

INFORMATIONSBLAD

Patientinformation från Sveriges smittskyddsläkare
Engelska – Latent tuberkulosinfektion – när behandling ges

Latent tuberculosis infection – when treatment is provided

Patient information from the Swedish Association of County Medical Officers.

Why have I received this information?

A test has shown that you have latent tuberculosis infection. Your doctor's assessment is that you need treatment to reduce the risk of developing tuberculosis later on.

Here, we explain what you need to keep in mind.

What is latent tuberculosis infection?

Latent tuberculosis infection means that you have been infected with tuberculosis bacteria, but have not fallen ill. When someone is infected with tuberculosis bacteria, the body's immune system reacts and this can be measured with a blood or skin test. While most people who are infected remain healthy, there is a small risk of developing tuberculosis later in life.

The risk of falling ill later is highest among those who have been infected recently, those who are pregnant, newborns, children, adolescents and people with a weakened immune system due to illness or medication.

Is latent tuberculosis infection contagious?

No, latent tuberculosis infection is not contagious. Tuberculosis can only be spread when a person is ill with tuberculosis of the lungs.

Do I need treatment for latent tuberculosis infection?

Yes, your doctor's assessment is that you need treatment to reduce the risk of developing tuberculosis later on.

What should I keep in mind?

There is no way to check that all the bacteria are gone after treatment, and you can get infected again in the future.

If in the future you develop long-term (lasting more than three weeks) symptoms such as a cough, fever, night sweats or unintentional weight loss, you must see a doctor. Explain that you have previously been treated for latent tuberculosis infection.

Contact details (Kontaktuppgifter)

Clinic (Mottagning).....

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Phone (Telefon).....