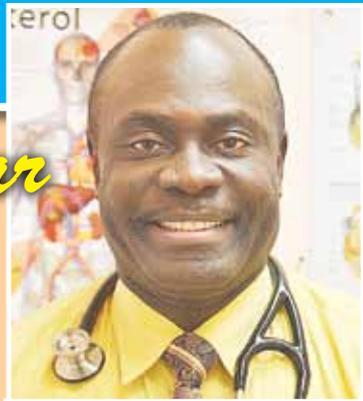


AcaciaAnswers

with Dr. Robert Balthazar

Should I be worried about this latent infection?



- DR. ROBERT BALTHAZAR, MD
- PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIAN
- BARBEE FAMILY HEALTHCARE CENTER

well, getting enough rest and exercise and avoiding stress when you can. And, of course, visit your doctor regularly. Your doctor can help you manage the TB Infection in the context of your overall health. I hope this helps, and good luck with your new job!



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Dear Doctor,
I was born in Mexico and moved here when I was five. I'm now 22. I got my first Tuberculosis PPD test recently because I'm starting work at a hospital. The test came back positive. I took a chest x-ray after and it showed that I'm okay. There wasn't much discussion after that, but I'm worried. I want to have a family and children. Could this get in the way?

-Carl

The chance of you developing Active TB Disease at this age is low providing you take a 9 month regimen of medication to reduce your risk.

I don't see any reason why Latent TB Infection should stop you from pursuing your goals and dreams. While Active TB Disease is highly

contagious, spreading when the infected person coughs and sprays droplets of infected sputum into the air, Latent TB Infection isn't contagious. Symptoms of Active TB Disease include night sweats, weight loss, coughing up blood, chest pains and fatigue, among

other things. A person with Latent TB Infection doesn't feel sick.

Working in the healthcare industry, annual PPD tests are mandated. If positive, periodic chest x-rays are recommended. I also advise that you keep your immune system healthy by eating

Schedule an Appointment Today! (718) 764-1577

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