Title: Tuberculosis and the Mantoux Test: What you need to know

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Abstract:
This patient education brochure informs people about the utility of the Mantoux test as a diagnostic tool for investigation of Tuberculosis. It also informs them about the means of administration of the test and gives general guidelines that explain test results. Additionally, it explains the possibility of the BCG vaccine as a possible confound while interpreting test results.

This document was created by a medical student enrolled in the Primary Care Clerkship at the University of Minnesota Medical School as part of the course project. The aim of the project is to present information on a medical topic in the format of a patient education handout. It does not necessarily reflect the views of the University of Minnesota Medical School physicians and faculty. These materials are provided for informational
Will BCG Vaccination affect the Mantoux Test?

- Certain foreign countries continue to administer the Bacille Calmette Guerin (BCG) vaccination to protect against TB. There is evidence that this might lead to a wheal of 10 mm or more, but less than 15 mm, in subjects with no known TB exposure or symptoms, if the vaccine was administered less than 15 years prior to administration of the Mantoux test.
- However, it is recommended that even BCG vaccinated subjects with a positive Mantoux test consult with a physician to rule out the possibility of having a latent TB infection.

http://www.cdc.gov/tb/default.htm

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What is the Mantoux Test?
The Mantoux test, also known as the Purified Protein Derivative (PPD) test, or the tuberculin sensitivity test (TST), is used throughout the United States as a tool for diagnosing Tuberculosis or TB.

Who should get the Mantoux test?
The Mantoux test is primarily used to test people with suspected TB. Thus is used to investigate contacts of patients who have known TB. However, it is also used in targeted testing for high risk people such as doctors, nurses, other healthcare personnel, and immigrants from regions with a high incidence of TB.

How is it administered?
The test is an intra-dermal injection of one-tenth of a milliliter of Tuberculin, which is a sterile extract of proteins from the bacterium that causes TB. The size of the skin wheal caused by the injection is measured by a qualified health care worker 48 - 72 hours after administration of the test.

What do results mean?
A positive Mantoux test indicates a TB diagnosis. A person’s risk factors for TB indicate what size wheal constitutes a positive test.
- 5 mm or more is positive in:
  - HIV-positive subjects
  - Recent known TB contacts
  - Subjects with certain chest x-ray findings
  - Immunosuppressed patients
- 10 mm or more is positive in:
  - Recent immigrants (<5 years) from high risk countries
  - Injectable drug users
  - Residents and employees of congregate settings i.e. nursing homes, prisons, hospitals etc.
  - Subjects with certain medical conditions like Diabetes, certain cancers etc.
  - Mycobacteriology lab personnel
  - Children less than 4 years
- 15 mm or more is positive in:
  - Persons with no known risk factors for TB
purposes only and are in no way intended to take the place of the advice and recommendations of your personal health care provider. The information provided may no longer be up to date since it has not been reviewed since the date of creation. The information provided should not be used to diagnose a health problem or disease, or as a means of determining treatment. In the event of a medical emergency, immediately contact a doctor or call 911.