



# Tuberculosis

## Mantoux TB Skin Test

### **What is tuberculosis?**

Tuberculosis is a disease often called TB. It is spread by bacteria (germs) that can float in the air. The TB bacteria or germs may spray into the air if a person with TB **disease** in the lungs talks, coughs, sings or sneezes. The people nearby can breathe TB germs into their lungs and get TB **infection**. When you are just infected, but not sick, you are generally not contagious. If you have symptoms, then you have TB **disease**.

### **What are the symptoms of tuberculosis?**

If the TB **disease** is in your lungs, you may:

- cough a lot
- cough up mucus or phlegm or blood
- have chest pain when you cough or breathe

If you have TB **disease** anywhere in your body including the lungs, you may:

- have a fever
- sweat at night
- lose your appetite
- lose weight
- feel weak
- have pain or swelling in the part of your body with the TB **disease**

### **What is the Mantoux TB skin test?**

A skin test on your arm is the best way to find out if you have TB **infection**. A small needle is inserted just under the skin on your forearm, where the serum is injected. A small white lump will form as the serum is given. You may gently wipe the area if needed after the test is completed, but **do not** push on the area, rub vigorously, use any alcohol wipe, or cover with a bandage. You may cover the area with your shirt sleeve once any oozing has stopped.

### **What are the common side effects of this test?**

Normal side effects of the test include:

- Minor itchiness at the injection site
- Slight bruising at injection site
- Mild redness in the area of the injection site.
- Note: If the area becomes very red, is swollen, or has blisters, or if you are concerned, please contact your doctor.

### **What does the Mantoux TB skin test result mean?**

You will be asked to return in 48-72 hours for the nurse to examine the test area on your arm. The test is "positive" if a swelling approximately the size of a dime or bigger is present at that time. This means you may have been infected with TB sometime in the past. It does not necessarily mean that you are now sick with TB.

If a person's result is positive, more tests are needed to screen for TB disease and make sure that the TB is not active and making the person sick. These tests usually include a check-up by a health care provider for signs and symptoms of active TB disease, a chest x-ray and possibly sputum collection.

Tell the doctor or nurse if you have ever had a "positive" reaction to a TB skin test before, or if you have been treated with TB medications.

### **Who should not receive a Mantoux TB skin test?**

Anyone who is allergic to any of the Mantoux TB skin test components should not receive this test. Components of the Mantoux TB skin test include:

- purified protein derivative of mycobacterium tuberculosis, sterile isotonic phosphate buffered saline, polysorbate 80, phenol. \*\*\*This product does not contain latex.

For more information call the Communicable Disease Team: ext. 8809



Tel: 705-721-7520  
Toll free: 1-877-721-7520  
[www.simcoemuskokahealth.org](http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org)

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Anyone who has had a previous positive TB skin test, or who has been previously treated for either active TB disease or latent TB infection (LTBI) should not have future TB skin tests.

Persons with extensive burns or eczema should not receive Mantoux TB skin test.

TB skin testing should not be given for four weeks after receiving a live-virus vaccination or for anyone with a major viral infection.

**Who should get the Mantoux TB skin test?**

Many people are required by their employer to receive this test when beginning a new job; some

students are required by their college or university to have a TB skin test for a school program. The skin test may also be required for immigration purposes.

People who may have been in contact with someone with active tuberculosis disease are tested to see if they have infection.

**Are there any special concerns about tuberculosis?**

Tell the doctor or nurse if you have ever had a "positive" reaction to a TB skin test before, or if you have been treated with TB drugs.

**TB Infection & TB Disease are not the same  
It is important that you know the difference**

<b>TB Non Contagious</b>	<b>TB Contagious</b>
❖ You have the germs in your body. Your body has walled the germs off so they can do no damage.	❖ TB germs are multiplying and causing damage. TB usually causes disease in the lungs but can also affect other organs.
❖ You have a positive skin test. Your chest x-ray showed no TB Disease. You may develop TB Disease in the future.	❖ You are sick. Symptoms – weakness, fever, weight loss; cough, chest pain, coughing up blood when TB is in the lungs; pain if in other parts of the body.
❖ You are not contagious. You are not sick.	❖ You are contagious if the TB germ is in your lungs and you are coughing.
❖ TB infection can be treated with 6-12 months of medication. Treatment will prevent TB Disease from developing.	❖ TB Disease is treatable and curable as long as you take all your medication. Early treatment prevents the spread of TB to others.

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