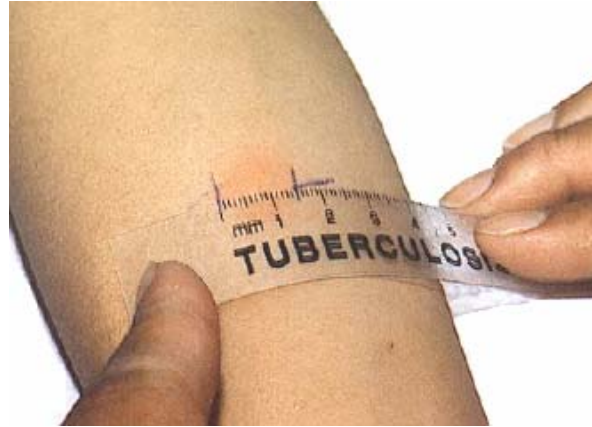


Just the Facts About BCG & TB



What is BCG?

BCG is the short name for the “bacille Calmette-Guerin” vaccine. BCG is given to try to prevent TB disease. In countries where TB is common, many people receive the BCG vaccine. It is not often used in the United States.

Is my TB skin test positive because of the BCG vaccine?

MAYBE. If you are from a country where TB is common, then it is more likely that true TB infection, not BCG, is the cause of your positive skin test. Not everyone who had BCG will have a positive TB skin test. Your health care worker will explain how your BCG may affect your skin test.

If I have a positive skin test, should I take TB medicine?

YES. It is important to take TB medicine to kill the TB germs. Taking medicine to kill the TB infection will reduce your chances of getting sick with TB disease. Even people who had the BCG vaccine can still get sick with TB disease.

If you have questions, contact your public health department or your doctor.

Text - Virginia Department of Health Division of TB Control www.vdh.virginia.gov/epi/tb November 8, 2002 Software by Healthway Software ©2002 This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs License <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/2.5/>

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