

Reproductive System

Female: TB in a woman's reproductive organs most often affects the uterus. Germs reach the uterus through the blood. Usual findings include pain in the lower part of the stomach, stopping or change in monthly bleeding, mild fever and weight loss. Sometimes the tubes become permanently sealed, making women unable to have children.

Male: TB germs in the urine or the blood cause a firm, sometimes enlarged and lumpy prostate gland. There may be no symptoms, or an aching feeling in the lower pelvic region with urination. Other parts, such as the seminal vesicles – saclike glands behind the bladder that make fluid to become semen – and tubes, or the epididymis – long tube carrying sperm, may become diseased.

Other Areas Where TB May Occur

TB may attack the lining of the lung (pleurisy) or heart (pericarditis). Fluid may collect and most often must be removed by a needle. TB germs may also cause ear and eye infection as well as affect almost any other organ, but these conditions are rare.

What Should I do If I Have TB Infection or Disease?

Get follow-up tests. Follow your doctor's advice and take the medicine as ordered. Today, TB is easily prevented or cured with medication.

Other Facts About Treatment

Whenever tuberculosis occurs, it is necessary to find it early and start treatment right away. In all TB, early treatment is most important, not only to maintain the general health of the body, but to prevent possible destruction of vital organs.

TB treatment is for at least six months with several kinds of antibiotics taken at the same time. Resistant forms of TB can require several years of treatment, but these strains are uncommon in the U.S.

Adapted from brochure prepared by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

County of San Diego
Health and Human Services Agency
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www.sandiegotbcontrol.org

You may qualify for Medi-Cal benefits.

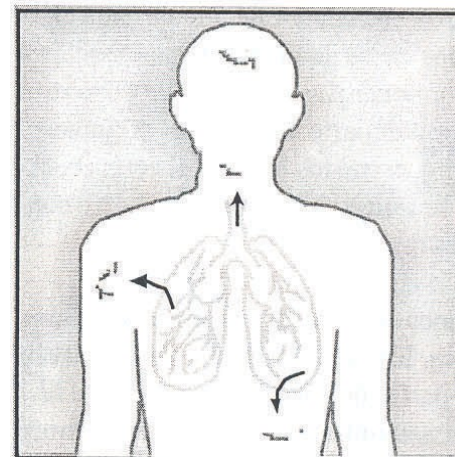
People with TB infection or TB disease may also qualify for TB-Cal. To find out about your eligibility and to request an information packet and application, please call 1-866-262-9881.

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County of San Diego
Tuberculosis Control &
Refugee Health Program

TUBERCULOSIS



Outside the Lungs

TB Outside the Lungs

Tuberculosis (TB) is a contagious disease caused by a germ, the tubercle bacteria.

TB most commonly attacks the lungs. Yet it may be found in other parts of your body.

In this country, about one out of five new cases of TB is located outside the lungs. TB can be in almost any part of the body. Some parts – the bones, brain, lymphatic and digestive systems (as well as the lungs) are more affected than other parts.

TB germs are breathed into the lungs. They enter the lung and spread to many other parts of the body through the blood. Fighter cells destroy most TB germs that enter the body, but some live. These germs may cause immediate trouble or they may be locked in by scar tissue. While locked-in germs usually remain under control, sometimes they break out and cause active disease years later.

Miliary TB

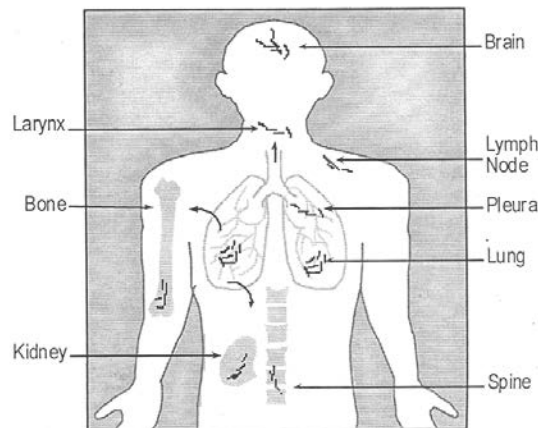
If a large number of TB germs escape into the blood, active TB disease may develop rapidly and show up in many organs at the same time, known as disseminated or miliary TB.

Kidneys

Kidney disease usually progresses slowly, but can become serious. Symptoms can include frequent urination or blood in the urine, fever for no reason or loss of weight. Both kidneys can be involved or it may affect only one.

Nervous System

TB germs may be carried through the blood to the brain and coverings of the nervous system (called TB meningitis), which is very dangerous. Symptoms of TB meningitis include headache, stiffness of the neck and fever. Confusion, paralysis and death may follow if it is not treated. This is very dangerous to younger children. Medicine works well if started early enough.



Common sites of TB Disease

Bones and Joints

TB germs that spread to the bones and joints may cause disease years later. The germs most often attack the spine, less often the hip, knee, foot, ankle and other sites. If TB does develop in the bones and joints, it can cause permanent damage if not treated.

Digestive System

TB may affect many parts of the digestive system, but most often occurs in the intestines or lining of the abdomen. Medicine usually results in rapid improvement. Symptoms include abdominal pain and weight loss.

Lymphatic System

The lymphatic system consists of a group of vessels and organs, which act to drain and clean infection from the body. The lymph nodes may control the TB germs, but it is possible for the germs to break out. If they do, the TB germs can spread to other parts of the body or cause disease in the lymph node.

The lymph nodes in the neck are the ones that are most often affected. The person usually finds the disease by feeling the enlarged and tender lumps on the side of his or her neck.
