

LILU AND THE MYSTERY OF THE PERSISTENT COUGH

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This story is a work of fiction. All names, characters, and locations are purely imaginary. Any resemblance to real persons, living or dead, or actual events is entirely coincidental.

**Dedicated to all Childhood TB
Survivors, whose resilience and
courage continue to inspire us.**



Once upon a time in the lively community of Danku, there lived an energetic young boy named Lilu.

Lilu is a five year old boy who loved playing football with his friends after school and was always full of energy.



Let's
Enhance
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But one day, things started to change. Lilu began coughing constantly, and no matter how much he rested, he felt weaker every day.

He also had fever and was losing weight. His parents grew worried and decided to take him to the friendly neighborhood clinic.



At the clinic, they met Nurse Mina, who was known for her gentle smile and caring nature. Nurse Mina examined Lilu carefully.

“Lilu,” she said kindly, “we need to check for something called tuberculosis, or TB. First, I need you to try to cough so we can collect your sputum sample.”

Lilu tried his best to cough, but he couldn't produce any sputum.

Nurse Mina reassured him, “That's okay, Lilu. Since we couldn't get a sputum sample, we'll take a sample of your stool instead to check for TB. But don't worry, I'll explain everything to you and your family.”

Nurse Mina led them to a cozy corner of the clinic where she had educational charts and pictures ready.

“Let’s start with knowing what TB is,” Nurse Mina said, pointing to a bright poster. “TB spreads through the air when an infected person coughs. If you breathe in the TB bacteria, you can get infected too.”

She further continued by pointing to the poster and explaining the symptoms, “TB can make people cough a lot, have fever, and lose weight, just like what’s been happening to you, Lilu.



“Other symptoms can include swelling on the neck or back, a child not growing well, loss of appetite, poor weight gain, and night sweats,” Nurse Mina explained,

Lilu’s eyes widened. “So, this is why I’ve been feeling so sick?”

“We can’t be sure if it’s TB, until we test your sample,” Nurse Mina replied. “We can also do chest Xray to check for TB”.

“And if your results are out, we will see if it is positive or negative for TB”, Nurse Mina continued. I’ll take this sample to the lab and you can come back tomorrow for the results.

The next day, Lilu and his mother went back to the hospital to know the outcome of the test.

“Your result is out Lilu, it shows you tested positive for TB”, Nurse Mina said in a kindly manner. “But the good news is that we can treat TB. You just need to take your medicine every day for the duration of treatment.”

“There are other forms of TB that require different duration of treatment, but your treatment is only for six months,” Nurse Mina explained.



Lilu felt a bit relieved, but he still had questions. “How can we make sure my little sister and my parents don’t get it?”

Nurse Mina smiled. “Great questions, Lilu! There are lots of ways to prevent TB. For example, babies can get a BCG vaccine at birth to protect them from severe TB.

For people who have been around someone with TB, like your family, we will test them for TB also, and if they are negative, they can take TPT (Tuberculosis Preventive Therapy) to stop them from getting sick.”



Lilu's mother listened carefully. Nurse Mina continued, "It's important to eat healthy foods and practice good hygiene by covering your nose and mouth when coughing."

"Going to the hospital early for testing when we have TB symptoms and ensuring people diagnosed with TB are placed on treatment is key." Nurse Mina explained.

Feeling a bit like a detective solving a mystery, Lilu asked, "So, what do I need to do now?"

“Well,” Nurse Mina said, “you’ll start taking medicine to treat your TB. Remember, It’s very important to take it every day for the next 6 months.

Your parents and sister’s results are negative so they will start taking TPT to make sure they don’t get TB. And it is important to practice, all those healthy habits we talked about, as they will help everyone stay safe.”

Lilu nodded bravely. “I can do that!”



Over the 6 month period, Lilu took his medicine faithfully. His parents and little sister took their preventive medicine too.

They all practiced good hygiene by covering their mouths and nose when they coughed and made sure to eat healthy foods.

Nurse Mina checked Lilu and did follow up test whenever he came with his parents to collect his medication during the period.



As time passed, Lilu's cough went away, his fever disappeared, and he started gaining weight again.

He got cured of TB thanks to his treatment and was back to running around and playing football with his friends, feeling stronger than ever.

One sunny afternoon, Nurse Mina visited Lilu's school to give a talk about TB. Lilu stood proudly beside her, sharing his story with his classmates.

“TB can be scary, but with early detection, proper treatment, and good habits, we can beat it!” Lilu declared with a big smile.



The children cheered, inspired by Lilu's bravery and determination. From that day on, the kids of Danku, knew how to protect themselves and their loved ones from TB, thanks to the lessons learned from their friend Lilu.

And so, Lilu's adventure taught everyone in town that with knowledge, care, and a little bit of courage, they could keep TB at bay and enjoy healthy, happy lives.



CHECK AM OOO!!!

**CHECK THAT COUGH, E FIT BE
TB!!!**

NO GREE FOR TB!!!

YES WE CAN END TB!!!



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