

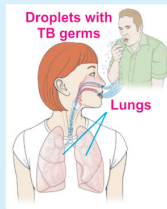
TUBERCULOSIS

What is Tuberculosis (TB)?

TB is an infectious disease caused by bacteria called *Mycobacterium Tuberculosis*. In most cases, TB infect the lungs. But it can sometimes infect other parts of the body such as brain, abdomen, bones, lymph nodes or spine.

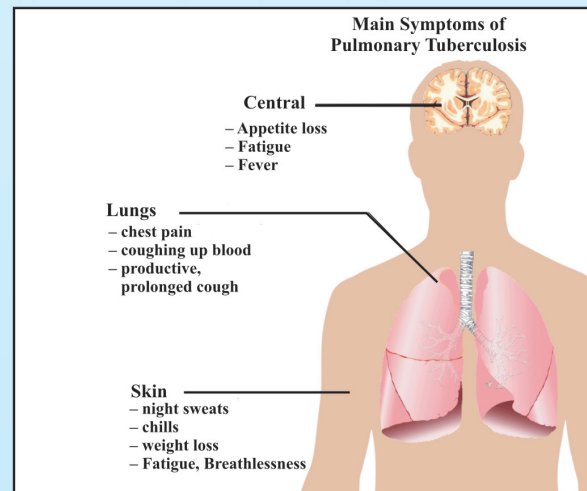
How does TB spread?

Transmission of TB occurs by airborne spread of infectious droplets. The source of infection is a person with lung TB (Pulmonary TB) who coughs, sneezes without covering mouth, or spits in an open air. TB spreads quickly indoors, particularly when there is no proper ventilation system.



What are the symptoms of TB?

If you have TB, you may have symptoms as below:



If you have 3 or 4 symptoms at one time, you need to see a doctor.

How is TB Diagnosed?

1. Symptom review
 - Cough
 - Weight loss
 - Fever, chills
2. Sputum Smear Microscopy
3. Chest X-Ray
4. Culture Testing
5. Xpert MTB/RIF Test (Gene Xpert)
6. Skin Test (Mauntoux Test)



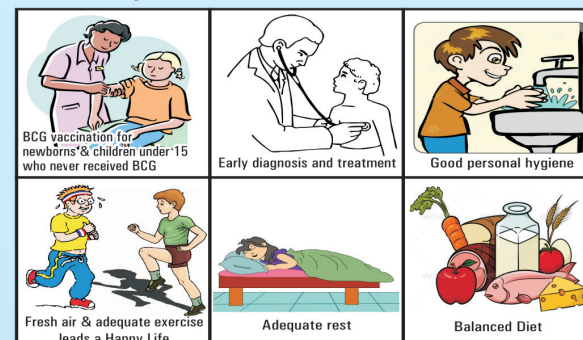
What is the difference between latent TB infection and Active TB disease?

People with latent TB infection have TB germs in their bodies, but they are not sick because the germs are not active. These people do not have symptoms of TB, and they cannot spread the germs to others. They may, however, develop TB in the future.

People with active TB are sick from TB germs that are active, meaning that the germs are multiplying and destroying tissue in their body. They usually have symptoms of TB. People with TB of the lungs or throat can spread germs to others.

Can TB disease be cured?

Yes! TB can be cured if detected early. It takes a minimum of six months to treat TB.



It is very important that you take all your medicine. If you stop taking medication too soon, the TB germs can become even stronger and can turn into a more severe form of the disease called "Multi-Drug Resistant TB (MDR-TB)".

What should I do if I have been exposed to someone with TB?

People with TB are most likely to spread the germs to people with whom they spend time every day, such as family members, friends or co-workers. If you have been around someone who has TB, you should go to the nearest Health Department or Indian Govt TB facility for check up.

What are MDR-TB AND XDR-TB?

MDR-TB refers to Multi-Drug Resistant Tuberculosis. It is caused by bacteria that are resistant to the most effective anti-TB drugs. It results from either primary infection (Patients infected with *M. tuberculosis* that is resistant to anti-TB drugs from the beginning, prior to anti-TB treatment) or may develop in the course of a patient's treatment.

XDR-TB (Extensively -Drug Resistant Tuberculosis) is a severe form of TB caused by bacteria that are resistant to Isoniazid and Rifampicin (i.e. MDR-TB) as well as any Fluoroquinolone (Levofloxacin, Moxifloxacin, Ofloxacin, etc, and any of the second-line anti-TB injectable drugs (Amikacin, Kanamycin or Capreomycin).

MDR and XDR-TB are highly severe and dangerous forms of TB which do not respond to the standard six month treatment with first-line anti-TB drugs. It can take two years or more to treat them with drugs that are less effective, more expensive and have greater side effects.