

TUBERCULIN OR MANTOUX SKIN TEST

TUBERCULOSIS (TB) is an infectious disease caused by mycobacterium tuberculosis. Usually it is asymptomatic or latent. Symptomatic TB usually involves the lung, though occasionally other parts of the body may be affected. A TB chest infection is usually associated with a cough, fatigue, loss of appetite, possibly bloody sputum, night sweats and eventually weight loss. Initial treatment involves isolation and usually three different anti tuberculosis drugs administered at the same time. A hospital employee may not work until any possibility of contagion to fellow staff and patients has disappeared. The Ontario government requires all hospital employees be tested on hiring by either Mantoux skin testing or a chest x-ray to determine whether or not they have tuberculosis. Employees whose first Mantoux tests are read negative may have a second test about three weeks later. Annual surveillance may continue in some circumstances.

A **MANTOUX TEST** is performed by intradermal injection of 0.1 ml of Purified Protein Derivative into the volar forearm. Two days later it is observed to determine whether or not there is any reaction to the protein. If swelling or induration is noted, its diameter is then measured. The test is considered to be positive when the induration diameter $>10\text{mm}$, when there is blistering or when there has been a change of $> 5 \text{ mm}$ diameter in the preceding year. Blistering occurs in 3-4% of positive cases.

POSSIBLE REACTIONS to the Mantoux test are redness, swelling or blistering. Redness without swelling may be a reaction to the serum in which the Purified Protein Derivative is suspended in rather than to exposure to the TB bacillus. An asymptomatic employee does not have active TB. Most people have no reaction to Mantoux testing.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

Mantoux testing should not be performed if it has previously produced severe blistering reactions, nor if you have had TB nor if you have extensive burns or eczema of the skin. If you have a fever > 38.5 degrees or have had a live virus vaccination such as Measles, Mumps and Rubella or Yellow Fever within the past month, the testing should be deferred.

CONSENT

I have read the information above and understand the risks and benefits involved in Mantoux testing. I have had the opportunity to ask questions. There is no reason why a Mantoux test cannot be administered to me. I consent to receive up to two Mantoux skin tests.

Name _____ Signature _____
Date _____ Date _____