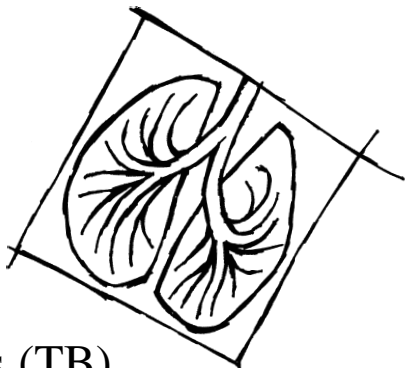


Learn About Tuberculosis Infection



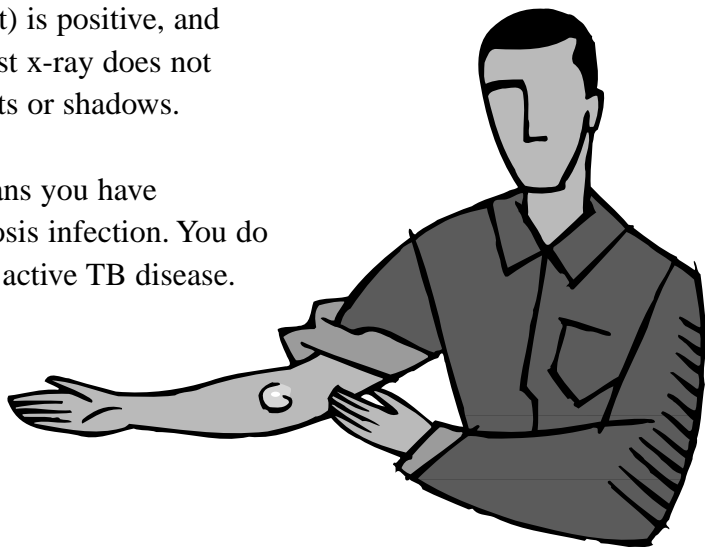
1

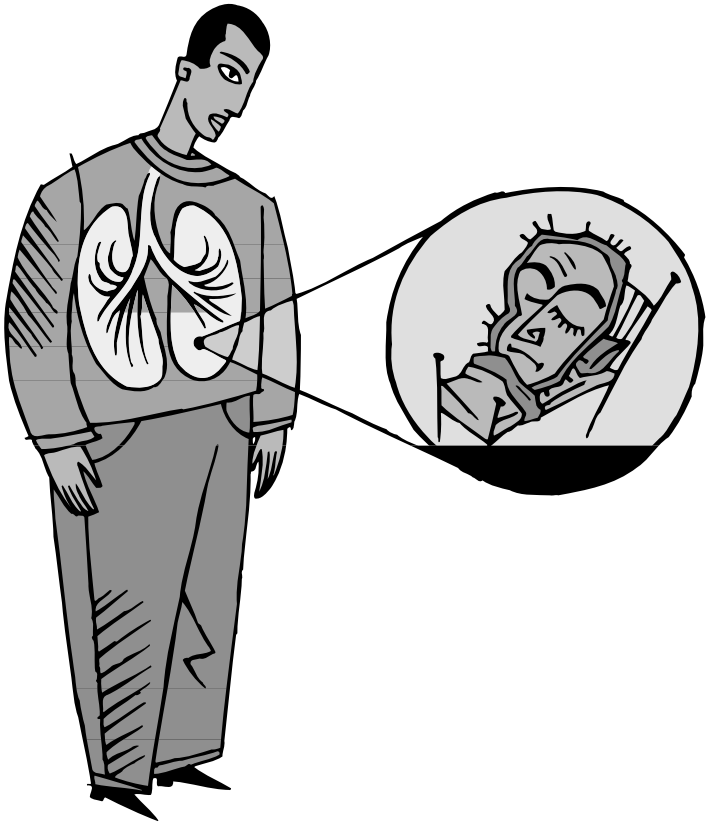


You have tuberculosis (TB) infection if:

Your tuberculosis skin test (PPD test) is positive, and your chest x-ray does not have spots or shadows.

This means you have tuberculosis infection. You do not have active TB disease.

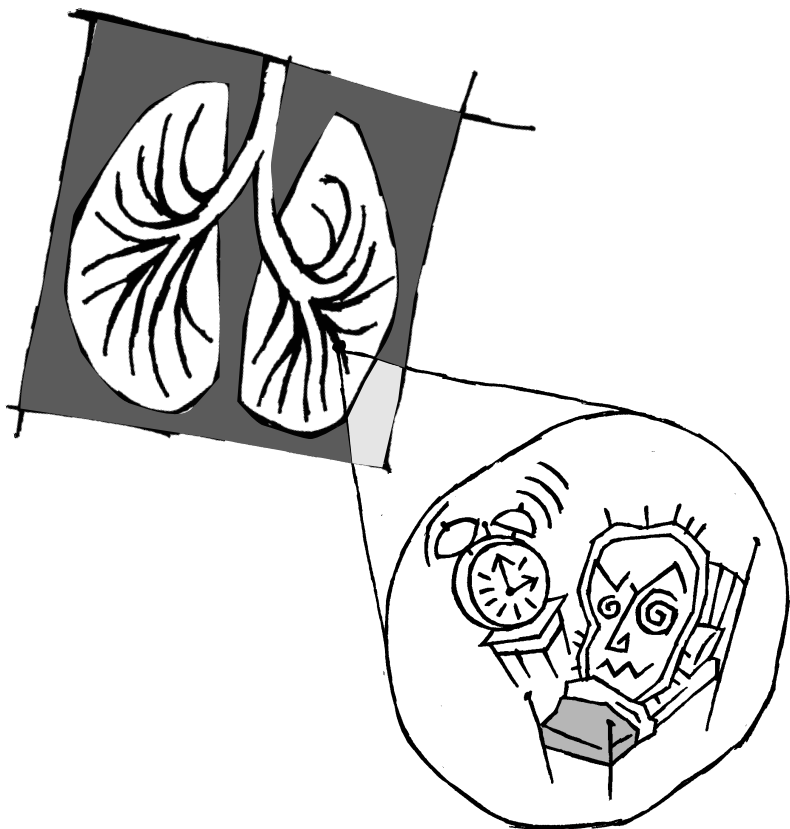




The germ that causes TB disease is in your body, but is not active. You cannot spread the germ to others.

3

You may not look or feel sick. However, the TB germ can wake up and become active at any time and make you sick from TB disease. Then, you can spread the germ to others.





Your doctor or local health department may give you medicines, called antibiotics, for your TB infection.

5

The medicines may make you feel sick. However, it is important that you take all your medicines for as long as your doctor tells you to take them. If you stop taking your medicines, your infection will not go away, and you may become even sicker.





Eat well, and get lots of rest while you are taking your medicines.

When you finish taking your medicines, you will not have TB infection. Your PPD test will always be positive, so you do not ever have to take another PPD test. You should only need a chest x-ray if you have symptoms of TB disease, like a cough, fever, or night sweats.



Notes



Your local public health department may offer
TB medicines to you and your family.
For information, call your local health department.

For more information about TB, contact the
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
National Prevention Information Network (NPIN)

1-800-458-5231



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
National Institutes of Health

NIH Publication No. 99-4545
February 2001