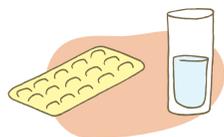


## ● Which treatment do you need to take?

### *If you have TB infection*

TB infection is not a disease so you are not sick. But the doctor may prescribe some medication because it will reduce the risk that you might develop TB disease in the future. Usually, you should take a single drug daily for 6 to 9 months.



### *If you have TB disease*

It is absolutely necessary that you receive proper treatment. Every day, for at least 6 months, you must take several drugs. If you take your treatment correctly, it is almost 100% certain that you will be cured.



## ● Contact us

### Fonds des Affections Respiratoires asbl

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Tél. : 084 32 06 40  
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#### Centre de prévention de la tuberculose de Namur et du Brabant Wallon

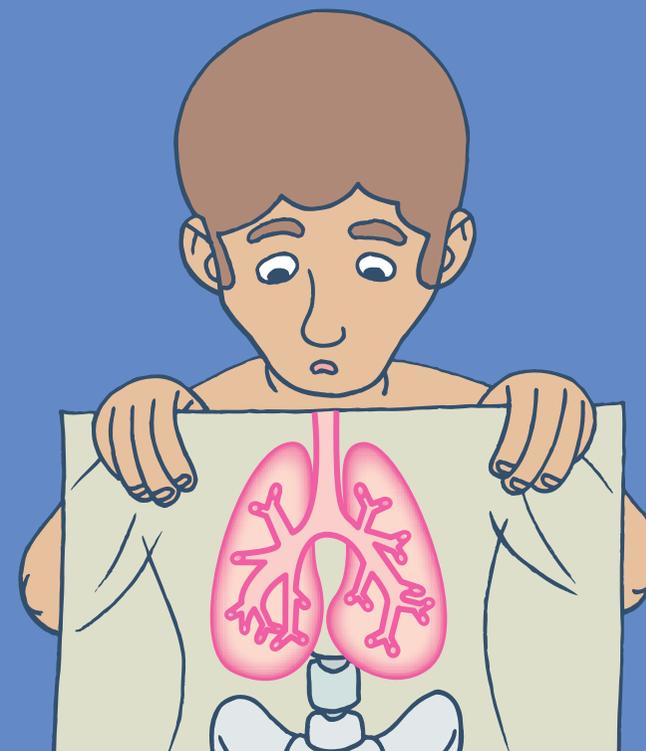
Tél. : 081 77 51 02  
cpt.namur-brabantwallon@fares.be

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# What do you know about... Tuberculosis?

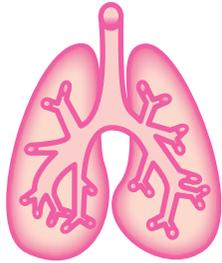
Version anglaise



# What do you know about...Tuberculosis?

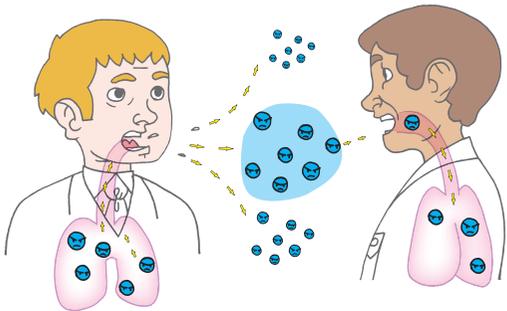
## ● What is tuberculosis?

Tuberculosis, or TB, is a disease caused by a **microbe**, the Koch bacillus (**KB**). TB most often attacks the lungs, but other parts of the body such as the bones, the intestines, the kidneys or the brain can be affected as well.



## ● Who can get TB?

TB is a **contagious** disease. The TB bacilli are present in the lungs of a person with TB. When such a person coughs or sneezes or speaks, the bacilli are ejected in the air. If somebody else inhales that air, the bacilli are inhaled at the same time.



This means that anybody can become **infected** with the TB bacillus. But some people will run a higher **risk** of infection than others. The risk is highest if you have frequent and close contact with people with TB. This will depend on your way of living and the work you do.

## ● What is the difference between TB infection and TB disease?

When you inhale the TB bacilli, they arrive in the lungs. The defence mechanisms in your body attack the bacilli, and most often they will be eliminated.

If the bacilli remain in your body, they usually are "asleep". This means that they are not dangerous. You have a **TB infection**, but you are not sick. You do not have TB disease and you are not contagious.

It is possible, however, that the defence mechanisms in your body are not strong enough, for instance if you are old or very young or weakened by other diseases. If that happens, the TB bacilli will wake up. They will start multiplying and you will get **TB disease**.

If you have TB disease that attacks the lungs, you may present the following signs:

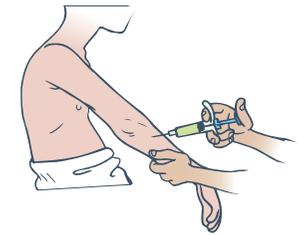
- **COUGH**
- **COUGHING UP SPUTUM** (sometimes bloody)
- **TIREDSNESS**
- **FEVER**
- **NIGHT SWEATING**
- **WEIGHT LOSS**



**If you suffer from any of these, go and see your doctor without delay.**

## ● How can TB infection be detected?

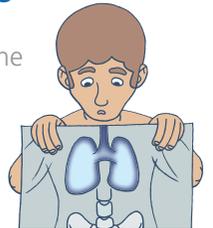
An injection of **tuberculin** under the skin is the only way to find out if you have been infected with the TB bacillus. If TB infection is present, a reaction in the skin at the injection site will appear after 3 to 5 days. This test is called the **tuberculin skin test**.



If the test is positive, you need to have a chest X-ray to make sure you do not have TB disease.

## ● How can TB disease be diagnosed?

In order to diagnose TB disease in the lungs, the most useful tests are the chest X-ray and the examination of the sputum to look for the presence of TB bacilli.



## ● Who needs to be checked for TB?

- **People who have regular contact with a contagious TB patient**

Usually, they will be checked through a tuberculin skin test.

- **People at risk**

Depending on the situation, they will be checked either through a chest X-ray or a tuberculin skin test. These examinations must be repeated periodically and systematically.