Tuberculosis



 Tuberculosis is a communicable disease that is a contagious bacterial infection that involves the lungs. Tuberculosis (TB) is caused by a bacterium called mycobacterium tuberculosis. The bacterium usually attacks the lungs but tuberculosis can attack any part of your body, including the kidney, spine and brain. Tuberculosis can spread through the air from one person to another. Bacteria from the disease are transferred into the air when a person with the disease of the lungs and throat coughs, sneezes, speaks or sings. People could inhale the bacteria and become infected.

 The symptoms of active tuberculosis include coughing, unintentional weight lost, fatigue, fever, night sweats, chills and lost of appetite. TB usually affects your lungs more than any other organ. Symptoms of tuberculosis in the lungs include coughing that last 3 or more weeks, coughing up blood, chest pain or pain with breathing or coughing. There are a lot of factors that can increase your weakened immune system, international connections, poverty and substance abuse and where you work or live.

 Although tuberculosis doesn’t seem severe, TB takes much longer than treating other types of bacterial infections. To treat tuberculosis, you must take antibiotics for at least 6 to 9 months. The length or treatment depend on your age, overall health, whether it is latent tuberculosis or active tuberculosis and the location of the infection in the body. Tuberculosis can be cured. Common modifications used to treat tuberculosis include isoniazid, rifampin, ethambutal and pyrazinamide. There are side effects that came with the medications. Those side effects include nausea and vomiting, loss of appetite, jaundice, dark urine and a fever that lasts up to 3 days.

 The main way to avoid tuberculosis is to avoid exposure to people with the active disease. There is a vaccine for tuberculosis. It is called BCG. BCG is often administered to infants and small children in countries.

 Here are some common facts about tuberculosis; In 2011 8.7 million people fell ill with TB, a total of 1.4 million people died from TB in 2011 and up to 70,000 children died due to tuberculosis.

 Works Cited

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Division of Tuberculosis Elimination. <http://www.cdc.gov/tb/topic/basics/default.htm>
2. Mayo Clinic. Tuberculosis. <http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/tuberculosis/DS00372>