

The Tuberculin Skin Test (TST)

What is the tuberculin skin test for?

The TST is performed to see if you are infected with TB bacteria.

Test procedures

- ① Tell the testing staff if you have been vaccinated against TB within the past month or if you have recently been ill.
- ② A technician will inject a small amount of fluid containing a protein called tuberculin in your forearm.
- ③ Make sure you don't touch the puncture site. If you do, the injected fluid may leak from the site and lead to compromised test results.
- ④ You may shower or bathe after you're injected, but don't scratch the puncture site.
- ⑤ You will be asked to return to the testing facility after 48 hours, where a technician will check the puncture site. For example, if you received the injection on Monday, you will return to the facility on the same time on Wednesday.



Relax your muscles.



Don't touch
the puncture site.



You can shower or bathe,
but don't scratch
the puncture site.



Return to the test
facility 48 hours later
for examination.

- ⑥ The following box shows what to expect depending on the outcome of the test.

Negative result For all practical purposes, you aren't infected. However, you need to talk to a doctor if you have symptoms of a cold.

Positive result If you *have not* received a BCG vaccination against TB, a positive finding means you are infected. You will need to take a chest x-ray. If the x-ray image has abnormal shadows, you will start treatment for active TB. If not, you will start treatment for latent TB.

If you *have* received a BCG vaccination against TB, a positive finding means you may be infected. You will need to take a chest x-ray. The medical staff will decide how to proceed with your case after studying your chest-x-ray results.

- ⑦ Depending on the results, you may receive an invitation to undergo a medical examination