Tuberculosis is an infectious disease caused by bacteria and is easily treatable if it is detected in time. The person suffering from the disease can usually be cured of the disease without any consequences. Undetected and untreated, tuberculosis can also become life-threatening so it is extremely important that an infection with the tuberculosis pathogens is detected as early as possible.

Why it is important to be examined
Tuberculosis can be treated well with antibiotics if it is detected early. If it is not detected, it can be transmitted in the air. The risk of serious illness is very high for infants and young children because their immune system is not yet fully developed. But older people are also at risk. An examination can also detect infections that are still asymptomatic and they can then be treated accordingly. The examination is therefore intended as a personal precaution. At the same time, the spread of tuberculosis cases is prevented if infections are detected and treated as early as possible.

What is the procedure for testing for tuberculosis?
The most reliable way to identify infectious pulmonary tuberculosis is to X-ray the chest (thorax). Skin, spit and blood tests are not as reliable in comparison and are usually only used in people for whom X-ray examination is not recommended (for example, pregnant women and children under 15 years of age). The X-ray examination creates images of specific areas of the body. The X-ray radiation used is limited to the areas where a change is suspected. Pulmonary tuberculosis can then be detected by a doctor in the images. Due to technological developments, X-ray examination is associated with a very low radiation dose. The radiation exposure is therefore very low.

It is best to discuss with your doctor whether you require an examination to check for tuberculosis. This is the best way to protect yourself and others.

And if tuberculosis is detected?
Tuberculosis is easily treatable and the person suffering from the disease can usually be cured of it without any consequences if it is detected early. It is treated with a combination of medication – usually four different antibiotics – that together develop a high level of effectiveness. The medication is taken for several months. This is extremely important because the pathogens can otherwise become resistant and therefore insensitive to the medication. If the medication treatment is interrupted, it should be continued as soon as possible so that the person suffering from the disease can be successfully cured of it.