

Induced sputum

Taking of samples as a link in the examination of tuberculosis

ENGELSK

Facts on tuberculosis

Tuberculosis is an illness which is caused by the tuberculosis bacteria (M. Tuberculosis). The bacteria can be spread via the air by small drops when a person who has active tuberculosis in the lungs coughs, sneezes, talks or laughs.

People who breathe in this air can also breathe in the bacteria and be infected. Approximately 10% of those who become infected develop active tuberculosis once in their lifetime. So that it can be clarified whether there is an active tuberculosis illness, you must take several tests. Induced sputum is one of these.

How is the test carried out? During the test you shall breathe in salt water via a vaporizing apparatus which is connected to oxygen. The resulting mist will irritate the airways so that it will be easier to cough up sputum from the lungs.

Preparation Do not eat or drink for the 4-hour period before the test.

How does tuberculosis infect?



To a receptive individual who breathes in droplets containing the tuberculosis bacteria.



From a person with lung tuberculosis who has tubercle basillus in the sputum. The bacteria is spread when the person coughs, sneezes, laughs, sings or talks.



Bite over the mouthpiece and hold your lips tightly around it. Breathe in normally and out through your mouth. Take a couple of deep breaths from time to time. Excess liquid (condensation from the mist) is swallowed. Mucus (spit) from the mouth shall not be used.



When you have to cough, take the vaporiser out and cough hard several times.



Spit all the mucus you cough up from the lungs directly into the test glass. To avoid soiling the test glass, the glass is held under the lower lip.

You must repeat the procedure several times. Follow the instructions given by the personnel. Screw the lid on when the test is over. Finally, wash your hands.

What happens now?

The results of the tests will be available in 6 to 8 weeks. You will be called in for another appointment. On the basis of the test results, the doctor will decide what is going to happen next.