

Tuberculin Skin test

Tuberculosis (TB) is a disease that affects the lungs. A skin test is used to check for TB.

How do people get TB?

It is spread from person to person. When someone with TB coughs or sneezes, they spread droplets into the air. Others in the area may breathe it in.

- If you had a shot or vaccine to prevent TB, tell your doctor **before** the test.

For the TB skin test:

- The skin on the lower arm is cleaned.
- A small amount of fluid is injected under the skin using a needle. A small bump will form. This is normal.
- The site may be loosely bandaged to keep the fluid in the arm. If bandaged, remove it in 5 to 10 minutes.
- For the next 2 to 3 days, **do not** rub or massage the site. Pat it dry when it gets wet.
- **Do not** scratch the site. If it itches, place a cool cloth on it.
- **Tell your doctor** if you have pain or an immediate reaction to the test.

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Learn more about your health care.

If after the test you have these signs, call the office where the test was given.

- A temperature higher than 100.4 degrees F
- Swelling in the arm outside of the test site.
- Swollen lymph glands in the armpit
- Other signs that concern you, such as you feel sick or weak

Checking the TB Skin Test

You must be checked in 2 to 3 days after the test! If the test is not checked in 2 to 3 days, it needs to be repeated.

Return to this office on: Date: _____ Time: _____

Special Considerations

- ▶ If you have HIV (the virus that causes AIDS), tell the staff before the test. You may need other tests to check for TB.
- ▶ In some people, the TB skin test may be negative even when they have TB. It is not uncommon for the doctor to order another skin test 1 to 3 weeks after the first test.

✦ **Talk to your doctor or others on your health care team if you have questions. You may request more written information from the Library for Health Information at (614) 293-3707 or email: health-info@osu.edu.**