

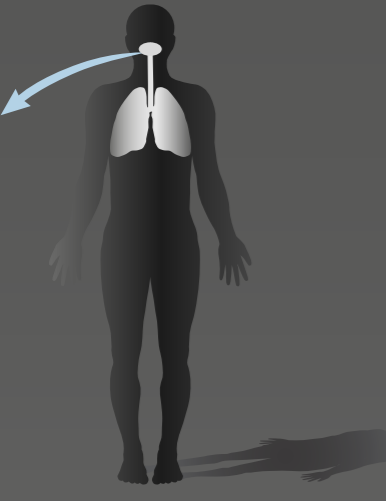
Tuberculosis

Tuberculosis (TB) is a serious and sometimes lethal infectious bacterial disease which most commonly affects the lungs. It is caused by various strains of mycobacteria, usually *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*.

One untreated person with TB can infect **10–15** other individuals per year

Around 200 people in the EU are diagnosed with TB **every day**

How is it transmitted?



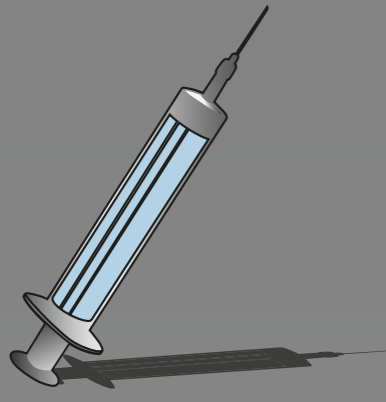
Mainly transmitted from person to person through the air. When someone with active pulmonary TB coughs, sneezes, spits or speaks, infected droplets can be projected into the air. Inhaled bacteria can then lodge in the lungs and cause TB. In general, the closer and more frequent the contact, the higher the chance of transmission.

What treatments are there?



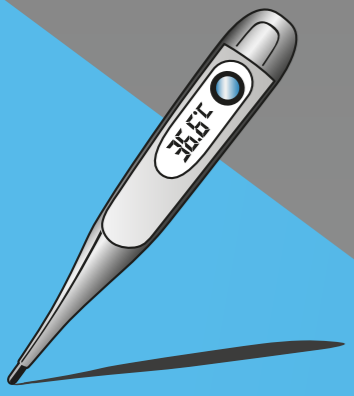
Tuberculosis is a curable disease but TB bacteria are difficult to eliminate. Standard treatment lasts at least six months and consists of a combination of antibiotics. It can have adverse reactions and should be followed thoroughly to be effective.

Is it preventable?



Good cough hygiene reduces transmission. Vaccination provides some protection against TB. It is primarily given to infants to protect against severe forms of TB. Transmission of TB is prevented best by quickly detecting and treating people with infectious pulmonary tuberculosis.

What are the symptoms?



Cough with sputum, sometimes with blood, chest pain and weakness. Other unspecific symptoms include: weight loss, fatigue, lethargy, fever and night sweats.

If the infection occurs outside of the lungs, symptoms are related to the site of the disease: For example, TB in the vertebral column can cause back pain; TB in the lymph nodes can cause enlargement of the lymph nodes in the neck, armpit or groin; TB in the kidney can cause blood in the urine or have the same symptoms as a regular urinary tract infection.

Inhaled bacteria travel via the circulatory and lymphatic systems to other parts of the body. When the infection occurs somewhere other than the lungs, the disease is called:

Extrapulmonary tuberculosis



Children are at least twice as likely to be reported with extrapulmonary TB as adults



Patients with extrapulmonary tuberculosis are usually not infectious



Easy to miss: Symptoms are unspecific and clinicians may not consider it in their differential diagnosis

Extrapulmonary tuberculosis can present with a variety of symptoms that may mimic symptoms of other diseases

It can affect any part of the body outside of the lungs

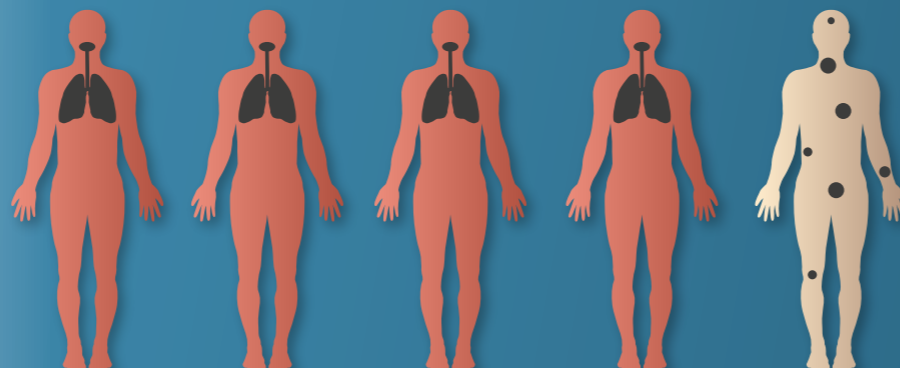
Common sites of extrapulmonary TB are:



Depending on where it is in the body, obtaining a sample to confirm the diagnosis can be extremely difficult



Data from the ECDC/WHO Europe Tuberculosis Surveillance and Monitoring in Europe 2013. Stockholm, 2013



1 in every 5 tuberculosis patients has extrapulmonary tuberculosis

inside the lungs
outside the lungs

