

## Hepatitis C

Hepatitis is an inflammatory disease that affects the liver. It can cause cirrhosis or liver cancer and can develop into a chronic condition. Hepatitis C is usually transmitted when a person comes into contact with the blood of an infected person.

### Facts about Hepatitis y Hepatitis C



Viral hepatitis is caused by one of several types, the hepatitis A, B, C, D, and E viruses.



The symptoms of viral hepatitis are similar, but they spread differently and have different treatments.



People infected with the hepatitis C virus may have mild illness, with few or no symptoms or a chronic condition that requires hospitalization.



Less than half of the people who get hepatitis C are not able to clear the virus without treatment in the first six months.

### Symptoms

Fever, tiredness, loss of appetite, nausea and / or vomiting, abdominal pain, dark urine, clay-colored stools, joint pain, and jaundice (yellow skin and eyes). Symptoms of infection can begin 2 weeks to 6 months after becoming infected. Similarly, people can live with hepatitis C without having symptoms or feeling sick.

### Risk of Infection

- Share personal hygiene items.
- Tattoos or "Piercings" in places with an informal setting.
- Sharing needles or syringes.
- Birth.
- Unprotected sexual intercourse with an infected person.

### Diagnosis

- The only way to know if you have hepatitis C is to get tested with a hepatitis C antibody screen test.



## Treatment

Hepatitis C can be cured. Early treatment could save your life.

Available treatments can cure people with hepatitis C in 8 to 12 weeks.

You may also need medicine, a liver transplant, or other medical procedures.

Without treatment, hepatitis C can lead to cirrhosis, liver failure, and liver cancer. Early diagnosis and treatment of hepatitis C can prevent them.

### Prevention

- Avoid sharing personal items such as razors, toothbrushes, and needles.
- If you are going to get a tattoo or piercing, make sure that the establishment complies with health standards.

### Social and Emotional Aspect

For tips, tools, and resources on how you and your family can cope with the emotional and physical concerns that arise during and after medical treatment, please visit your primary care physician or contact the following phone lines:

#### First Health Call

1-866-337-3338

TTY- 1-866-921-0101

#### APS Healthcare

787-641-9133

#### Reference:

from Hepatitis C. Medline Plus. Retrieved <https://medlineplus.gov/hepatitisc.html>

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