## Karaganda State Medical University

# **PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS**

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# PULM WHAT IS PUT USIS!

Pulmonary tuberculosis (TB) is bacteria that attack your lungs. It is a potentially deadly disease, but it is curable if you get medical help right away and follow your doctor's instructions.

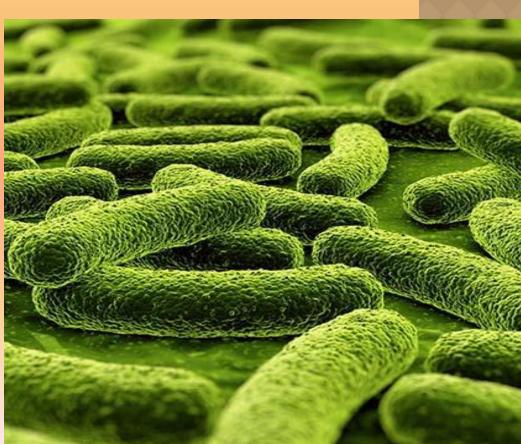
#### Causes

- Pulmonary tuberculosis (TB) is caused by the bacterium Mycobacterium tuberculosis (M. tuberculosis). TB is contagious. This means the bacteria is easily spread from an infected person to someone else. You can get TB by breathing in air droplets from a cough or sneeze of an infected person. The resulting lung infection is called primary TB.
- Most people recover from primary TB infection without further evidence of the disease. The infection may stay inactive (dormant) for years. In some people, it becomes active again (reactivates).

#### What Are the Symptoms of Pulmonary TB?

People with latent TB have no symptoms, but they should still be treated. Symptoms of pulmonary TB include:

- coughing that continues for several days
- coughing up blood
- fever, including low-grade, consistent fever
- excessive sweating
- chest pain
- unexplained weight loss
- fatigue



# WHO IS AT RISK FOR TB DISEASE?

- the elderly
- small children
- smokers
- people who already have an immune system problem, such as HIV
- people who do not regularly see a doctor, such as homeless people
- people who live in crowded conditions, such as prisons

## TREATMENT

- The goal of treatment is to cure the infection with medicines that fight the TB bacteria. Active pulmonary TB is treated with a combination of many medicines (usually four medicines). The person takes the medicines until lab tests show which medicines work best.
- You may need to take many different pills at different times of the day for 6 months or longer. It is very important that you take the pills the way your provider instructed.
- When people do not take their TB medicines like they are supposed to, the infection can become much more difficult to treat. The TB bacteria can become resistant to treatment. This means the medicines no longer work.

- If a person is not taking all the medicines as directed, a provider may need to watch the person take the prescribed medicines. This approach is called directly observed therapy. In this case, medicines may be given 2 or 3 times a week.
- You may need to stay at home or be admitted to a hospital for 2 to 4 weeks to avoid spreading the disease to others until you are no longer contagious.
- Your provider is required by law to report your TB illness to the local health department. Your health care team will ensure that you receive the best care.

