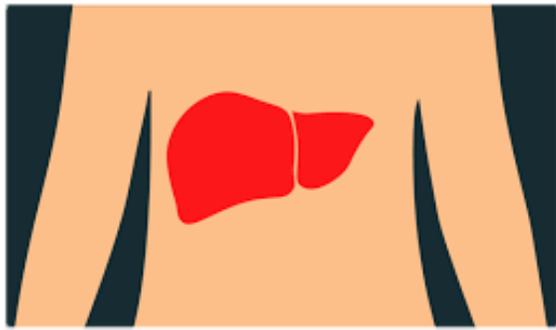


Hepatitis C

#HepCFREE



What is Hepatitis C?

HepC is a viral infection of liver that causes inflammation that may lead to acute and chronic diseases.

Preventing HepC



HepC Vaccine

There is currently no Hep C vaccine, making blood testing very important.

Diagnosing HepC



Blood Screening

Blood HepC antibody tests can determine if you were infected in the past. If positive, further testing can check for chronic HepC.

Treating HepC



Treatment

Many different antiviral pills and injections are available. Doctors should be consulted for long term course of action.

How is Hepatitis C Spread?

1

BLOOD EXPOSURE

HepC virus can spread through the circulation of reused or shared needles.

2

SEXUAL TRANSMISSION

Bodily fluids (semen, vaginal/menstrual fluids) can transmit the virus.

3

MOTHER TO CHILD

Infected women can pass HepC virus to infants during childbirth.

Who is At Risk?

- Injection drug users
- Recipients of donated blood/organs
- Received body piercing/tattoos done with non-sterile instruments
- HIV-infected persons
- Children of mothers who have been infected with HepC virus

Symptoms

- **Most people have no symptoms!**
- But most common ones include:
 - Fatigue/Fever
 - Nausea/vomiting
 - Abdominal pain
 - Joint pain
 - Dark urine
 - Jaundice (yellow color in skin/eyes)

Complications of Chronic HepC

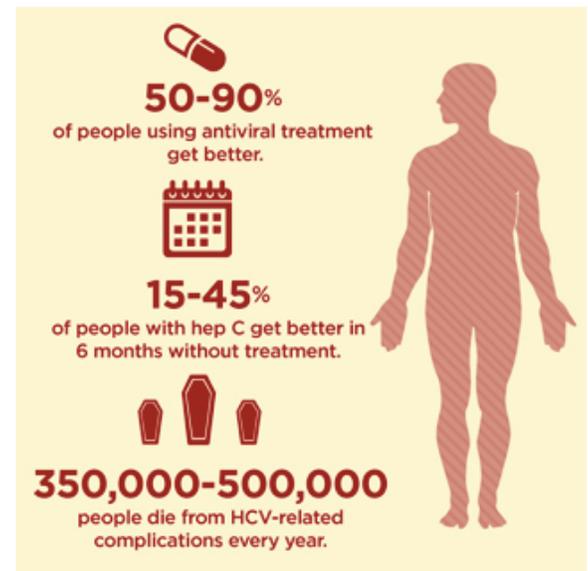
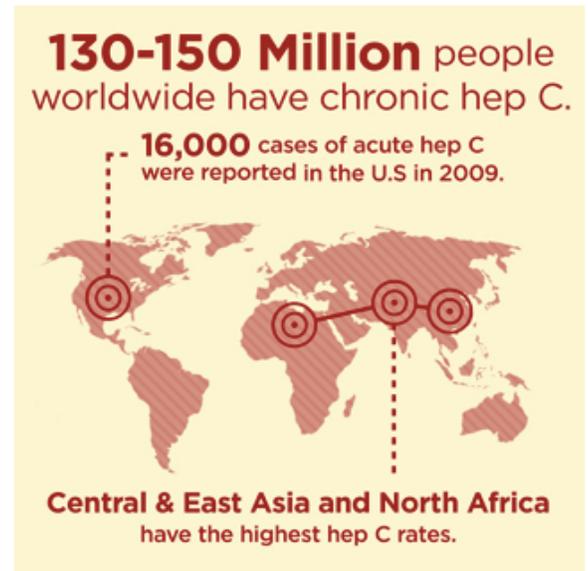
- Chronic Hep C Virus Infection
- Chronic Liver Disease
- Liver Cirrhosis
- Liver Cancer

Global Distribution of Hepatitis C

Hepatitis C is most prevalent in regions of Africa, Asia, and even parts of Europe.

Chronic Hepatitis C afflicts about 170 million people worldwide and annually kills about 350,000 people, including 15,000 in the U.S. Hepatitis C is more likely than Hepatitis A or B to result in permanent liver damage, due to its ability to mutate very fast, ultimately creating the struggle for a vaccine to be made. Practicing safe use of tools and objects that may contain infected blood is extremely helpful in protecting yourself against Hepatitis C.

Protect yourself and others by getting your blood diagnosis done today!



SOURCES:

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