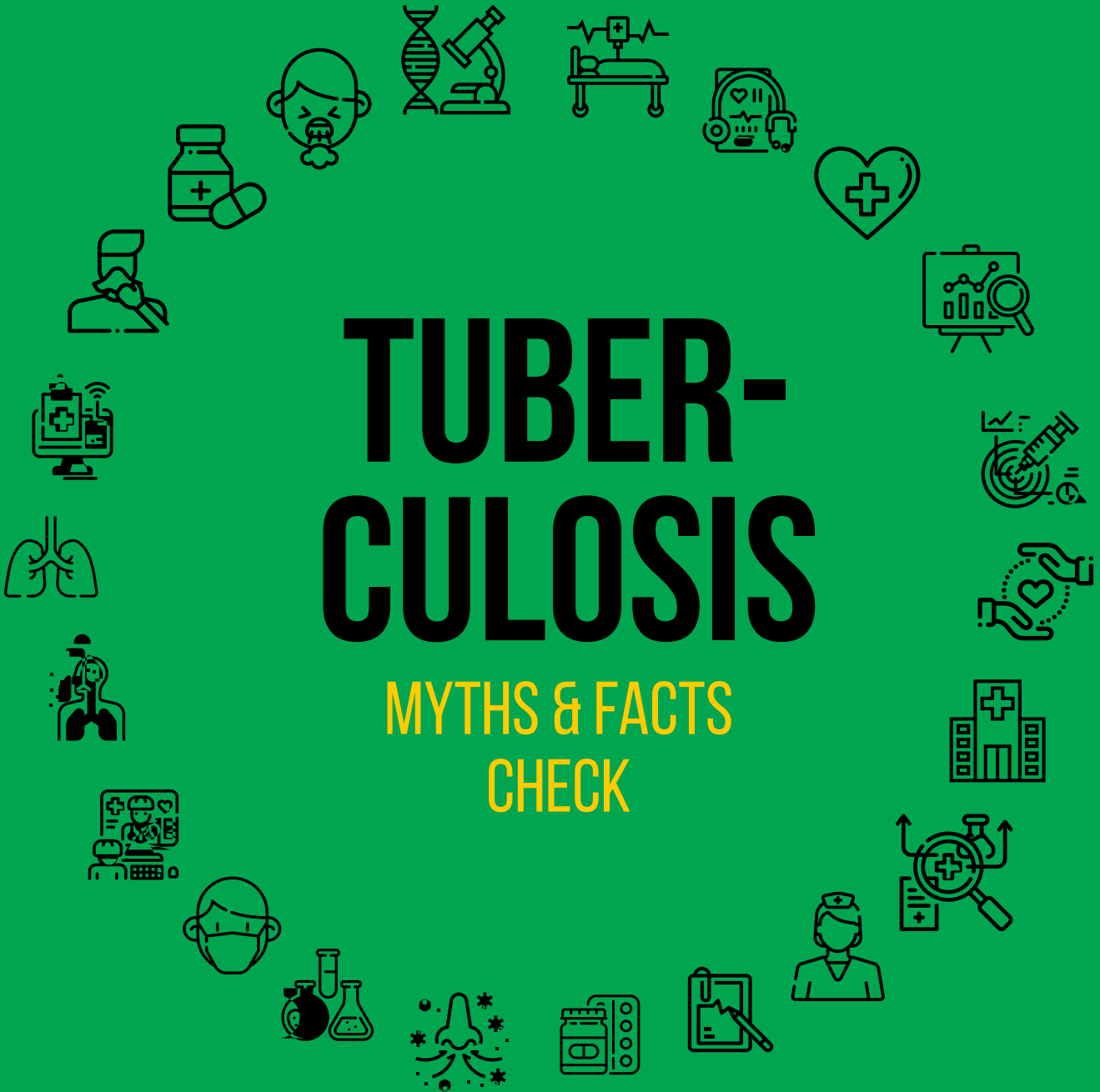


TUBER- CULOSIS

MYTHS & FACTS CHECK



1 MYTH:

Tuberculosis is hereditary



FACT:

TB is NOT hereditary. TB is an airborne disease that is spread when a person with active TB breathe out tiny infected particles into the air. The particles may then be inhaled by others nearby.

2 MYTH:

If someone with Tuberculosis coughs, I will automatically contact it.



FACT:

TB is not easily contracted. You have to be in close contact with someone who has TB for a long time (usually many hours or days).

3 MYTH:

Only those who are poor and underprivileged can contract TB.

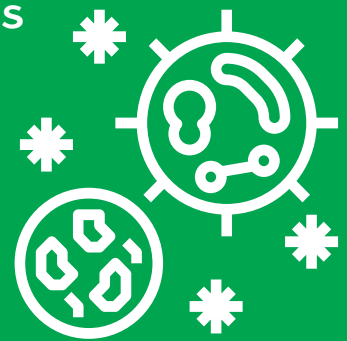


FACT:

TB can be contracted by anyone, although certain populations such as immigrants, people with reduced immunity, elderly, homeless, and others are at a greater risk.

4 MYTH:

Tuberculosis infection leads to disease



FACT:

Not everyone who is infected with TB develops TB disease. In most people, the immune system clears the bacteria and stops it from multiplying.

5

MYTH:

TB is caused by excessive smoking.



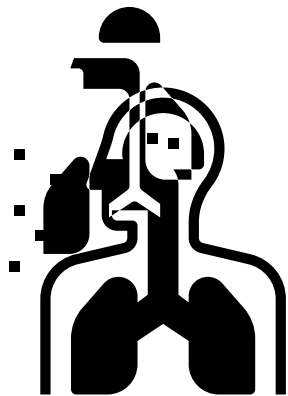
FACT:

Smokers are predisposed to developing respiratory diseases. However, TB is caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. So smoking increases the risk for developing tuberculosis.

6

MYTH:

Tuberculosis affects only lung.



FACT:

TB mostly (80%) occurs in the lungs but can occur anywhere in the human body – from head to toe. When it occurs in organs other than the lungs, it is called extra-pulmonary TB

7

MYTH:

Tuberculosis can be detected by blood and radiological (Xray/Ct scan) investigations.



FACT:

TB cannot be 100% detected by these test. Blood investigations and radiological investigations are supplementary tests. Final diagnosis for pulmonary tuberculosis is Sputum test or any secretions from lung; and for other site tuberculosis is tissue examinations.

8**MYTH:**

TB is not curable. It means sure death.

**FACT:**

TB is curable when diagnosed early and proper medicines are given and full course of treatment has been taken by patient.

9**MYTH:**

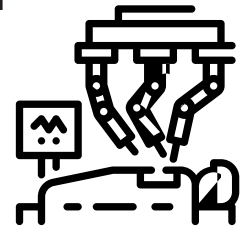
TB treatment is very expensive.

**FACT:**

TB treatment is free in public facilities in Nigeria and patients are provided with beneficial supports in accredited TB treatment centres.

10

MYTH: TB patient must kept in the hospital till they complete their treatment in order to prevent the spread of the disease.

**FACT:**

Once effective treatment begins, the patient quickly turns germ free (non-infective). So if the patient takes proper treatment and observes precautions, s/he poses no additional risk of infection to her/his family members.

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