

PPD Skin Test

What is it?

- **PPD Skin Test** – is a skin test used to determine if someone has developed an immune response to the bacterium that causes tuberculosis/TB
 - **PPD**- stands for purified protein derivative
- **Mantoux Test**- is administered by injecting 0.1 mL volume containing 5 TU/tuberculin units PPD into the top layers of skin of the forearm, makes a wheal with a brief sting as the needle is inserted
 - **Small Reaction**- 5 mm of hard swelling at the site considered to be positive with HIV, steroid therapy, close contact with a person who has active tuberculosis
 - **Large Reaction**- ≥ 10 mm are considered positive in people with kidney failure or diabetes and health care workers



Signs and Symptoms:

- **Small Risk of**- severe redness and swelling of the arm in people with a positive PPD test and who have the test again and also in people who have not been tested before

Facts:

- **Positive**-incubation period is 2 to 12 weeks after exposure to the TB bacteria, HIV, steroid therapy, close contact with someone who has active tuberculosis, diabetes, kidney failure, and health care workers, does not always mean a person has active TB, more tests have to be done to see if the disease is active; BCG vaccination can cause a false-positive on people who were born outside the US, usually the PPD is ok 15 years after the vaccination
- **Reading the Test**- must be read within 48 to 72 hours after the injection; after 72 hours not valid
- **Inaccurate Testing**- if on steroids, cancer, recent chemotherapy, late-stage AIDS all may have a false-negative test results

What can I do?

- **See your Health Care Provider**- for more information

