

HEPATITIS B

General Information



Who is at risk?

Although anyone can get Hepatitis B, some people are at greater risk, such as those who:

- Have sexual contact with an infected person
- Have multiple sex partners
- Have a sexually transmitted disease
- Are men who have sexual encounters with other men
- Inject drugs or share needles, syringes, or other injection equipment
- Live with a person who has Hepatitis B
- Are on hemodialysis
- Are exposed to blood on the job
- Are infants born to infected mothers

What is hepatitis?

Hepatitis means inflammation of the liver. There are several types of hepatitis, including hepatitis A, B, C, D, and E. Hepatitis B is one of the most common types of hepatitis.

Hepatitis B is a viral infection that can cause liver damage. It is spread through contact with the blood of an infected person. Hepatitis B is a serious disease that can lead to liver failure, liver cancer, and death.

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Acute Hepatitis B is a short-term infection that lasts for 6 months or less. Most people who get acute hepatitis B recover completely and do not have any long-term effects.

Chronic Hepatitis B is a long-term infection that lasts for more than 6 months. About 10% of people who get acute hepatitis B develop chronic hepatitis B. Chronic hepatitis B can lead to liver damage, liver failure, liver cancer, and death.

The best way to prevent Hepatitis B is to get vaccinated.

Is Hepatitis B common?

Hepatitis B is a common infection. About 1.2 million people in the United States have chronic hepatitis B. About 80% of people who get hepatitis B develop chronic hepatitis B. About 20% of people who get hepatitis B develop acute hepatitis B. About 40,000 people die each year from liver failure, liver cancer, and death caused by hepatitis B.

How is Hepatitis B spread?

Hepatitis B is spread through contact with the blood of an infected person. It can be spread through sexual contact, sharing needles, syringes, or other injection equipment, and contact with blood on the job. It can also be spread from an infected mother to her baby during childbirth.



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Can Hepatitis B be spread through sex?

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Who should get vaccinated against Hepatitis B?

Vaccination is recommended for certain groups, including:

- Anyone having sex with an infected partner
- People with multiple sex partners
- Anyone with a sexually transmitted disease
- Men who have sexual encounters with other men
- People who inject drugs
- People who live with someone with Hepatitis B
- People with chronic liver disease, end stage renal disease, or HIV infection
- Healthcare and public safety workers exposed to blood
- Travelers to certain countries
- All infants at birth

What are the symptoms of acute Hepatitis B?

Acute Hepatitis B, the initial infection, usually causes no symptoms. In 3 months, 90% of people infected with Hepatitis B will have cleared the virus and will not have any symptoms.

- Fatigue
- Loss of appetite
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Abdominal pain
- Dark urine
- Yellowing of the skin and eyes (jaundice)
- Fever

What are the symptoms of chronic Hepatitis B?

Chronic Hepatitis B, which occurs in 10% of people infected with Hepatitis B, usually causes no symptoms. In 30% of people with chronic Hepatitis B, symptoms may include:

How serious is Hepatitis B?

15% 25% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%