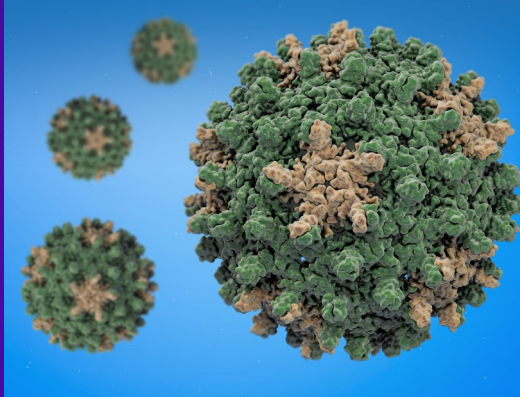
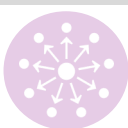


HEPATITIS B



Hepatitis B is a liver infection caused by the hepatitis B virus. The hepatitis B virus is spread when a person who has the virus passes it on to someone else through bodily fluids (such as semen or blood). A person who is infected with the virus for a long time may develop health problems such as liver cancer. Children who are infected with the virus are much more likely to develop lifelong (chronic) hepatitis B disease and liver problems.



How is it spread?

The hepatitis B virus is spread from person to person:

- ▶ Through contact with bodily fluids (such as semen or blood).
- ▶ Through sharing of injectable drug equipment (such as needles, syringes, or other equipment used to “shoot up”).
- ▶ From mother to child during birth. All pregnant women should get a blood test for hepatitis B.
- ▶ Through sharing razors or toothbrushes.



What are the signs and symptoms?

Many infected people will not have symptoms, but can still spread the virus. If a person does have symptoms, they may start between six weeks and six months after being exposed to the virus. Symptoms can include:

- ▶ Fever
- ▶ Feeling tired
- ▶ Not feeling hungry
- ▶ Nausea (feeling dizzy)
- ▶ Vomiting (throwing up)
- ▶ Pain in the stomach
- ▶ Dark colored urine (pee)
- ▶ Clay-colored bowel movements (poop)
- ▶ Joint pain
- ▶ Jaundice (when a person’s skin or eyes look yellow in color)

Some people are sick with chronic (life-long) hepatitis B disease, which can lead to liver damage, cancer, liver failure, and death.





What are the treatment options?

For people who are sick with acute (short-term) hepatitis B:

- ▶ There is no treatment option for acute hepatitis B infection.
- ▶ Getting plenty of rest, eating healthy foods, and drinking plenty of water can help a sick person to feel better.
- ▶ Sometimes, but not always, an acute infection can lead to a chronic infection.

For people who are chronically (long-term) infected with hepatitis B disease:

- ▶ Their health care providers will monitor for liver disease.
- ▶ Getting plenty of rest, eating healthy foods, avoiding alcohol, and drinking plenty of water can help.
- ▶ Certain people may be able to take medications to decrease symptoms.
- ▶ Anyone who has hepatitis B should also get the hepatitis A vaccine .



How can it be prevented?

The best way to prevent hepatitis B disease is to get vaccinated!

- ▶ All babies should get three doses of hepatitis B vaccine; a dose at birth, a second dose at one to two months of age, and a third dose at six months of age.
- ▶ All children and teens who did not complete the series as babies should receive the vaccine.
- ▶ Any adult who is at risk for hepatitis B virus should be vaccinated.
- ▶ Blood spills should be cleaned with a mixture of one part household bleach to 10 parts water and safety gloves should be used.



Why should pregnant women be concerned about hepatitis B?

- ▶ It is important for a woman to find out if she has the hepatitis B virus so she and her baby can get medical care during and after delivery.
- ▶ If a women has the virus, her baby will get two shots within 12 hours after birth— The hepatitis B vaccine and a medicine called hepatitis immunoglobulin (HBIG).

For more information about hepatitis B vaccine, please review the vaccine information statement:

http://www.immunize.org/vis/vis_hepatitis_b.asp

