

What is BCG?

BCG is the short name for the "bacilli Calmette-Guerin" vaccine. BCG is given to try to prevent TB disease. In countries where TB is common, many people receive the BCG vaccine. It is not often used in the United States.

Is my TB skin test positive because of the BCG vaccine?

MAYBE. If you are from a country where TB is common, then it is more likely that true TB infection, not BCG,

is the cause of your positive skin test.

Not everyone who had BCG will have a positive TB skin test. Your health care worker will explain how your BCG may affect your skin test.

Even people who had the BCG vaccine can still get sick with TB disease.

If I have a positive skin test, should I take TB medicine?



YES. It is important to take TB medicine to kill the TB. Taking medicine to kill the TB infection will reduce your chances of getting sick with TB disease.

If you have questions,
please contact:

Just the Facts About

<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/tb>



June 2013



BCG & TB