Mantoux Skin Test

Exceptional healthcare, personally delivered
Why am I having a Mantoux skin test?

The test involves injecting a small amount of a substance, called tuberculin, into the outer skin layer of the forearm. Tuberculin is an inert/ inactive substance and will NOT give you tuberculosis (TB).

We are looking for the reaction of your body to the substance injected. The Mantoux test does not measure your immunity to TB but tests if you have been exposed to TB or vaccinated (BCG) against it in the past. This together with other tests and your clinical history will help the doctors to identify what is causing your symptoms.

What happens after my skin test?

Following the Mantoux test you may see a small raised area at the injection site which should absorb quite quickly. Over the next 48 - 72 hours you may or may not see a reaction to the injection. It may become a little red and itchy.

You will need to return to the hospital for the The Respiratory Specialist Team to assess the reaction on:

- Appointment Date ……. /…… /………………
- Appointment Time ……………………………
- Location ………………………………………………………………………. 
Are there any possible side effects?
Most people do not experience any side effects however some may experience mild headaches or fever.

After your Mantoux Test

- You can carry on with your normal daily activities
- Don’t scratch the area
- Do not cover it with a plaster.
- Don’t put anything on the area that might change the reaction e.g. skin creams, medications, sun lotions, perfume, make-up etc..
- Wash and bathe as normal

References


NHS Constitution. Information on your rights and responsibilities. Available at www.nhs.uk/aboutnhs/constitution
If you or the individual you are caring for need support reading this leaflet please ask a member of staff for advice.

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