



TUBERCULOSIS (TB) *Infection*

What is TB infection?

TB infection means you have inactive TB germs in your body. A TB skin test shows the presence of these germs.

Is TB infection different from TB disease?

Yes. Your chest x-ray shows that you do not have active TB germs in your lungs. You are not sick and cannot spread TB germs to others.

How did I get TB infection?

You probably got TB infection by being near someone with TB disease and breathing in that person's TB germs. Most people never know when they got TB infection or who gave it to them.

Can I give TB infection to others?

No. Only people with TB disease in their lungs can pass on TB germs to others.

Can TB infection cause TB disease?

Your TB germs are inactive now and are likely to stay that way. However, it is possible to develop TB disease later in life. Medication can help prevent that from happening. Call your doctor's office or your health clinic about getting treatment for TB infection.

Will taking medicine make my TB skin test negative?

No. Once you have a positive TB skin test, you will probably have positive results every time you have the test. Keep the record of your positive TB skin test and show it the next time you are asked to have the test.

You may qualify for Medi-Cal benefits. People with TB infection or TB disease may also qualify for TB-Cal. To find out about your eligibility and to request an information packet and application, please call 1-858-514-6885. Collect calls are accepted.