

TUBERCULIN SKIN TESTING

What is it ?

It is a skin test for diagnosing infection by the TB germ.

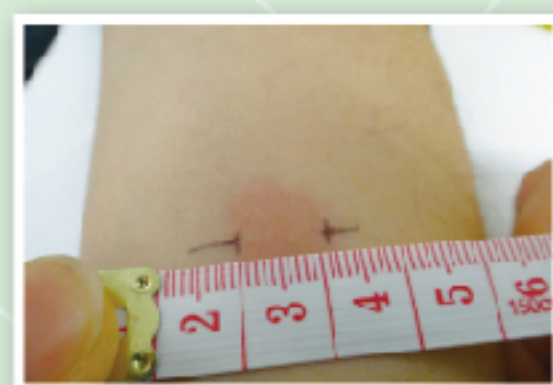
How is the TST Administered ?

A small amount of purified protein derivative extracted from the TB germ is injected into the skin of the inner forearm.



How is the TST Read ?

Skin test should be read 48-72 hours after the injection. The site would be assessed for the size of the induration (localized swelling).



Note: False positive and false negative reactions may occur under certain conditions.

How are the TST Reactions Interpreted ?

- **Positive Reaction**
suggests the presence of infection with TB germ.
- **Negative Reaction**
suggests the absence of infection.

What to Do with a Positive Reaction ?

Preventive treatment can substantially reduce the risk of developing disease. Unless disease has already developed, or the risk of treatment outweighs that of developing disease, preventive treatment is generally recommended.

How to Care for the TST Injection Site ?

- Keep the test site clean.
- Do not scratch the site.
- Do not cover the site with any dressing / cream or ointment.
- A swelling may develop at the injection site, but it should disappear in around two weeks.