

# Tuberculosis

## Treatment of TB Infection

### What should I do if I have TB infection?

Your doctor may recommend drug(s) to reduce the chances of TB infection progressing to TB disease. Taking the antibiotic Isoniazid (INH) for 9 to 12 months protects you from developing TB disease by more than 90%. Your doctor can tell you about other antibiotics than can also be used to treat TB infection. It is important to take all your medication as prescribed by your doctor. TB drugs are provided free of charge from the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit.

### Is the treatment safe?

Most people complete the treatment without problems, but these drugs may harm the liver. Stop your medication and see your doctor immediately if you have any of these symptoms:

- Loss of appetite
- Feel sick to your stomach
- Rash
- Itching
- Brown or dark urine
- Yellowish skin or eyes
- Stomach pain or discomfort
- Fever

People who drink heavily or have hepatitis may already have weak livers. Your doctor can order a blood test to see if your liver has been affected. If you develop liver problems, stopping the medication will allow the liver to heal itself. It is always best not to drink alcohol if you are taking TB drugs.

Public Health Agency of Canada <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pphb-dgspsp/tbpc-latb/index.html>

Source: Health Canada July 2005

DCS-12/05-TB-044