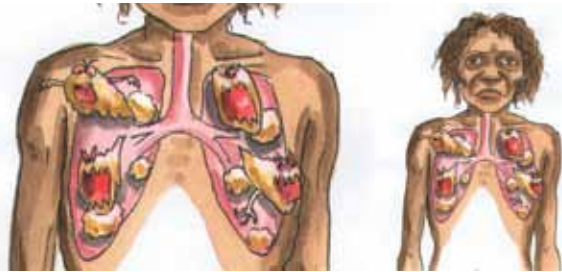


Help Stop TB



WARNING:

If you stop the medicine early or do not take it each day, the bacteria becomes stronger and harder to stop.

Take the medicine until the bacteria have gone.



The medicine may make you feel a bit unwell

Always tell the health worker if it makes you sick in any way.

You may need a special check up or to have your tablets changed.

TAKE CARE NOT TO INFECT OTHERS



Keep your family and others healthy – don't give them your disease.

Cover your mouth when coughing or sneezing.

Don't spit near other people.

How to stay well and get better quicker



EAT HEALTHY FOOD AND GET LOTS OF REST

Do lots of exercise or walkabout when you are feeling better.



CUT OUT THE CIGARETTES AND ALCOHOL

Cigarettes can damage your lungs as can TB. Try to cut down or stop.



TAKE THE MEDICINE UNTIL THE DOCTOR SAYS YOU ARE CURED

What is TB?



Tuberculosis, its prevention and treatment

Some Facts



GPO Box 102 Sydney NSW 2001 AUSTRALIA
Tel: 61 2 9223 3144 Fax: 61 2 9223 3044
Email: arc@thearc.org.au
www.thearc.org.au

What is TB? Australia today has few cases of TB however it is important that everyone is aware of the following facts as ANYONE, ABORIGINAL OR NON-ABORIGINAL CAN CATCH TB – TB affects the young and the old, the healthy and the sick.

What is TB?



TB is a disease caused by a germ called bacteria. It mainly affects the lungs and sometimes other parts of the body.

IT CAN BE CURED

There are 2 types of TB – 'sleeping' and active.

With 'sleeping' TB you have the bacteria in your body but you are not sick. 'Sleeping' TB can become active, if your body becomes weak through poor health, bad diet or just ageing.



Only people with **active** TB can spread TB from person to person.

It is spread by the bacteria which are blown into the air by coughing, talking, sneezing, laughing or even singing.

The TB bacteria moves through the air in small drops of water that are too small to see. The bacteria in the airborne droplets can then spread from one person to another. One person can infect as many as 15 other people in a year.

Tuberculosis is NOT spread by shaking hands or sharing food.



You do **not** catch TB from sharing other people's cups, plates, clothes or bed linen.

TB is **not** spread by kissing, cuddling or hugging.

Signs of Active TB



Coughing for more than 3 weeks



Losing weight quickly



Night sweats



Coughing blood (Late stage)

If you think you have TB have a talk with your health worker and be tested.



Treatment for TB

TB CAN BE CURED



Taking medicine is the only way to cure TB.

Take the medicine as given to you by the doctor or the health worker.

Each different medicine attacks the TB bacteria differently.

Take all the medicine at the same time on each of the days.

Make sure that you finish the treatment.

DO NOT STOP EARLY

It takes a long time for the TB bacteria to go away.