## WHAT IS A CONTACT INVESTIGATION?

People in the vicinity of a patient with contagious pulmonary tuberculosis are examined to see if they have been infected by the patient or if they themselves are ill. The investigation involves a **tuberculin skin test or a chest x-ray**.

People in the vicinity of a patient also have to be investigated so as to discover the source of the infection.





Talk to your doctor.

Visit www.zorg-en-gezondheid.be or contact the agency "Zorg en Gezondheid" in your province:

\ Antwerp: 03 224 62 04 \ Limburg: 011 74 22 40

East Flanders: 09 276 13 80
 Flemish Brabant: 016 66 63 50
 West Flanders: 050 24 79 00

Visit **www.vrgt.be** or get in touch with the Flemish "Vereniging voor Respiratoire Gezondheidszorg en Tuberculosebestrijding" (Association for Respiratory Health Care and Tuberculosis) (VRGT) in your province:

\ Antwerp:

Berchem: 03 287 80 10 - Turnhout: 014 41 13 62

\ Limburg: 011 22 10 33

East Flanders: 09 225 22 58
 Flemish Brabant: 016 33 25 25
 West Flanders: 059 70 26 85

Uit het Nederlands vertaalde folder die ook in het Nederlands te verkrijgen is via bovenstaande contactgegevens.

Agentschap Zorg en Gezondheid Koning Albert II-laan 35 bus 33 1030 BRUSSEL

www.zorg-en-gezondheid.be





# **TUBERCULIN SKIN TEST**

for the detection of tuberculosis

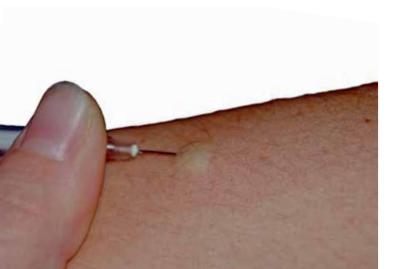
AGENTSCHAP
ZORG & GEZONDHEID

A tuberculin skin test (Mantoux test or intradermal test) is carried out to show if you are infected with the tubercle bacillus (Koch's bacillus), which causes tuberculosis. Commonly taking the form of pulmonary tuberculosis, the disease sometimes also affects the kidneys, bones, brain, glands and other organs.

## **HOW IS THE TEST PERFORMED?**

A small quantity of fluid (tuberculin) is injected into the skin of a person's forearm. The result is checked a couple of days after the test.

The tuberculin skin test is not dangerous and may also be performed on young children or pregnant women.



### THE RESULT IS NEGATIVE

If a check of the test result **fails to show a clear reaction** on your arm this generally means that you are probably not infected with the tubercle bacillus.

Sometimes a control test has to be carried out after two months.

#### THE RESULT IS UNCERTAIN

If the reaction is a **small raised area** that is palecolouredon your arm, it is not clear whether you or infected or not.

When there is any uncertainty about the result it always has to be carried out again (generally after two months).

## THE RESULT IS POSITIVE

If the reaction takes the form of a raised hardened area of the skin, this means you are infected.

In the case of a positive tuberculin skin test you will have a **chest x-ray** to see if tuberculosis has developed If the x-ray is normal, you are infected but not ill and nor are you contagious to others.

In certain cases it is advisable to take one medicine for six to nine months, thereby reducing the risk of developing tuberculosis later on by about 80%.

Should the chest x-ray reveal tuberculosis lesions, you will be required to start a treatment. Three or more medicinal products then have to be taken very regularly for at least six months.

