



Window treatment after exposure to tuberculosis

Information for parents/guardians

Children less than 5 years of age or those who are immunocompromised are at high risk of rapidly developing severe forms of tuberculosis (TB) disease after infection.



Preventative medication called window treatment is given following exposure to prevent early infection and progression to TB.

What happens before my child starts window treatment?

If your child has been exposed to TB, they will be seen by a doctor who will ask about TB symptoms and do a physical examination.

Your child will have some tests, such as a skin test (Mantoux), a blood test (Quantiferon) and an x-ray of the chest.

Symptoms of TB disease in children include:



A persistent cough



Weight loss or poor weight gain



Reduced playfulness, fatigue, or increased tiredness



Fever



Night sweats



Why does my child need medication if the first TB tests are negative?

It can take some time after exposure for TB infection tests to become positive or symptoms of TB disease to develop.

Window treatment gives protection to your child until it is known for sure if they have been infected.

Why are the TB tests done again in 8 to 10 weeks?



If infection with TB has occurred it can take several weeks for the body to show a response in tests.



Repeating the TB test in 8 to 10 weeks shows if infection has occurred and medication needs to be continued.



If there is no infection, then the medication can be stopped.

Why does my older child not need to have window treatment?

Children older than 5 years are less likely to quickly develop severe TB disease after being infected.



The information provided is for information purposes only. If you are a patient using this publication, you should seek assistance from a healthcare professional when interpreting these materials and applying them to your individual circumstances.



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