Hepatitis C Quiz

This quiz will help you learn more about the hepatitis C virus. First, read each statement and answer "true" or "false." Then read more about the correct answer.

Statement 1.
Hepatitis C virus (HCV) causes severe liver disease in everyone who has it. True or False?

Answer: False
While hepatitis C causes some liver disease in almost everyone who has it, the disease is usually not severe. People with hepatitis C need to see a doctor often to check the health of their liver.

Statement 2.
You can only get hepatitis C if you inject drugs. True or False?

Answer: False
It is true that if you share needles or works to inject drugs, or if the needle you use isn't brand new, you can get hepatitis C. But that isn't the only way you can get hepatitis C. Some others include

- if you had a blood transfusion before 1992
- if you were on long-term kidney dialysis
- if you were a health care worker and had contact with blood on the job
- if your mother had hepatitis C when she gave birth to you
- if you have had multiple sexual partners
- if you have had tattoos or body piercings

Statement 3.
You can have hepatitis C and not even feel sick. True or False?

Answer: True
You can have hepatitis C for many years and not feel sick or have any symptoms at all. Or you might mistake your symptoms for something else. The only way your doctor can tell if you have hepatitis C is to test your blood.

Statement 4.
Hepatitis C is spread through dirty food and water. True or False?

Answer: False
Hepatitis C is not spread through food or water. It is mainly spread through blood. Hepatitis A, which is caused by a different virus than hepatitis C, is spread through dirty food and water. Because hepatitis C is spread through blood, you don't have to worry about getting it from a sneeze, hug, cough, food, water, or from sharing eating utensils, sharing drinking glasses, or having other casual contact.

Statement 5.
I can protect myself from getting hepatitis C. True or False?

Answer: True
There are lots of things you can do to protect yourself from getting hepatitis C. The most important is to avoid other people's blood or things that might have other people's blood on them. Here are some suggestions:

~ Don't inject drugs.
If you can't stop, use a clean needle every time, and never share your needle or works with anyone else. Ask your doctor how you can stop using drugs.

~ Practice safe sex.
If you have more than one sexual partner, use a latex barrier, such as a condom (or *rubber*) every time you have sex. Talk with your sex partner(s) about hepatitis C and other sexually transmitted diseases.

~ If you are a health care worker, follow standard precautions.
Handle needles and other sharps safely. Report every needle stick or other injury on the job to your supervisor.

~ Don't share personal items that might have blood on them.
These include razors, toothbrushes, and personal medical supplies.

~ Talk to your doctor about hepatitis C.
Your doctor can provide you with more information about how to protect yourself from hepatitis C infection.

Statement 6.
There is no vaccine to prevent hepatitis C infection.
True or False?

Answer: True
Doctors are trying to find a vaccine (or *shot*) that will keep you from getting hepatitis C. There are vaccines that can protect you from other kinds of hepatitis. Ask your doctor for more information.

Statement 7.
As a veteran, I can be tested for hepatitis C at a VA medical center.
True or False?

Answer: True
Any veteran can get tested for hepatitis C. The test is very simple and you can find out the results within a week or two. Call your local VA medical center for an appointment.

Statement 8.
My local VA medical center can provide me with more information and support.
True or False?

Answer: True

Who can I contact for more information?

Call your local VA medical center and visit the Veterans Affairs Hepatitis C Web site at http://www.hepatitis.va.gov/

For more information on hepatitis, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Web site at:
http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/hepatitis

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Public Health Strategic Health Care Group (13B)
Veterans Health Administration
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20420
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