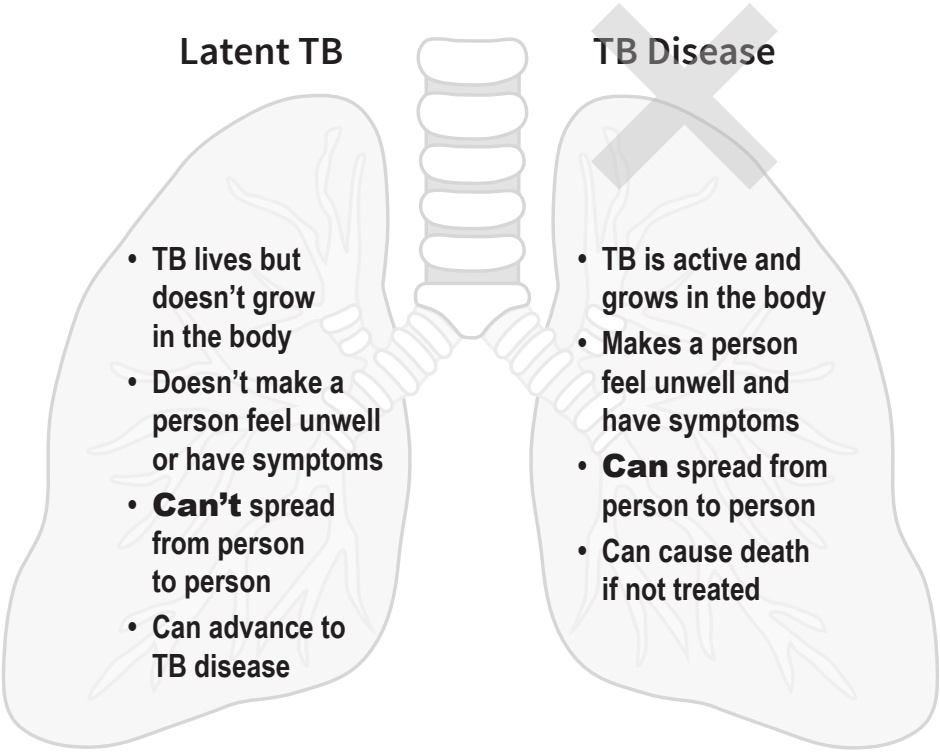
NHS
Greater Glasgow and Clyde

Information about

Latent Tuberculosis

(English)



What is Latent Tuberculosis (TB)?

Latent TB is when the TB germs are present in your body but you do not have active TB.

- Although the TB germs are inside your body, your immune system is keeping them under control.
- You will not have any symptoms or feel unwell.
- You cannot pass the TB germs onto anyone else.

Latent TB can also be called TB infection or Dormant TB or Inactive TB.

How do you diagnose Latent TB?

There are various tests which may include a tuberculin skin test and, or a blood test to confirm Latent TB.

Why Treat Latent TB?

- Latent TB needs to be treated to prevent you developing active TB in the future.
- Usually the body's immune system destroys the germs once they have been inhaled. However, if the body's immune system is weakened, it may not manage to keep the TB germs under control. This allows the TB germs to become active.

What is the Treatment?

The treatment for latent TB is usually two antibiotics given together in one tablet every day for 3 months.

TB germs are killed very slowly so it is very important to complete the full course of antibiotic treatment. Not completing the course could put you at risk of developing active TB in the future.

You will need a blood test to check that your liver is working normally before and during the treatment.



Rifinah 150/100mg



Rifinah 300/150mg



Pyridoxine
Vitamin B6

Are There Side Effects?

While you are taking the antibiotics, you may notice that your urine; bowels motions; tears or sweat may have a red or orange colour. This is a harmless side effect.
Soft contact lenses may discolour.

The antibiotics can make the contraceptive 'pill' and other contraception less effective. This means that you will also need to use a reliable barrier method, such as condoms.
Please discuss this with your family planning clinic, doctor or a pharmacist.

Please tell your GP, if you experience:

- Nausea or vomiting
- Jaundice (yellowing of the white part of the eye or skin)
- Persisting rash or itch
- Fever
- Tingling of fingers and toes

Remember

- You must take the antibiotics every day, 30 minutes before breakfast
- Do not miss a dose
- Avoid alcohol
- Try to attend all clinic appointments

Avoid

You should not use sun beds during your treatment. Please use a high factor sun cream when your skin is exposed to strong sunlight. (Some anti-tuberculosis tablets can make your skin more sensitive to the sun's rays.)

Further Information:

If you need more information or advice contact your local TB Nurse:

Glasgow Royal Infirmary

Glasgow and Clyde East and North
☎ 0141 201 3900
Mon - Thurs 9am - 6pm (Fri 4:30pm)

Gartnavel General Hospital

Glasgow and Clyde West
☎ 0141 232 2161
Mon - Wed 8am - 4pm

Queen Elizabeth University Hospital

Glasgow and Clyde South
☎ 0141 451 5862
Mon - Thurs 8am - 4pm

New Victoria Hospital

Glasgow and Clyde South West
☎ 0141 345 8846
Tue - Fri 9am - 4pm