

Important:

If you have LTBI or TB disease, get tested for HIV. If you have HIV, get tested for TB.

TUBERCULOSIS AND HIV/AIDS

What is HIV/AIDS?

HIV is an infection that weakens the immune system (your body's defences). The advanced stage of HIV is called Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

HIV can be spread by:

- having sex without a condom (vaginal, oral or anal)
- sharing needles and/or syringes, or using non-sterile equipment for tattooing, electrolysis, piercing or acupuncture
- an untreated, infected mother to her unborn, newborn or breastfed baby

What is TB/HIV Co-Infection?

When a person is infected with both TB and HIV, it is called TB/HIV co-infection. The two diseases are a very serious combination because they cause more harm together than either disease does alone.

How Does HIV Infection Affect TB?

HIV weakens the immune system and makes it easier for a person to become infected with TB germs or to develop active TB disease. HIV infection is the most serious risk factor for causing latent TB infection (LTBI) to progress to active TB disease.

Why is it Important to Treat People who have TB/HIV Co-Infection?

People who have both TB and HIV infections are up to 50 times more likely to develop active TB disease in their lifetime, than people who don't have HIV. TB germs speed up the progress of AIDS. TB is the most common cause of death among people with HIV/AIDS, accounting for approximately one-third of the world's AIDS deaths each year. For some people with HIV infection, TB may be the first serious disease they develop.

Can I Receive Treatment for TB and HIV at the Same Time?

People with HIV and TB can be treated for both diseases at the same time. This requires close follow-up by a doctor who specializes in treating infectious diseases.