

What is the PPD skin test?

Purified protein derivative (PPD) is a sterile solution prepared from the tubercle bacillus. 0.1 ml of PPD is injected into the dermis (skin) of the forearm to test for Tuberculosis (TB) infection. Proper injection causes a wheal (bubble) to occur at the site. The wheal usually disappears in a few hours.

Within 48-72 hours, the site is evaluated for the development of an induration (hardened area). An induration indicates only that the person has been exposed to TB bacteria and has an immune reaction to the PPD.

A skin test does not determine latent (inactive) or active TB infection. Presence of an induration indicates a need for further follow-up, such as a chest X-ray, sputum testing, and evaluation for TB symptoms. Eligibility for clinicals depends on these follow-up tests, not the initial positive result.

Symptoms of active TB include cough of at least 3 weeks' duration, chest pain, sputum production, bloody sputum, fever, night sweats, or loss of appetite, weight, or energy.

**This can be done:

1. For around \$15 by your family doctor
2. For \$15 by Hays Co. Health Dept. (401A Broadway, San Marcos)
Mondays 1-6 and Tuesdays 1-4/ walk-in/ follow up in 24-48 hours.
3. For \$5 for those without insurance on Wednesdays behind Carver Kindergarten in
Lockhart at Seton Care-a-van - need to call 512-738-0625

**Several clinics have requested a letter of need for the test- I have attached a copy you may use if needed. Each site will provide you with a paper stating the results of the test. I will need to get a copy of that paperwork.