

## Mayo Clinic Minute

### Understanding tuberculosis

Video	Audio
<b>Priya Sampathkumar, M.D.</b> <b>Infectious Diseases</b> <b>Mayo Clinic</b>	"Tuberculosis is a disease caused by a bacteria called mycobacterium."
<b>Reporter</b>	Dr. Priya Sampathkumar says all forms of TB can be serious. But when it affects your lungs, it's particularly dangerous because it can spread to others, through the air, when an infected person coughs or even speaks.
<b>Priya Sampathkumar, M.D.</b>	"Anyone is at risk, provided they have enough exposure. But some people are at especially high risk, and those would be people whose immune systems are weakened."
<b>Reporter</b>	That group includes people with HIV, people on chemotherapy or people who have had transplants.
<b>Reporter</b>	Some people who get TB can get rid of it on their own.
<b>Priya Sampathkumar, M.D.</b>	"If you've progressed beyond that and your body hasn't been able to control the TB, and now you have full-blown active TB disease, treatment for that can range from six months to much, much longer, depending on the type of TB you have."
<b>Reporter</b>	Antibiotic-resistant strains make treatment difficult. Talk to your healthcare provider if you may have been exposed to TB.
	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm Vivien Williams.