

Mantoux Test

About your Test

- Please phone the laboratory for an appointment.
- The Mantoux Test is used to identify present or past Tuberculosis (TB) infection. It may also be positive if you have had a BCG vaccination at some time in the past, although many people who have had a BCG have a negative Mantoux reaction, especially if vaccinated more than 5 years earlier. The test is more commonly used to determine who needs to have a BCG.
- The test is performed by injecting tuberculin just under the surface of the skin of the mid-forearm.
- You will be asked to return 72 hours later for the degree of reaction to be measured.
- Reactivity to the tuberculin may be depressed if you have a viral infection (measles, mumps, rubella, influenzae), or have recently been vaccinated against a viral infection.
- The test should not be performed if you have eczema or skin rashes, if you are known to have current active tuberculosis, or if you are immunosuppressed. This will be discussed prior to any testing being carried out.

Test Procedure

1. You will be asked several questions relating to your medical history.
2. A small amount of tuberculin will be injected just under the surface of the skin of your forearm.
3. You will be asked to remain on site for 20 minutes, in case of any adverse reaction to the tuberculin. Reactions are rare, but not unknown, event.
4. The injection site may become itchy, red and swollen. Please do not put a dressing on it, scratch it or treat it with any creams or medication. A cold wet flannel placed gently over the site may relieve any irritation.
5. You will need to return to the Patient Services Centre to have the test read after 72 hours (3 days). Although this is the best time for reading the Mantoux, it can be read anytime from 48-96 hours if necessary.

If you have any delayed reaction, please contact the Patient Services Centre where you had your Mantoux performed.