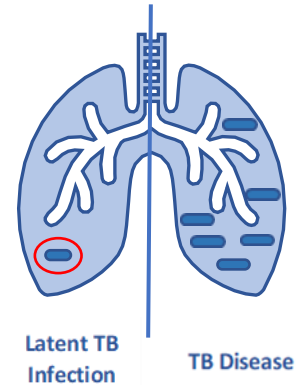


WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LTBI AND TUBERCULOSIS (TB) DISEASE?

With LTBI, the bacteria (a type of germ) that causes TB are in your body, but have been contained by your immune system. You do not feel sick with LTBI and cannot spread the TB bacteria to others.

However, your immune system may weaken if you have other medical conditions or take certain medications.

If your immune system weakens, then the TB bacteria are no longer contained; they can multiply and cause TB disease. Someone with TB disease will feel sick and can spread the bacteria to others.



WHY SHOULD I BE TREATED FOR LTBI IF IT DOESN'T MAKE ME FEEL SICK?

Treating LTBI prevents TB disease! If you complete treatment for LTBI, as prescribed by your doctor, then you have little or no risk of becoming sick with TB disease.

If you don't become sick with TB disease, then you:

- Cannot spread the bacteria to the people you care about, or anyone else;
- Will not have to isolate yourself until you are no longer infectious and cannot spread the bacteria to others; and
- Can continue working and doing the activities you enjoy.



HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO TREAT LTBI?

For many years, LTBI treatment usually would take nine months to complete. Today, there are treatments that can be completed in just three to four months. Talk with your doctor about which treatment option is best for you considering your medical history, living conditions, type of work and personal preferences.

Remember...treating LTBI prevents TB Disease!

Provided by:

