

## Procedure for handling patients with tuberculosis – Department of Odontology

- Tuberculosis is caused by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* and occurs as lung tuberculosis and tuberculosis in other organs.
- For patients with tuberculosis in other organs there is only risk of infection by contact with secretes from tuberculosis infected wounds.
- Infection in patients with lung tuberculosis occurs as drop infection (airborne infection).
- The dissemination of tuberculosis most often occurs after lengthy and close contact with an infectious patient.
- Particularly patients with active lung tuberculosis are infectious. In Denmark these patients are typically hospitalized and isolated.

After 14 days of active treatment for tuberculosis the risk of infection is considered terminated and the patient may be treated by adhering to the usual general infection hygienic guidelines.

**→All non-acute treatment must be postponed until the risk of infection is terminated**

### Supplementary infection hygienic guidelines for patients with active lung tuberculosis

The following procedures are in effect, in addition to the general infection hygienic guidelines:

Personal guards:

- By direct contact with the patient, use gloves and disposable white coat with long sleeves.
- In a distance <1 meter use surgical mask (reduces but does not eliminate the risk of drop infection via speech).
- By risk of splashes and when using aerosol-producing instrument use FFP3 mask (respiratory guard).

Cleaning and disinfection:

- By cleaning, disinfection and during transportation of instruments etc. to the rinsing room, disposable white coat, gloves and surgical mask/mouth cover must be used.
- After treatment, cleaning is performed primarily and then surface disinfection using ethanol (70-85%) of units and all surfaces in the clinic/the specific unit.
- Instruments and equipment is used during the treatment are taken to the rinsing room and placed in the dishwasher. After this the instruments are handled as usual.
- Regular waste as well as disposable white coat and gloves are disposed of as regular day waste immediately after the treatment.

School of Dentistry, University of Copenhagen

October 30 2014