
INFORMATION SHEET

Peripheral exams in case of a tuberculosis diagnosis

The “Peripheral Exams” in this case are the examinations of persons who had contact with a patient who is ill with tuberculosis.

When a case of tuberculosis is diagnosed, all persons who had contact with the infected person must be examined. (More on this in the "Tuberculosis Information Sheet") This examination has been regulated with the tuberculosis health law and is mandatory.

The examination is intended primarily for persons who have spent a significant amount of time close to the patient. These mainly include family members, fellow employees at the workplace, a circle of friends, and other persons with regular contact, i.e. in clubs, etc.

However, it is also possible to get infected from just brief a contact with the patient.

People with a weak immune system are particularly vulnerable. These may be primarily:

- Children and the elderly;
- Persons suffering from a disease that can compromise the immune system;
- Persons taking certain medications that could weaken the immune system.

A pulmonary specialist conducts the examinations. A list of contact persons will be established with information obtained from the patient. The list will be sorted, with the assistance of the tuberculosis specialist, according to urgency. As a result, children will be examined without delay.

The following examinations will be conducted:

1. A so-called tuberculin skin test to exclude a tuberculosis infection. This is a test, where a test liquid is injected into the skin. Nothing is injected into the blood! Therefore, the test is completely harmless.
2. In addition, there is the option of a special blood test to exclude a possible infection with tuberculosis.
3. A lung X-ray will be ordered to eliminate the possibility of a tuberculosis infection. This will be carried out in the mobile X-ray unit provided by the Government of Lower Austria.

Examination frequency is determined by the urgency rating of the examinations and the examination methods chosen. A concluding examination after 1 ½ years (18 months) may be required!

The tuberculosis examination and counselling centre for the respective district's administration authority is available to answer any further questions you may have.