

# Window Treatment After Exposure to Tuberculosis

## What parents need to know



Children less than 5 years of age are at high risk of rapidly developing severe forms of TB disease after infection

Window treatment can prevent early infection and progression to disease

### Symptoms of TB disease in children may include:

- Cough
- Feelings of sickness or weakness
- Lethargy
- Reduced playfulness
- Weight loss or lack of appropriate weight gain
- Fever
- Night sweats

### How can I help my child take isoniazid?

- Pills can be crushed and dissolved
- Giving pills at bedtime helps avoid any stomach discomfort
- Mix the crushed pills with a small amount of food your child likes such as:



Mashed Bananas



Pudding



Apple Sauce



Yogurt

### What should happen before my child starts window treatment?

Before your child starts window treatment, they will have a symptom screening, physical exam, a chest x-ray, and a skin or blood test for TB infection.

### Why are medications recommended if my child's TB test is negative?

It can take time for a TB test to become positive after a child has been exposed to TB. Medication, called window treatment, protects your child until it is known for sure if they have been infected. Young children are more likely to progress rapidly to severe forms of TB disease, so protecting them early is very important.

### Why does my child need another TB test in 8-10 weeks?

In 8-10 weeks, your child's body will have had time to respond if they have been infected with TB. The second test will tell us if they need to continue with treatment or if they are not infected and can stop taking medication.

### Why does my older child not need window treatment?

Older children are less likely to rapidly progress to severe TB disease than young children and infants.

### Potential mild side effects:

- Mild nausea/vomiting/stomach discomfort
- Tingling or numbness in the hands or feet - your child's doctor may prescribe vitamin B6 to help with this
- Diarrhea

### When to call your child's doctor:

- If your child has swelling, rash or blistering in any part of the face or has difficulty breathing
- If your child has nausea/vomiting for more than 24 hours
- If you notice a yellowing of your child's skin or whites of the eyes
- If your child has trouble seeing or telling apart colors
- If your child has unusual bleeding or bruising