

The ABCs of Hepatitis Fact Sheet

| HEPATITIS A | HEPATITIS B | HEPATITIS C |
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| What is it? | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ A virus that causes sickness to the liver ▶ Goes away in about 2 months | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ A virus that causes sickness to the liver ▶ USUALLY goes away after several months ▶ If it does not go away, it can cause liver cell damage, leading to cirrhosis (scarring) and cancer | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ A virus that causes sickness to the liver ▶ USUALLY does NOT go away unless treated ▶ It can cause liver cell damage, leading to cirrhosis (scarring) and cancer |
| How is it spread? | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Eating or drinking food or water that has been contaminated with infected feces | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Contact with infected blood, sexual fluids, or saliva ▶ Sharing injection drug equipment, or tattoo and body-piercing tools ▶ Human bite ▶ Passed from infected mother to newborn during childbirth | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Sharing injection drug equipment, or tattoo and body-piercing tools ▶ Contact with infected blood ▶ Sharing razors and toothbrushes ▶ Passed from infected mother to newborn during childbirth ▶ Rarely spread through sex |
| Symptoms | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ For hepatitis A and B, you may have light stools or dark urine, fatigue, fever, nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite, bellyache, and yellow skin or eyes (jaundice). Some people don't experience any symptoms | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Most people have no symptoms ▶ Some may feel tired and experience nausea and loss of appetite |
| Treatment | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Lots of rest and fluids | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Interferon or oral anti-viral medication | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Oral anti-viral medication |
| Prevention | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Washing hands with soap and water after using the toilet. Use 1 part bleach to 9 parts water to clean surfaces contaminated with feces, such as changing tables. ▶ Avoid contaminated food and water ▶ Vaccination | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Clean up spilled blood with 1 part bleach to 9 parts water and wear protective gloves. Soak spill area for 10 minutes. ▶ Do not share razors, toothbrushes, or needles ▶ Practice safe sex: use a latex condom or barrier ▶ Vaccination | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Clean up spilled blood with 1 part bleach to 9 parts water and wear protective gloves. Soak spill area for 10-30 minutes. ▶ Do not share razors, toothbrushes, or needles ▶ Practice safe sex: use a latex condom or barrier ▶ No vaccine exists ▶ Can get re-infected after being cured |