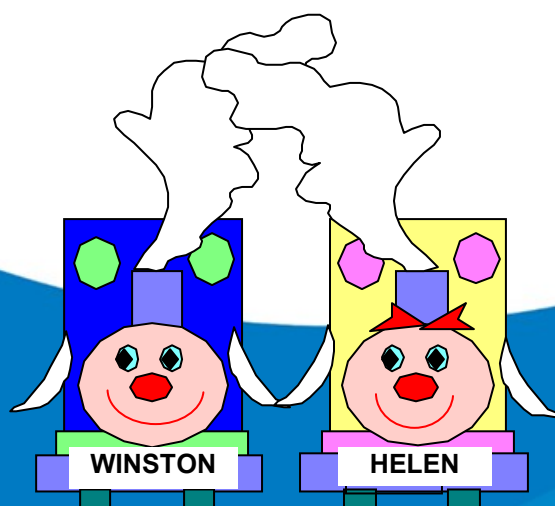


Skin Test for Tuberculosis (Mantoux)

This leaflet can be made available
in alternative languages / formats on request.

*如有需要，本传单可提供其他语言/版式
此單張的其他語言/格式版本可按要求提供*

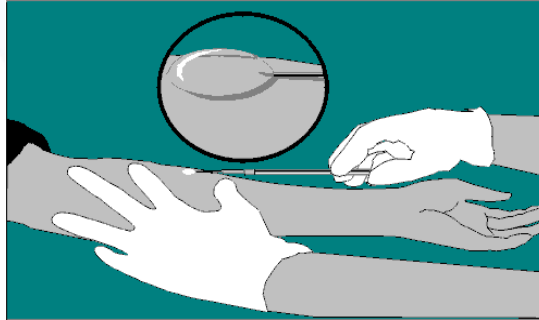
Na żądanie ta ulotka może zostać udostępniona
w innych językach/formatach.



Nature and reasons for the test

This test is called the **Mantoux Skin Test**. It is used to see if a person has been infected with the bacteria that causes **tuberculosis (TB)**. It is carried out by giving a small injection under the skin, usually on the inside of the left forearm. The test results will be able to tell the difference between human tuberculosis infection, and infection caused by a bacteria found in the environment. The bacteria infection can cause swollen lymph glands (lumps) in young children. This form of bacteria is not spread from person to person and does not make you or your child sick.

Injection under the skin, causing a small raised bubble on the surface.



Results of the test

A positive reaction is measured by the size of the lump (induration) that forms where the injection was given. The lump develops over a period of 2-3 days.

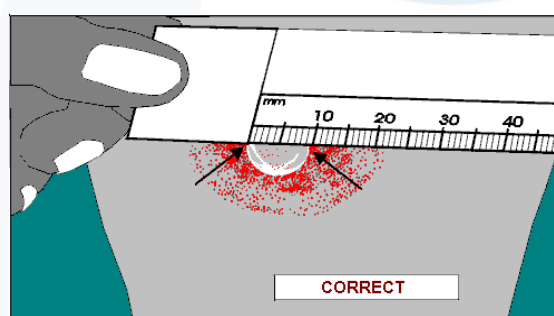
Your child may have a positive skin test reaction if they:

- Have had tuberculosis before and have been cured
- Have been exposed to the tuberculosis bacteria or have been immunised for tuberculosis (BCG)
- Have tuberculosis

A negative result may be incorrect (false negative) if your child is:

- Taking medicine to lower the immunity e.g. steroids or chemotherapy drugs.
- Has a viral illness e.g. measles, mumps or rubella
- Has recently been vaccinated with live viruses
- Is very sick

Figure 2 – How we measure the result of the Mantoux test



After the test

If your child has a Mantoux test, you will need to come back to the hospital in two or three days to have the result assessed. **Scratching the test site may cause an infection, so it is best not to touch the area if possible.** The doctor or nurse who gave the injection usually draws a circle around the area injected for ease of identification when you return for the results.

- It is helpful if you do not wash this circle off
- Do not cover the area with a plaster or dressing
- Do not apply any medication to the area.

Your child may continue to do all their usual activities, playing sports, having a shower and going to school.

If you have had a positive Mantoux test before, or have been immunised for TB, please inform the person reading the test results. If you have any questions you should ask the person doing the test.

A positive test does not necessarily mean your child has tuberculosis

Risks and discomforts

The test causes slight discomfort. It is very simple and quick if there has been enough preparation and your child is co-operative and can be distracted. Although rare, the area may get itchy and develop small blisters around the injection site.

If these occur, please do not break or touch them

As with any medication that is injected, a severe reaction may occur to the Tuberculin. This is very rare. If this happens, your child will be given the appropriate treatment.

Alternatives to the treatment

There are no alternatives to this test; if this test is not carried out the consultant treating your child may not have all the required information to be able to manage your child's condition correctly, which may affect recovery. The test is only done if necessary.

If you have any further questions, please contact your child's consultant via their secretary via the hospital switchboard. The secretaries are available Monday to Friday, 9.00 am to 5.00 pm

If you need to contact the department outside of these hours, please phone either:

Ward 3F 0151 430 1616

Ward 4F 0151 430 1791

Whiston Hospital
Warrington Road,
Prescot, Merseyside, L35 5DR
Telephone: 0151 426 1600

 /sthknhs  @sthk.nhs

www.sthk.nhs.uk