



Joint Action on integrating prevention, testing and linkage to care strategies across HIV, viral hepatitis, TB and STIs in Europe

Patient Information Leaflet

Romania

HAVING AN HIV TEST AT THE TUBERCULOSIS CLINIC

Spitalul Clinic de Boli Infecțioase și Pneumoftiziologie “Victor Babeș” Craiova
Clinica Pneumoftiziologie I

Tuberculosis

You have been referred to this department due to suspected or confirmed infection with Tuberculosis (TB). TB is a contagious infection that usually affects the lungs, but it can also affect other parts of the body, like the spine or the brain. It is caused by bacteria and is transmitted via saliva – coughing and sharing household with a TB infected person. You can have the bacteria in your body, but your immune system stops them from spreading and you will neither be sick nor contagious. If your immune system is suddenly impaired, the bacteria will start spreading and you will get sick. One reason for an impaired immune system could be an HIV infection.

It is important to emphasize that most people with TB will NOT have HIV infection. But we think it is worthwhile that everyone takes the test.

A routine HIV test of all patients will help us to identify the patients with HIV and provide timely treatment and care

HIV (the Human Immunodeficiency Virus) is now a manageable condition with medication. Treatment is very successful, but it is most successful if the infection is identified at an early stage. The majority of patients will be on straightforward treatment experiencing few, if any, side effects.

As a patient at the Pneumophthisiology clinic you will be offered an HIV test. A blood test will be drawn together with your routine blood tests. You can ask any questions you may have. Declining to have an HIV test will in no way affect the care you receive.

You will be asked to sign a written consent to have the HIV test done.

Anyone who accepts an HIV test will receive the test result. The result is confidential and known only to you and your treating physician/nurse.

Taking the test, and testing negative, has no implications for insurance or mortgage applications.

If the result is positive, you will be referred to the infectious diseases ward, where you will receive treatment and care for HIV.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information.

Please keep this leaflet for your reference.