

Tuberculin Skin Testing during Pregnancy

Guidelines for Preventing the Transmission of Mycobacterium tuberculosis in Health-care Settings, 2005, MMWR December 30, 2005; Vol. 54 (No. RR-17), page 49

http://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/tb/pubs/mmwrhtml/mmwr_infection.htm

"Pregnancy. Tens of thousands of pregnant women have received TST since the test was developed, and no documented episodes of TST-related fetal harm have been reported (341). No evidence exists that the TST has adverse effects on the pregnant mother or fetus (39). Pregnant HCWs should be included in serial skin testing as part of an infectioncontrol program or a contact investigation because no contraindication for skin testing exists (342). Guidelines issued by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) emphasize that postponement of the diagnosis of infection with *M. tuberculosis* during pregnancy is unacceptable (343). "

Guide for Primary Health Care Providers: Targeted Tuberculin Testing and Treatment of Latent Tuberculosis Infection, 2005, page 15

<http://www.cdc.gov/tb/pubs/LTBI/default.htm>

"Pregnancy

- Pregnancy and the post partum period may affect the pathogenesis of TB and may increase the risk of progression from infection to TB disease.
- The TST has no adverse effects on the pregnant mother or fetus.
- Test only if specific risk factors are present, such as HIV infection or recent contact with a person who has infectious TB (see p. 9 for additional risk factors).
- There is potential increased risk of hepatotoxicity during pregnancy and the postpartum period.
- Consider delay of treatment 2–3 months post partum unless at higher risk (e.g., HIV infected, recent contact).
- If a TST reaction is positive, obtain a chest radiograph using proper shielding."

Core Curriculum on Tuberculosis, 2000, page 29

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/tb/pubs/dtbeoth.htm>

"Administration of the Tuberculin Test

The Mantoux tuberculin skin test is the standard method of identifying persons infected with *M. tuberculosis*. Multiple puncture tests (MPTs) should not be used to determine whether a person is infected. MPTs are not reliable because the amount of tuberculin injected intradermally cannot be precisely controlled. Tuberculin skin testing is both safe and reliable throughout the course of pregnancy."