

WHAT IS HEP B?

...WHY SHOULD I CARE?



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August 2020

Hep B is inflammation of the liver caused by the hep B virus.



How do I get hep B?

Hep B can be transmitted by:

- Blood to blood contact
- Unprotected sex
- Mother to baby at birth, and
- Injecting drugs



How do I know if I have hep B?

A simple blood test will let you know if you have immunity to hep B or have hep B



What happens if I have no immunity?

If you have no immunity the doctor will suggest a safe and effective vaccination.



What happens if I have hep B?

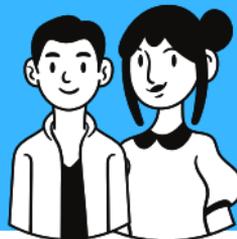
There is no cure for hep B, but there is treatment, and the doctor will talk to you about options.



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What is 'Acute' hep B?

Acute hep B is an infection that:

- Lasts less than 6 months
- 90% of adults will clear the virus (while infectious can still pass it on)
- 5–10% of adults with acute hep B will develop 'Chronic' hep B



What is 'Chronic' hep B?

Chronic hep B is an infection that:

- Lasts longer than 6 months, usually for life
- Leads to cirrhosis and liver cancer



Wouldn't I know if I had hep B?

Not really, most people don't know they have hep B as the symptoms are not always obvious, but can include: tummy ache, loss of appetite, fatigue, aches and pains in muscles



I had better have a chat with my doctor.

Yes, knowing your status is a good thing to do.



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