

Tuberculosis Skin Test

What is TB? The disease TB is spread by tiny bacteria that can float in the air after someone who has TB has exhaled. Anyone nearby can inhale the bacteria and become infected. It is an infection of the lungs. It is common in countries outside the U.S. but is increasing in incidence in the U.S. The bacteria can also live in your body without causing symptoms. This is called TB infection. It is not contagious. The bacteria are trapped by the immune system but sometimes multiply and cause lung infection which is serious and requires multiple antibiotics for several months and can be passed to others.

How am I exposed to TB? You may be exposed to TB if you spend time with someone who has TB of the lungs. You are infected by breathing in the bacteria when the infected person coughs, sneezes or sings. You are not infected by sharing clothes, drinking glasses, handshakes, or toilets.

How do I know if I have TB infection? A skin test is the only way to detect infection. The test is done on the forearm by placing some test material under the skin then checking the reaction after 2-3 days. The test is positive if a bump appears the size of a pencil eraser or larger. If positive, one needs to have a chest x-ray to detect lung infection. If you do not return for the test reading, **it must be repeated.**

There are a few contraindications for TB testing:

1. Prior positive reactions that have been measured and recorded
2. Immunosuppression which may prevent an accurate test. Advise the nurse if you are currently taking Prednisone, steroids, chemotherapy for cancer, or have an immune disorder such as HIV infection.
3. You have had a live-virus vaccination within the last three months.

I have read the above information and have had my questions answered. I understand the benefits of TB testing and consent to be tested.

ID#

Last name, First name

Date of Birth

Address

City, State, Zip

Phone number

Tubersol Aventis

Lot #_____

Exp Date_____

RN/ Dr. _____

Date of Test_____

Site_____

Administered at:

- ☐ Eastern University
1300 Eagle Rd.
St. Davids, PA 19087
Phone: 610-341-5955
Fax: 610-341-5954
- ☐ Primary Care Physician

RN/Dr. _____

Date Read_____

Result in mm_____