugees from countries with high annual rates of TB cases
- ✓ People with a chronic medical condition at risk of activating a latent bacterium (ex: solid organ transplant, IBD, arthritis, cancer, HIV carrier)
- ✓ Persons whose immunosuppressive therapy is necessary (which compromises the effectiveness of the immune system): chemotherapy, biological agents, high-dose prednisone.
- ✓ Healthcare Professionals and Hospital Trainees

WHAT IS TUBERCULOSIS?

Tuberculosis is an infectious disease caused by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*.

It usually strikes the lungs, but other organs such as the lymph glands, kidneys, or bones may also be affected.

In order to have a good understanding of tuberculosis and its detection, it is important to distinguish two notions that of tubercular infection and that of tubercular disease.

TUBERCULOSIS - THE INFECTION

In this state, the tubercular bacterium is dormant. Tubercular infection corresponds to the organism's first contact with the bacterium. There is no clinical symptom of sign accompanying this first contact.

TUBERCULOSIS - THE DISEASE

In this state, the tuberculosis bacterium is active and causes symptoms such as coughing, spitting, weight loss, fatigue, fever and sweating.

This indicates that the person infected by the tuberculosis bacterium was not able to put up an adequate defence against it. The disease results from the invasion and multiplication of tuberculosis bacteria in an organism.

When a victim of contagious pulmonary tuberculosis coughs or sneezes he or she projects bacteria into the air. Another person breathing in these bacteria can contract tuberculosis.

TUBERCULOSIS SKIN TEST

The tuberculosis skin test (TST) used to detect tuberculosis is the tuberculin test (also called PPD test or the Mantoux test). This test is neither a treatment nor a vaccine. The test consists in the injection of a small amount of a substance called tuberculin in the skin of the inside of the upper arm. This test is not painful.

The test makes it possible to determine whether or not you have had any recent contact with the tuberculosis bacterium and whether you risk to develop the disease.



PRÉCAUTIONS AFTER THE TST

The following recommendations apply after the TST injection:

- ✓ Do not apply anything to the injection site, for example : band aids, ointments, etc.
- ✓ Do not irritate the injection site, example: scratching, washing, rubbing dry, etc.
- ✓ You can maintain your regular activities; take a bath or a shower without worrying.
- ✓ In case of itching, apply a cold compress.