

Tuberculosis

The Disease: Tuberculosis is a chronic recurrent bacterial infection commonly found in, but not limited to, the lungs. This disease is caused by microbacterium tuberculosis.

Several recent outbreaks of tuberculosis have occurred heightening the concern about nosocomial transmission. The disease is spread by infectious droplet nuclei in the air.

Symptoms caused by tuberculosis include: persistent cough, weight loss, anorexia and fever. Surveillance of personnel at risk for exposure to tuberculosis has been recommended by the Center for Disease Control.

The Test: Tuberculin testing is accomplished by creating an intracutaneous wheel with 0.1 cc. of purified protein derivative.

Side Effects: Allergic response infrequent but possible if one is allergic to the solution.

Contraindications: Persons who have tested positive before (retesting may cause vesiculation, ulceration or necrosis at the test site)