

Fatigue

Sleepy-guy

Fatigue and malaise are symptoms associated with the infectious process and with pulmonary involvement there is hypoxia contributing to the fatigue.

Diagnosis

Chest X-Ray

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While a chest x-ray cannot solely be used to diagnose TB, it may be ordered if TB is suspected. Findings suggestive of TB include upper lobe infiltrates, cavitory infiltrates, and lymph node involvement.

Blood Tests

Blood Test-tubes

Two types of blood tests are performed that confirm diagnosis – QuantiFERON or the T-SPOT. Test results are available in several hours and can be used with patients who have received bacille Calmette-Guérin (BCG) vaccination, as their Mantoux test would be positive.

Mantoux Skin Test

Mantis-toe

This intradermal skin test uses 0.1 mL of purified protein derivative (PPD). Test is read in 48-72 hours and considered positive if induration is greater than 10mm for high risk individuals. In an immunosuppressed client an induration of 5mm is considered positive. In healthy individuals with low risk, a 15 mm induration is considered positive. A positive skin test does not necessarily indicate the patient has active TB. It does not tell whether the person has latent TB infection (LTBI) or has progressed to TB disease.

3 Positive Sputum Tests

(3) Tree Positive (+) from Spit-thumb

The collection of 3 consecutive sputum cultures collected on different days confirms diagnosis. This process may take up to 8 weeks to grow the cultures.