

# Tuberculosis (TB)

## skin test

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### What is a TB skin test?

A TB skin test, also known as the Mantoux test or PPD, is given as a small injection under the skin on the arm. It makes a mark that looks like a mosquito bite. It is done to see if your child has been infected with the TB bacteria (germ) at some time. Tell your child's nurse or doctor if your child has had a positive TB test in the past – they may decide not to do the test again.

### What is TB?

TB, or tuberculosis, is an infection that most often starts in the lungs. It may spread to other parts of the body. Many times, TB is found by the skin test before the infection has a chance to cause serious problems.

### Why does my child need a TB skin test?

A TB skin test may be needed:

- When a child has been near someone with TB.
- As a routine test for TB at the doctor's office. There have been more cases of TB over the last several years in Georgia and the United States.
- If your child needs to take a medicine that requires TB testing. Some medicines include:
  - Infliximab (Remicade)
  - Adalimumab (Humira)
  - Anakinra (Kineret)

Your child may also be tested because they may be at high risk for TB. Children at high risk for TB should be tested every year. Children are considered to be at high risk if they:

- Have been near people who have known or suspected TB infections.
- Have weak immune systems or have HIV.
- Are from a part of the world with a lot of TB cases.
- Have cancer.
- Have diabetes.
- Have kidney failure.
- Are malnourished.
- Live in group homes.
- Have been in detention centers or prison.

**In case of an urgent concern or emergency, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency department right away.**

# TB skin test, continued

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## What do I need to do after the TB skin test?

If your child gets the TB skin test in a clinic and goes home right afterwards:

- **Have your child's test site checked by a nurse or doctor 48 to 72 hours (2 to 3 days) after the test is done.**
- You will be given a form for the nurse or doctor to complete. They must write the test results must on this form.

If your child gets the TB skin test in the hospital:

- The care team will check the results. You do not need to do anything else.
- Your county health department may be involved if your child's test is positive.
- Sometimes, a positive reaction happens as a result of something else. This is called a false positive. Your child's doctor may need to do more tests, such as a chest X-ray, to check this.

## When should I call the doctor?

Call the doctor if your child has:

- Skin irritation at the test site.
- Pain at the test site.

Also call if you have any questions or concerns.

**This teaching sheet contains general information only. Talk with your child's doctor or a member of your child's healthcare team about specific care of your child.**

**In case of an urgent concern or emergency, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency department right away.**