

Caring for your Child

When to be Concerned about TB

Tuberculosis (TB) is a very serious infection that usually affects the chest but can also cause disease in the brain, heart, stomach, intestines or bones. Anyone can get TB – children or adults. Children who get TB can become sick very quickly and the TB can spread easily to different parts of their body.

HIV-positive people have a greater chance of getting TB but HIV-negative people can get TB, too. It is very easy to transmit TB, so if your child has come into contact with someone who has TB, he/she should be tested for TB as soon as possible. TB will cause death, if left untreated.

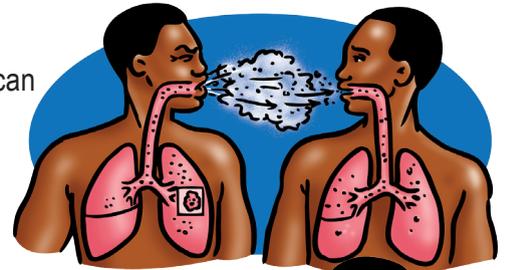
Take your child to your local clinic immediately if he/she has any of the following problems:

- Cough for more than 2 weeks
- Weight loss or poor growth
- Tiredness or not as playful as normal
- Fever for more than 2 weeks
- Contact with someone who has TB (especially someone living in the same household)

At the clinic your nurse will ask you questions and examine your child. The nurse may also do a TB skin test or a chest X-ray. This will help the nurse to decide whether your child has TB.

If your child has TB, he/she will need TB medicine that must be taken every day for 6 months.

If there is someone in the household with TB, make sure all children are screened for TB at the clinic, even if the children seem healthy or do not have any symptoms. If your child is under 5 or HIV-positive, ask your nurse whether your child needs TB preventative medicine.



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