

Skin Test for Tuberculosis (Mantoux)

Patient information leaflet

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If you need this leaflet in a different language or accessible format
please speak to a member of staff who can arrange it for you.

اگر به این بروشور به زبان دیگر یا در قالب دسترس پذیر نیاز دارید،
لطفاً با یکی از کارکنان صحبت کنید تا آن را برای شما تهیه کند.

Jeśli niniejsza ulotka ma być dostępna w innym języku lub formie,
proszę skontaktować się z członkiem personelu, który ją dla Państwa przygotowuje.

Dacă aveți nevoie de această broșură într-o altă limbă sau într-un format accesibil,
vă rog să discutați cu un membru al personalului să se ocupe
de acest lucru pentru dumneavoastră

如果您需要本传单的其他语言版本或无障碍格式，请联系工作人员为您安排。

إذا احتجت إلى هذه النشرة بلغة أخرى، أو بتنسيق
يسهل الوصول إليه، يرجى التحدث إلى أحد الموظفين لترتيب ذلك لك.

Nature and reasons for the test:

Notes

This test is called the **Mantoux Skin Test**.

It is used to see if a person has been infected with the bacteria that causes **Tuberculosis (TB)**.

It is carried out by giving a small injection under the skin, usually on the inside of the left forearm. The test results will be able to tell the difference between human tuberculosis infection, and infection caused by a bacteria found in the environment.

The bacteria infection can cause swollen lymph glands (lumps) in young children. This form of bacteria is not spread from person to person and does not make you or your child sick.

Figure 1 - Injection under the skin, causing a small raised bubble on the surface.



Results of the test:

A positive reaction is measured by the size of the lump (induration) that forms where the injection was given. The lump develops over a period of 2-3 days.

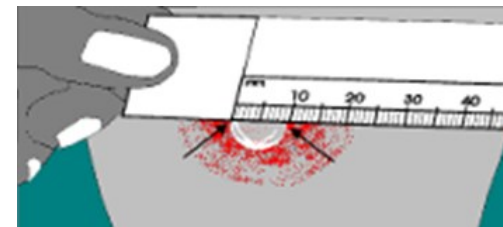
Your child may have a positive skin test reaction if they:

- Have had tuberculosis before and have been cured.
- Have been exposed to the tuberculosis bacteria or have been immunised for tuberculosis (BCG).
- Have tuberculosis.

A negative result may be incorrect (false negative) if your child:

- Is taking medicine to lower the immunity e.g. steroids or chemotherapy drugs.
- Has a viral illness e.g. measles, mumps or rubella.
- Has recently been vaccinated with live viruses
- Is very sick.

Figure 2 – How we measure the result of the Mantoux test



After the test:

If your child has a Mantoux test, you will need to come back to the hospital in two or three days to have the result assessed.

Scratching the test site may cause an infection, so it is best not to touch the area if possible.

The doctor or nurse who gave the injection usually draws a circle around the area injected for ease of identification when you return for the results.

- It is helpful if you do not wash this circle off.
- Do not cover the area with a plaster or dressing.
- Do not apply any medication to the area.

Your child may continue to do all their usual activities, playing sports, having a shower and going to school.

If you have had a positive Mantoux test before, or have been immunised for TB, please inform the person reading the test results. If you have any questions you should ask the person doing the test.

A positive test does not necessarily mean your child has tuberculosis.

Risks and discomforts:

The test causes slight discomfort. It is very simple and quick if there has been enough preparation and your child is co-operative and can be distracted. Although rare, the area may get itchy and develop small blisters around the injection site.

If these occur, please do not break or touch them.

As with any medication that is injected, a severe reaction may occur to the Tuberculin. **This is very rare.** If this happens, your child will be given the appropriate treatment.

Alternatives to the treatment:

There are no alternatives to this test; if this test is not carried out the consultant treating your child may not have all the required information to be able to manage your child's condition correctly, which may affect recovery. The test is only done if necessary.