

**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) answered by**  
**MMWR June 20, 2003/ Vol. 52 / No. RR-11:**  
**Treatment of Tuberculosis**  
**American Thoracic Society, CDC, and Infectious Diseases Society of America**

*What's new in this document?* P. 1 bullets in columns one and two.

*What is the role of the health department in treating someone with active TB disease?* P.1 first paragraph under **Organization and Supervision of Treatment** and section 2.1 P. 15

*How do you promote treatment adherence? What are the best ways to promote treatment adherence?* P.2 top paragraph and Section 2.2 on P. 15

*It's not my responsibility that the patient won't take his medicine. He has to take care of his own health.* P. 1 first paragraph, also Section 1 text box P. 14 and second paragraph.

*What is the role of each TB medication in treatment? How is each medication dosed and what is the preparation of each medication? What are common side effects of each medication? What about the use of these medication in special circumstances (i.e. patient has renal disease or is pregnant, etc.)?* P. 19 - 29, all of Section 3

*Is it ok to use Ethambutol with small children?* P. 2 first paragraph in second column and P. 24 Section 3.1.6

*What is the preparations/pill size for all the various TB medications?* P. 4 and 5, Table 3

*At what age does adult dosing begin?* Note \* and + below Table 3 on P. 5

*Why do we use so many drugs to treat TB?* Section 4.1, P. 32

*What happens to TB bacteria once a patient begins treatment for TB disease?* P. 32, Section 4.1

*Is four-month treatment for culture negative TB disease effective?* P. 34 last paragraph of section 4.2

*How do we know that INH and Rifapentine once weekly during the continuation phase of treatment is effective?* Section 4.3, 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph , P. 34

*How long should treatment for TB disease go?* Section 4.2, P. 33

*When should intermittent therapy be used?* Section 4.3, P. 34

*Why do recommended regimens have letters and numbers by them in Table 2?* See table 1 and Section 5.1, P. 36

*When should the continuation phase go longer than 4 months?* P. 2 bottom of second column, Table 2 and P. 37 section 5.2.1 last paragraph

*When can someone with an abnormal chest x-ray for whom TB disease has been ruled out start treatment for LTBI?* 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph in Section 5.3, P. 38

*If TB disease is suspected, when should treatment be initiated?* Section 5.3, P. 38

*What kinds of tests need to be done before starting and during treatment?* Section 5.4, P. 38.

*Do I have to do an HIV test for a patient with TB disease?*  
P. 7, 1<sup>st</sup> Paragraph and Section 5.4 second paragraph, P. 38

*How frequently should I collect sputum specimens for someone with pulmonary TB?*  
P. 7, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph and Section 5.4 - 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph, P. 39

*What are indications that a patient may relapse and what can be done to prevent relapse?* Section 5.5, P. 39

*After a patient sputum culture positive TB has been released from isolation, how frequently should sputum specimens be collected?* P. 39, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph of Section 5.4

*Why did my patient's sputum specimen show up AFB positive but was culture negative for TB?*  
P. 39, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph of section 5.4

*When should drug susceptibilities be repeated?* P. 39, 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph of Section 5.4

*What kind of follow-up evaluation is needed for extra pulmonary patients?* P. 39, 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph of Section 5.4

*Do we really need to do monthly clinical evaluations of patients on treatment for TB disease?* P. 39, 6<sup>th</sup> paragraph of Section 5.4

*Do we need to have patients with TB disease obtain follow-up chest x-rays?* P. 39, 7<sup>th</sup> paragraph of Section 5.4 [NOTE: TB Program this is different than what we have said in the past!]

*When should treatment for TB disease be extended?* P. 39, Section 5.5

*What are the recommend treatment regimens for active TB disease?* Table 2 and Section 5.2 P. 36 - 37

*How do you determine if a patient has completed treatment?* Section 5.6, P. 40

*What do we do about patients whose treatment is interrupted?* Section 5.7, P. 40

*Is it ok for patients on daily DOT to have their weekend doses self administered or skipped all together?*  
P. 8 **Completion of Treatment** 2nd paragraph

*What is the best way to administer treatment for TB disease?* Section 6.1, P. 42.

*The doctor ordered medications BID (or TID) is that ok?* First sentence under **Practical Aspects of Patient Management during Treatment** P. 8 and first paragraph in Section 6.1 - P. 42

*Can my patient take their TB medications with food?* P. 42, Section 6.1

*Rifater, Rifamate, Rifadin - what's the difference?* P. 42, Section 6.2

*Is it ok to stop TB disease treatment when the patient is having side effects?* P. 8, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph in **Practical Aspects of Patient Management during Treatment** and Section 6.3 - P. 43

*My patient with TB disease has very high LFTs what should we do?* P. 8, 4th paragraph in **Practical Aspects of Patient Management during Treatment** and Section 6.3.4 - P. 43

*What does it mean to "check drug levels"?* P. 44, Section 6.4

*Are there other medications that interact with anti-tuberculosis medications?* Section 7.1, P.45 and P. 47, Table 12

*How is TB treated in persons with HIV infection?* Section 8.1, P. 50

*What are "paradoxical reactions" and when can they occur?* P. 54, Section 8.1.5

*How long does treatment go for children with extra pulmonary TB disease? With HIV and TB disease?* P. 56, last 2 paragraphs of Section 8.2

*Do children ever need to take pyridoxine?* Section 8.2, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph on P. 56

*Who is most likely to get extra pulmonary TB?* P. 56, second sentence in Section 8.3 *How is TB treated in children and adolescents?* Section 8.2, P. 55

*Do children with TB disease need to be on DOT?* P. 10, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph under **Children** and P. 55, 7<sup>th</sup> paragraph in Section 8.2

*How long should treatment be for someone with extra pulmonary TB disease?* P. 10, **Extrapulmonary Tuberculosis** and P. 56-59, Section 8.3

*How long is treatment for someone with culture- negative pulmonary TB?* Section 8.4, P. 61

*What is recommended for patients with chest radiographs with evidence of prior tuberculosis?* Section 8.5 P. 61

*What are treatment recommendations for women who are pregnant or breast-feeding?* Section 8.6 P. 62

*What are treatment recommendations for patients with renal insufficiency and/or end stage renal disease?* Section 8.7, P. 63

*What are treatment recommendations for patients with hepatic disease?* Section 8.8, P. 64

*What are treatment recommendations for patients, who have histories of chronic alcoholism, drug abuse or mental illness?* Section 8.9, P. 66

*What causes treatment failure?* P. 12 under **Management of Relapse, Treatment Failure and Drug Resistance**, 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph and P. 66 under Section 9.1

*Why does treatment for TB disease sometimes fail?* P. 67, Section 9.2, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph

*When is it ok to start a patient on an expanded treatment regimen (i.e. more than four drugs)?* P. 68, second paragraph in Section 9.3

*What is the duration of treatment for someone with MDR TB?* P. 69, Table 16

*What are the main guidelines for MDR TB treatment?* Starting with 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph of P. 68, Section 9.3 going to P. 70

*Do they ever perform surgery on TB patients anymore?* Section 9.4, P. 70

*How frequently should drug susceptibility testing be performed?* Section 9.5, P. 70

*How is TB treated in low-income countries?* Section 10, P. 72-76

*What is the research agenda for TB treatment?* Section 11, P. 74-76