

Tuberculin Skin Test (TST)



This test is used to determine whether someone has been infected by the bacteria that causes tuberculosis (TB). The disease appears months or years after infection by the bacteria. TB may develop in various organs such as the lungs, bones, and kidneys. Only tuberculosis of the lungs or of the larynx are contagious.

DISEASE	Tuberculosis is spread by:	Tuberculosis causes:	Possible complications:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inhaling tiny droplets produced when someone with contagious pulmonary tuberculosis coughs or sneezes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cough Phlegm Fatigue Fever Weight loss Sweating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pleuritis (infection of the lining of the lungs) Meningitis (infection of the lining of the brain)

TUBERCULIN SKIN TEST

The TST is used to verify whether a person has been infected with the bacteria that causes tuberculosis, or to establish a baseline for individuals who may come into contact with this bacteria in the future (e.g. healthcare workers).

The tuberculin skin test is very safe. Most reactions are harmless and do not last long.

REACTIONS	Possible reactions to the TST:	What to do:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Itching and discomfort (1-9%) at the TST site Reddening of the skin at the TST site within 12 hours (1 to 9 per 1,000) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply a cold, damp compress to the TST site Do not irritate the TST site (e.g. by washing, scratching, or vigorously wiping) or put anything on it (e.g. bandage, ointment)

Should a severe allergic reaction occur, it would begin immediately and the person giving the test will be able to treat it. That is why you are advised to remain at the clinic for at least 15 minutes after the test is administered.

For more information, ask the person doing the test or consult Info-Santé (8-1-1) or your doctor.

