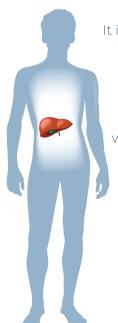
What you need to know about hepatitis C





What is **hepatitis C**?



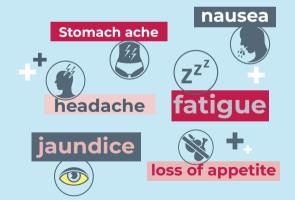
It is an **inflammation of the liver**, caused
by the **hepatitis C virus** (HCV).

The virus spreads through **exposure** with **contaminated** blood

What are the **symptoms**?

Approximately **80%** of patients do not exhibit **any symptoms**.

Some patients might have the following **symptoms**:



Hepatitis and Liver Cancer. A National Strategy for Prevention and Control of Hepatitis B and C.

Available at: https://www.nap.edu/download/12793 (accessed February 2021)

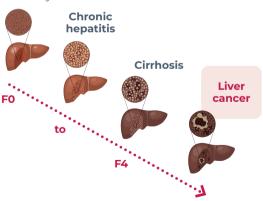
Hepatitis C, Key Facts. WHO website. Available at: https://www.who.int/hews-room/fact-sheets/detail/hepatitis-c (accessed November 2024)

If left untreated,

hepatitis C can damage the liver (fibrosis) and cause cirrhosis and/or liver cancer on the long term.

Early stage to advanced disease

Healthy liver



How does hepatitis C spread?

HIGH RISK





Blood transfusion and hemodialysis (before 1992 or in high endemic countries)

MODERATE RISK









Unprotected bathroom high-risk sex materials

NO RISK







Sharing of showers and toilets



food and drinks



Hugging and kissing

Hepatitis Conline. Core Concepts – Natural History of Hepatitis C Infection: Evaluation, Staging, and Monitoring of Chronic Hepatitis C. Available at: http://www.hepatitisc.uwedu/so/ evaluation-staging-monitoring/hatural-history/core-concept/all (accessed November 2024)

Hepatitis C: transmission. WHO website. Available at: www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/ hepatitis-c (accessed November 2024)

How do you know if you are **infected** with HCV?

First test

FINGERPRICK OR BLOOD WITHDRAWAL

If your test is positive = HCV antibodies are positive.

This means you have been in contact with hepatitis C, but it is not yet known if you are currently infected.



Second test

BLOOD WITHDRAWAL

If your test is positive = you are currently infected with hepatitis C.

This can be treated. Please consult your medical doctor.



How is **fibrosis evaluated**?

The grade of fibrosis is assessed with a Fibroscan*. The Fibroscan is a simple and painless ultrasound examination that measures the **elasticity** of your liver.

The more fibrosis, the less elastic is your liver.

For this examination an ultrasound device is placed on your body.



*Or ShearWave or ARFI = other elastography techniques Hepatitis C: Diagnosis, NHS website. Available at: https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/hepatitis-c/ diagnosis/ (accessed November 2024)

People with hepatitis C can be **cured!**

The treatment involves taking pills.



Treatment takes 8 to 16 weeks.

Do not combine **with other medication** before discussing with your doctor.





When are you cured?

12 weeks after the end of your treatment, **a blood test** is done.



Your cure will be confirmed if **no more** virus is found in your blood.

Attention!

With hepatitis C, **the antibodies** are **not protective**. You can always get infected again.

How do you **prevent** re-infection?

Never use

bathroom materials of others and **never share** yours.



Always use clean and unused material



Protect yourself

during anal sex and/or sex with multiple partners.



Notes

Who can you contact?

>	Profession:		
>	E-mail addr	ess:	
>	Phone num	nber:	
>			
	> Profession :		
>	> E-mail address :		
>	> Phone number :		
>			
>	Profession:		
>	E-mail addr	ess:	
		nber:	