

# Treatment of Tuberculosis Infection

## What does my test show?

Your tuberculosis skin test shows that you've been infected with the germ that causes tuberculosis. You became infected when you were exposed to someone who had tuberculosis. The kind of tuberculosis infection you have is a mild infection. It is not what is called "active tuberculosis," when people have symptoms such as a cough, fever, night sweats, loss of energy or appetite and weight loss. Even though you don't have symptoms, you will need to take medicine to get rid of the infection.

## How will my doctor treat the tuberculosis infection?

Your doctor will prescribe a medicine called isoniazid to prevent the tuberculosis germ from developing into active disease and making you feel sick. This medicine must be taken regularly every day for as long as your doctor recommends. Take the medicine on an empty stomach and drink a large glass of water, tea or juice with it. It is important to take all of the medicine. If you do not complete the full treatment, you will not be protected against tuberculosis.

Avoid drinking alcohol or taking acetaminophen (Tylenol) when you're taking isoniazid. Always check with your doctor before you take any other medicine because some drugs interact with isoniazid and cause side effects.

Always keep a supply of pills. Don't run out of pills—it is important that you take the pills every day for as long as your doctor says. You can get isoniazid free from your local public health department.



### Call your doctor immediately if you have any of the symptoms listed here

- Abdominal pain
- Continued loss of appetite
- Dark (coffee-colored) urine
- Fever
- Nausea
- Rash or itching
- Tingling or burning feeling in your hands or feet
- Tiredness without reason
- Vomiting
- Yellow color of eyes or skin

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This handout provides a general overview on this topic and may not apply to everyone. To find out if this handout applies to you and to get more information on this subject, talk to your family doctor.



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