

Fact sheet

BCG Aftercare Patient Information

What to expect after Bacille Calmette-Guerin (BCG) vaccination



Few weeks after vaccination



Scar formation

- > Immediately after the injection a white lump is seen for a few minutes
- > A red spot usually appears within 3 weeks and develops into a sore, often with pus
- > A scab forms over the sore which may take several weeks to heal. A small scar usually remains but may be larger if you tend to scar abnormally
- > Sometimes an accelerated reaction can begin within 24-48 hours with induration followed by pustule formation in 5-7 days and healing within 10-15 days
- > **It can take up to three to five months to fully heal**

Care of the BCG vaccination site

- > Leave the vaccination site uncovered as much as possible



Do not scratch or pick at the sore as this may spread infection



If there is enough discharge to soil cover with a non-stick dressing or a gauze

Do not put a band aid over the site



Do not apply ointments, antiseptics, or bandages to the site



Pat dry gently after bathing or showering (do not rub)

Contact SA TB Services if you develop:

- > Pain, swelling at the injection site (larger than a 20 cent coin or more than 3 cm)
- > Swelling or tenderness of the glands in the armpit, neck or groin
- > Fever over 38°C **within three days post vaccination**
- > **Please contact SA TB Services before taking antibiotics within 3 months post vaccination**



Where can I get more information?

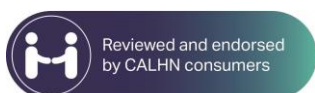
- > If you have any questions, please telephone SA TB Services at the RAH Chest Clinic between 8:45am & 4:45pm Monday to Friday on (08) 7117 2967 to talk to a registered nurse or doctor.
- > After hours if you think the problem is urgent contact your nearest Emergency Department.

For more information

Royal Adelaide Hospital, Chest Clinic
 SA TB Services
 Telephone: (08) 7117 2967
 Monday-Friday, 8:45am-4:45pm

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This information sheet does not constitute medical advice and is for general information only. Readers should always seek independent professional advice where appropriate.



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