

TREATMENT OF TB DISEASE

TB disease can be treated and cured by taking a combination of several medicines for six months or longer. How long you are on treatment depends on where the TB is in your body, how sick you are and whether the TB germs are resistant to any TB medicine. You will have regular appointments with your TB doctor or nurse and they will send you for blood tests, X-rays or other tests to monitor how the TB medicine is working and to watch for serious side-effects.

You will be isolated to protect others from the TB germs if the TB is in your lungs, pleura or throat. Usually you can be isolated at home, but sometimes you may need to go into the hospital.

A Public Health Nurse will visit to teach you and your family about TB, TB medicine and their side-effects. The Public Health Nurse will supervise your case until you are finished your treatment. Directly Observed Therapy (DOT) may be arranged to help you take your TB medicine correctly, watch for side-effects and help you attend all your medical appointments and tests.

Important:

- Tell your doctor:
 - about all the medicine, supplements and herbal products you take
 - if you are allergic to any medicine or food
 - about all your health problems, such as diabetes, kidney failure, liver disease, hepatitis, thyroid disease, eye problems, gout, arthritis, HIV/AIDS, etc.
 - if you were given treatment for TB in another province or country, or if you were ever given antibiotics for a long period of time
 - if you are pregnant or breastfeeding, or if you are planning to get pregnant
- Prevent pregnancy while taking TB medicine
- Attend all medical appointments – you need to be monitored regularly by your doctor while taking TB medicine
- Have all medical tests done when ordered – this includes blood tests to ensure your liver is healthy and chest X-rays if the TB is in your lungs
- Before starting any other medicine, supplements or herbal remedies, you should check with your doctor or pharmacist to ensure it is safe to take them while on TB medicine