

Hepatitis C

Fact Sheet



What is Hepatitis C?

Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) is a virus that attacks the liver. It can cause both acute and chronic disease.

Symptoms

Some people may not have any symptoms.

Those who do may experience:

- **Jaundice (yellowing of the skin or eyes)**
- **Fever**
- **Abdominal pain**
- **Loss of appetite**
- **Dark urine**
- **Vomiting**
- **Fatigue**
- **Joint pain**

Prevention

Obtain body piercings and tattoos from reputable shops. Do not share needles. **If you have an accidental needlestick exposure, seek immediate care.** Pregnant women should receive regular prenatal care. There is no vaccine available for HCV.

How is it spread?

HCV passes from person to person through bodily fluids, such as blood.

Common ways the virus is spread include:

- Accidental needlesticks
- Sharing of needles
- Moms may pass the virus to their baby during pregnancy or childbirth
- Sexual transmission is possible but uncommon

Treatment

HCV is very treatable and is important to prevent further liver damage. This consists of an antiviral medication taken for 8-12 weeks. Repeat testing is completed after treatment to confirm the virus has been cleared.

