

What kind of prevention actions?

The screening:

It is suggested by the local centre of fight against tuberculosis:

- to people who travel a lot,
- in some collectivities,
- around a declared case of tuberculosis.

Vaccination:

The BCG vaccination remains recommended for high-risk children.

This vaccine does not provide 100 % protection but it allows avoiding serious types of tuberculosis among children, such as meningitis.

For more information, you can contact the Centre of fight against tuberculosis (CLAT) of your area



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tuberculose

TUBERCULOSIS

A topical infectious disease

It is transmitted through the air
One can be contagious without knowing it
It can be cured with adapted antibiotics



What is tuberculosis ?

It is an infectious disease caused by a germ: the Koch's Bacillus (KB)

This disease particularly reaches the lungs (80 % of the cases) but it can also reach other organs: the swollen glands, the bones, the kidneys, the genital organs, the brain...

- the swollen glands
- the bones
- the kidneys
- the genital organs
- the brain

What are the signs ?

- Sometimes, there are no sign,
- Sometimes, a persistent cough,
- Sometimes, fever,
- Sometimes, sweats at night,
- Sometimes, weight loss,
- Sometimes, great fatigue,
- Sometimes, spits streaked with blood.

The beginning of the disease is progressive, the development is slow, on several weeks.

How is the germ transmitted ?

It is while coughing, spitting, sneezing, singing or simply talking that a tuberculosis patient transmits the bacilli.

These germs stay present and invisible in the environment air.

The contamination is increased by the duration and the frequency of contacts.

The longer and more frequent a contact with a contagious patient is, the higher the risk to be infected is.

The risk is higher among children and elderly people.

Tuberculosis can be treated !

This disease is well treated, with total healing if the treatment is strictly followed.

Several antibiotics have to be taken every day, for at least 6 months.

If you stop your treatment too early, you expose yourself to a relapse, you become contagious again and you could develop a resistance to the antibiotics.

How is the diagnosis made ?

- By questioning or medical examination
- By an intradermal tuberculin test: the Tubertest
- By a pulmonary x-ray photograph
- By the research of the tuberculous bacillus in a sputum: spit most of the time, urine, swollen gland...