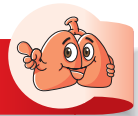


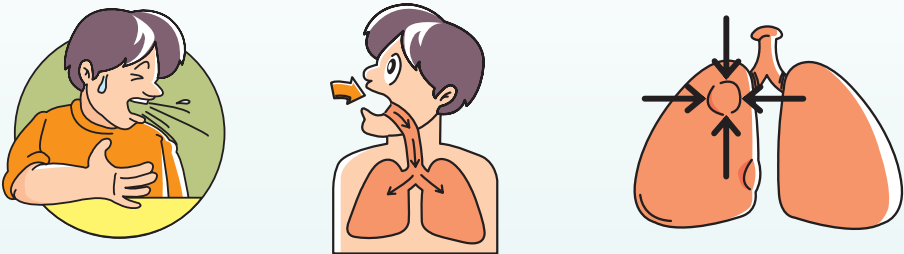
# Pathogenesis of Tuberculosis



TB is caused by the TB bacillus. When a person with active TB disease coughs or sneezes, droplet nuclei containing TB bacilli may be generated. These droplet nuclei suspend in the air, and can cause infection when inhaled. In general, prolonged exposure is usually required for the disease to be transmitted.

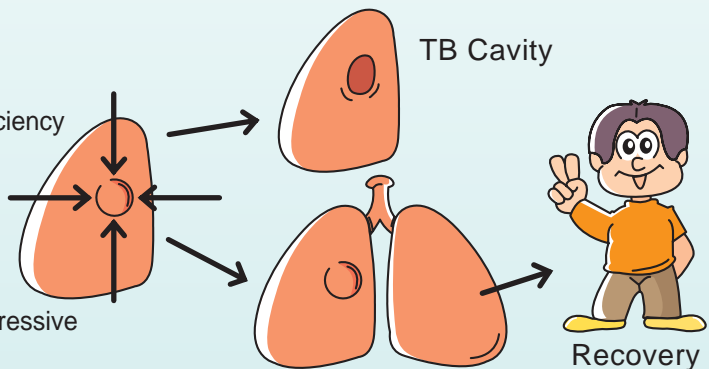
After being infected, there is a 5-10% lifetime risk of falling ill with active TB disease.

Apart from affecting the lung, TB bacilli can enter the blood stream through lymphatics, thereby spreading to different parts of the body.



The risk of developing active TB disease is increased by clinical conditions or comorbidities that impair immunity. Examples include the following:

- Newborn
- Elderly
- Diabetes mellitus
- Malignant disease
- Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infection
- Malnutrition
- Alcohol abuse
- Silicosis
- Smoking
- Use of immunosuppressive drugs



Early appropriate treatment