

INACTIVE OR LATENT TUBERCULOSIS INFECTION

TO YOUR HEALTH - PATIENT EDUCATION HANDOUT

5.9

If you have been diagnosed with latent TB infection you have two options. Please read this information carefully so you can make an informed decision.

OPTION 1

The World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control recommends taking a medication called INH (Isoniazide). The treatment is one tablet daily for 9 months. This medication is provided free to SIUC students. Side effects from this medication are uncommon, but may occur. If you develop any of the following symptoms while taking INH preventive therapy, contact the Student Health Center:

- Urine darker color than usual
- Stool lighter color than usual
- Yellow skin or eyes
- Nausea or vomiting
- Fever
- Loss of appetite
- Unusual pain in abdomen
- Itching or rash
- Tingling or numbness in hands or feet
- Muscle weakness
- Missed menstrual period
- Sore throat or mouth ulcerations

Side effects are usually temporary and go away when the medicine is stopped. You should not take this medicine if you are pregnant or intend to get pregnant during the nine months of treatment. You will need to abstain from intercourse or use an effective birth control method while taking this medication.

WARNING! DO NOT DRINK ALCOHOL WHILE TAKING INH.

OPTION 2

If you choose not to take the medication, you will need to return to your medical provider yearly for a "TB Risk Assessment". During this yearly assessment a medical provider will ask you a series of questions to determine if you may be developing symptoms of Tuberculosis.

This second option is discouraged because your positive skin test means you may have a risk of developing active TB. The goal of INH treatment is to prevent development of active TB. If you develop active TB, the treatment becomes much more complex; often requiring multiple medications and therefore, more potential for complications and side effects.

Please consider both options carefully and be prepared to discuss your choice with your medical care provider. Your provider may have additional information and options unique to your specific situation.

Student Health Center



WWW.SIU.EDU/~SHC

This information is for educational purposes only. Consult your doctor for specific medical advice, diagnosis and treatment.

618-453-3311

Dial-A-Nurse is available after-hours until 10:30 p.m. during fall and spring semesters. In case of emergency dial 911.