

# TB *e informed*

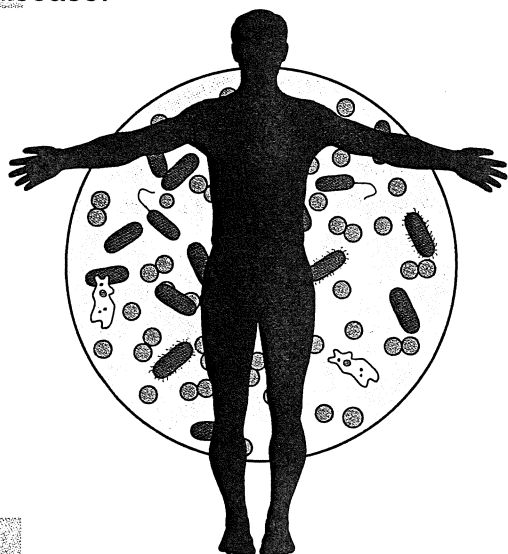
Tuberculosis Education & Resource Information

Fall/Winter 2002

1

## What does the term “TB infection” mean?

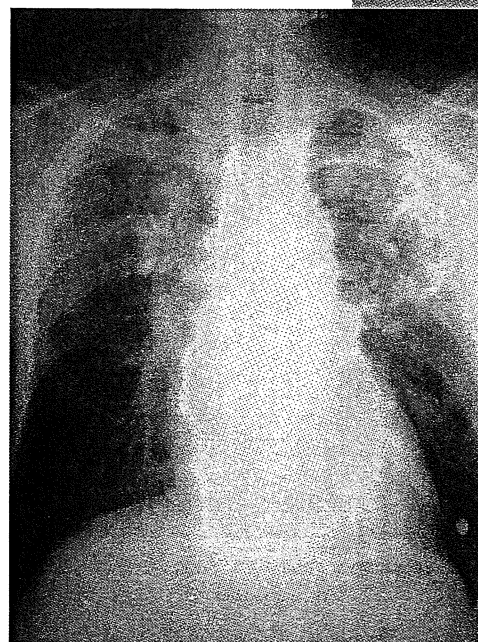
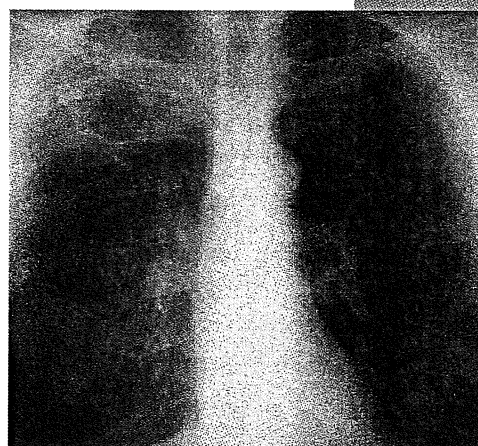
“TB infection” means that the bacteria that causes TB are inside the body but are kept inactive. Our body’s defense (the immune system) cannot kill the germ, but it can prevent the germ from doing damage to the body. This means the patient has the bacteria but has no symptoms. However, should the immune system become weakened, the TB germ can cause active disease.



2

## What does the term “TB disease” mean?

TB disease occurs when the body’s immune system no longer keeps the TB germ under control. This weakening of the immune system can occur with aging, illnesses like AIDS, or drug and alcohol abuse. With the onset of active TB disease, the patient begins to experience the symptoms associated with TB such as cough, fever, night sweats, weight loss, and lack of appetite.



Chest x-rays showing active TB.



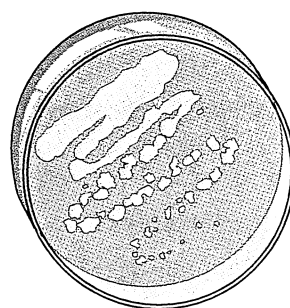
3

## What are the risk factors for TB?

Some persons are at **higher risk** for developing TB, and also more likely to have a complicated course of both disease and treatment. The risk factors include:

- Being HIV positive or having AIDS
- Having Hepatitis, particularly types B and C
- Abusing drugs or alcohol

It is important for those with risk factors to have a PPD skin test (the test for TB), to have it read and recorded, and to receive treatment if needed.



4

## What is the treatment for TB?

TB is a curable disease. Antibiotics are very effective in killing the TB germ. The treatment is different for TB infection and TB disease. Isoniazid (INH) can be used alone for persons with TB infection, but multiple antibiotics must be given to those persons with active TB disease. This is to prevent the development of drug-resistant TB.

5

## How important is it that **ALL** of the prescribed medication be taken for the entire period?

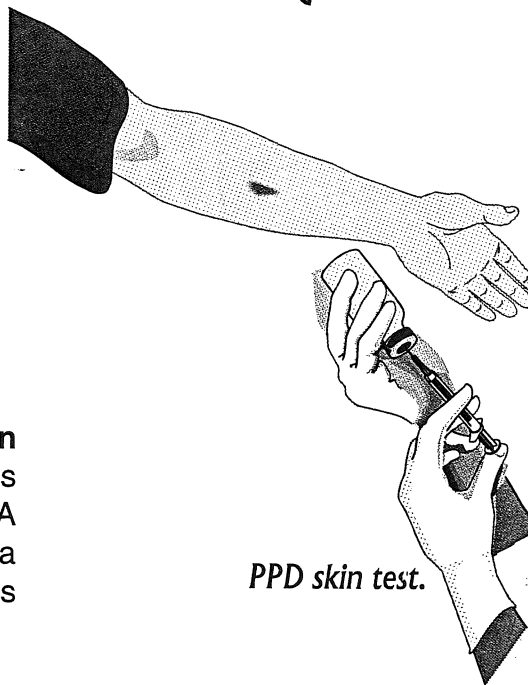
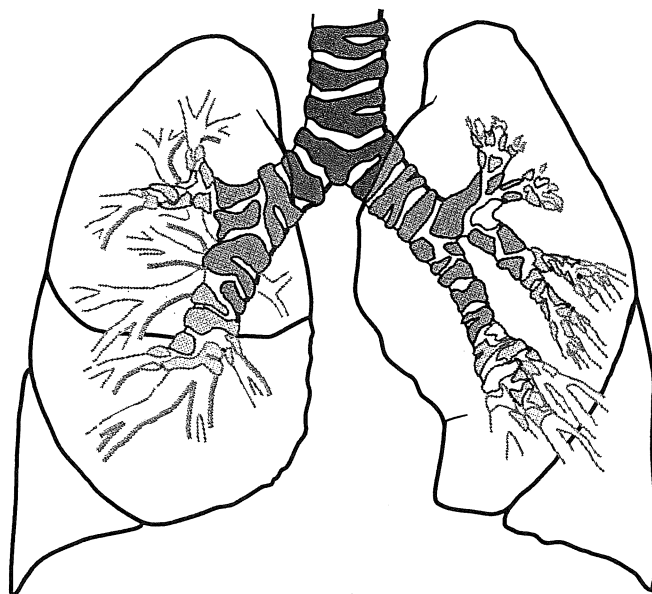
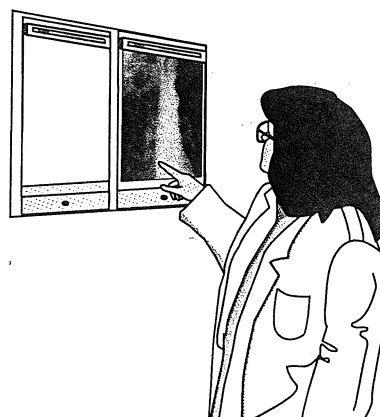
**Very Important.** Taking prescribed medicines for the duration of treatment, even if the patient feels better, is the cornerstone of successful treatment. Taking the medicine for a portion of the specified time only, even if the patient is being treated for TB infection, can cause drug-resistant TB organisms to develop.



# 6

## What are the complications of TB?

Most TB infections involve the lungs, but without treatment, TB germs can spread from the lungs to other parts of the body. This spread makes people very ill and can cause death. Early detection and treatment are very important in preventing the spread of TB from the lungs to other parts of the body and the spread from person to person.



*PPD skin test.*

# 7

## Can you get TB from the PPD skin test?

You **CANNOT** get TB from the PPD skin test. The test is an indicator that the body has been exposed to the TB germ before. A positive test is recognized by a raised area around the injection site and not by redness alone.

# Word Search:

Find the following words

- 1) Spread
- 2) Risk
- 3) Fever
- 4) Cough
- 5) Antibiotic
- 6) Airborne
- 7) PPD
- 8) Sputum culture
- 9) Exposure
- 10) Immune system
- 11) Tuberculosis
- 12) Chest x-ray
- 13) Night sweats
- 14) INH
- 15) Lung
- 16) Infection
- 17) Disease
- 18) Contacts
- 19) Symptoms
- 20) Weight loss

S	C	T	S	S	N	I	B	N	O	I	T	C	E	F	N	I	L
T	S	Y	M	P	T	O	M	S	I	N	F	T	J	P	X	R	L
S	U	N	C	K	U	A	H	M	H	F	D	I	S	E	A	S	E
M	F	B	H	S	X	T	E	G	U	L	I	J	G	O	C	S	Y
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R	E	N	S	R	F	O	R	M	S	J	E	C	D	T	N	L	D
E	X	R	T	E	C	D	S	P	C	T	N	S	L	L	T	T	F
V	X	O	X	V	H	U	B	R	S	U	H	N	Y	D	A	H	L
A	M	B	R	E	I	P	L	G	N	U	L	G	C	S	C	G	K
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## Contact Sources

### I. TB Medical Clinics

Baton Rouge: (225) 242-4917  
 Thibodaux: (985) 447-0916 ext 323  
 Lafayette: (337) 262-5616 ext 154  
 Lake Charles: (337) 480-2591  
 Alexandria: (318) 487-5299  
 Shreveport: (318) 676-5010  
 Monroe: (318) 361-7208  
 Mandeville: (985) 871-1314

**State TB Control Office:**  
**(504) 568-5015**  
**DHH OPH TB Control Region 1:**  
**(504) 826-2048**

**Wetmore Foundation**  
 Tel: (504) 779-1888  
 Fax: (985) 845-8150

### II. Wetmore TB Clinic (504) 826-2063/2064

### III. The Ernest N Morial Asthma, Allergy & Respiratory Disease Center at LSU Health Sciences Center, 2020 Gravier, New Orleans: (504) 599-1554 1-888-MY-LUNGS (1-888-695-8647) [www.medschool.lsuhsu.edu/asthma\\_center](http://www.medschool.lsuhsu.edu/asthma_center)

### IV. Section of Pulmonary & Critical Care, LSUHSC, New Orleans (504) 568-4634 (Dr. Juzar Ali) LSU-WETMORE TB HOTLINE: (504) 638-7053 (Maureen Vincent TB Coordinator)

### V. For more comprehensive information visit us at [www.lsumc-wetmore-tb-info.org](http://www.lsumc-wetmore-tb-info.org)

This brochure is based on a questionnaire developed as part of the **Tuberculosis Education Aimed at Community Health (TEACH)**, a program staffed by medical students and supported by a grant from the NIH-TB Academic Award (TBAA) & the Wetmore Foundation.

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*This brochure is for general information only. Please contact sources listed for more specific assistance, if needed. Please contact sources listed at the end of this brochure for more specific information if needed.*