TB (Miliary Tuberculosis)?

Miliary tuberculosis (TB) is an uncommon form of TB that occurs in individuals who have little or no immunity, such as children or those with HIV infection. It is characterized by the presence of small, disseminated tuberculosis lesions throughout the body, often in the lungs and other organs. It is typically the result of inhalation of TB bacilli from an infected individual.

TB (Bacillus Calmette-Guerin) Vaccine?

The TB (Bacillus Calmette-Guerin) vaccine, also known as BCG, is a live vaccine that provides immunity against TB. It is recommended for infants and children who are at high risk of TB infection, such as those living in areas with high TB prevalence. The vaccine is given as a single dose and is usually administered at birth or shortly thereafter. It is not recommended for use in pregnant women or individuals who have received it previously.

Recommended TB Vaccine Schedule?

The recommended TB vaccine schedule varies depending on the country and the specific population being vaccinated. In general, the vaccine is given at birth or shortly thereafter, followed by a second dose at 12-18 months of age. The vaccine is given as a single dose and is usually administered intradermally. It is not recommended for use in pregnant women or individuals who have received it previously.

*TB can be prevented by vaccination. For more information, visit www.health.qld.gov.au/chrisp/tuberculosis/high_risk_index.asp.

When Does TB Occur?

TB can occur at any age but is more common in children younger than 5 years old. The young age is due to the increased exposure to TB bacilli in the household and community. Young children are also more likely to be affected because of their developing immune system.

When Does BCG (TB Vaccine) Occur?

BCG is typically given as a single dose to infants and children who are at high risk of TB infection. It is not recommended for use in pregnant women or individuals who have received it previously.

For more information, visit www.health.qld.gov.au/chrisp/tuberculosis/high_risk_index.asp.

Metro South Clinical TB Service
Princess Alexandra Hospital (Brisbane) 3176 4141
Cairns TB Control Unit
Cairns Base Hospital 4226 6240
Rockhampton TB Control Unit
Rockhampton Base Hospital 4920 6211
Townsville TB Control Unit
Townsville General Hospital 4433 2860
Toowoomba TB Control Unit
Toowoomba Hospital 4616 6445
What is Tuberculosis (TB)?

Tuberculosis (TB) is a bacterial infection that can affect almost any part of the body but is most common in the lungs - a form called pulmonary tuberculosis. It is well controlled in Queensland. However, TB has not been eradicated from any place in the world, so numbers of new cases do occur. Tuberculosis can be a very serious disease if it is not diagnosed and treated properly. Nowadays, it can be cured by medications if taken as prescribed by your doctor.

How is TB spread?

TB is spread by droplets from an infected person when they cough, sneeze, laugh or speak.

Is there a vaccination for TB?

The vaccination is known as BCG. It is called BCG (Bacillus Calmette-Geurin) after the two people who discovered the vaccine. The BCG vaccination is free of charge for those eligible.

Who needs the vaccination?

Not all children require the BCG vaccination, but it is recommended for the following populations:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island neonates living in regions of high TB incidence
- Children aged less than five years who will live in Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander communities for a period of three months or more. In situations where the intended length of stay is less than three months but the risk of exposure to TB may be high, the need for BCG vaccination should be assessed in consultation with an experienced TB clinician.
- Neonates born to parents with leprosy or a family history of leprosy
- Children aged less than five years who will be travelling to high TB incidence countries* for a period of three months or more. In situations where the intended length of stay is less than three months but the risk of exposure to TB may be high, the need for BCG vaccination should be assessed in consultation with an experienced TB clinician.


Where do I go to get the vaccination?

Vaccinations are given in a Tuberculosis Control Unit at one of the locations listed below. Your obstetrician or registered nurse at the hospital will help you decide if your baby requires the BCG vaccination. The maternity unit will usually inform the local TB Control Unit, who will contact you after your baby is born with an appointment to go to one of the BCG clinics. If you have not heard from a clinic within one month after your baby's birth, or if you have any questions about the BCG, please contact your nearest unit.

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