



Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust: Information for Families

Giving your child medicines to prevent tuberculosis (TB)

This information sheet explains about the medicines used to prevent tuberculosis (TB) and gives some important hints about making sure they are effective.

How is TB treated?

Your child has been diagnosed with latent TB, which means that there are TB germs in the body but are not active. Your child will not be showing any symptoms at the moment and he/she is not infectious to others. However, without treatment, there is a chance that he or she could develop symptoms in the future. To stop this happening your child will need to take some medicines for about six months to get rid of the TB bacteria. These medicines are also needed if your child has been in contact with TB and is very young or already has a weak immune system.

It is really important that your child takes the medicines as the doctor and TB nurse told you. The medicines will only treat TB if the complete course is taken. The treatment must not be stopped without advice from your doctor, as the TB will return and may be resistant to certain medicines making treatment more difficult.

Some TB medicines may affect pregnancy or the unborn baby, so we may ask your daughter (if she is 12 years old or older) about her periods and whether there is any chance that she could be pregnant.

Important

- Keep the tablets or liquid in a safe place where children cannot reach them.
- Tablets and liquids should be stored at room temperature.
- It is important to take the dose as directed by the doctor, TB nurse or pharmacist.
- Particular foods, such as chocolate pudding or jelly, can affect how the medicine is absorbed by the body. Speak to TB nurse or pharmacist if there are particular issues.
- While your child is having their treatment, it is also important that you tell your doctor, TB nurse or pharmacist about any other medicines your child is taking. This includes medicines on a prescription from your GP, medicines bought from a chemist or any homeopathic or herbal medicines.
- These medicines are prescribed specifically for your child. Do not give them to anyone else, even if they seem to have the same symptoms.
- Always order repeat prescriptions in plenty of time, at least one week before you need the tablets or liquids.



- The dose may change regularly as it is worked out according to your child's weight. As your child grows, the dose will increase. If you are not sure about your child's dose schedule, please check with your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.
- If the doctor decides to stop TB treatment, return any remaining tablets or liquid to the pharmacist. Do not flush them away.

Specific instructions for your child

Your child's TB nurse is _____

Telephone _____

Out of hours, please call the hospital on 020 7405 9200
and ask to speak to the on call doctor for infectious diseases.

Compiled by the Infectious Diseases team in collaboration with the Child and Family Information Group

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