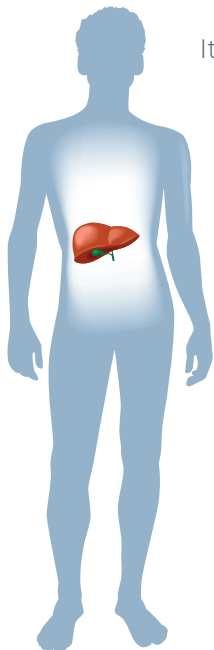


What you need to know about **hepatitis C**



What is hepatitis C?



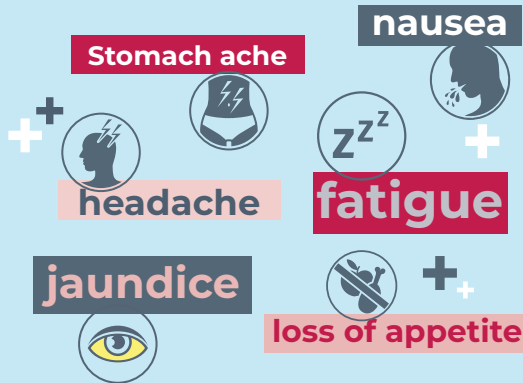
It is an **inflammation of the liver**, caused by the **hepatitis C virus** (HCV).

The virus spreads through **exposure with contaminated blood**.

What are the symptoms?

Approximately **80%** of patients do not exhibit **any symptoms**.

Some patients might have the following **symptoms**:



Hepatitis and Liver Cancer: A National Strategy for Prevention and Control of Hepatitis B and C.
Available at: <https://www.nap.edu/download/12793> (accessed February 2021)

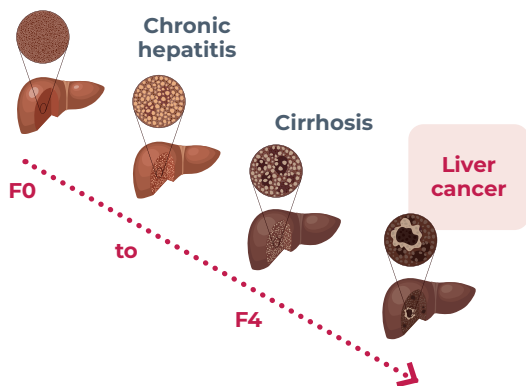
Hepatitis C, Key Facts. WHO website. Available at: <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/hepatitis-c> (accessed May 2021)

! If left untreated,

hepatitis C can damage the liver (fibrosis) and cause cirrhosis and/or liver cancer on the long term.

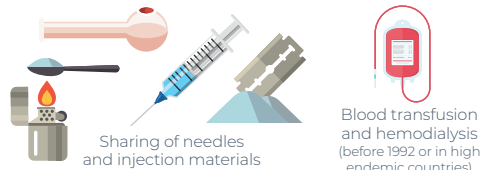
Early stage to advanced disease

Healthy liver



How does hepatitis C spread?

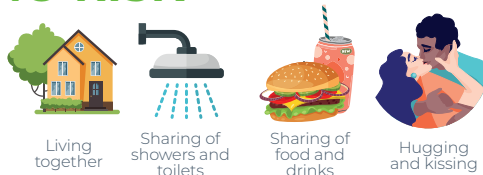
HIGH RISK



MODERATE RISK



NO RISK



How do you know if you are **infected** with HCV ?

First test

FINGERPRICK OR BLOOD WITHDRAWAL

**If your test is positive =
HCV antibodies are
positive.**

This means you have been in contact with hepatitis C, but it is not yet known if you are currently infected.



Second test

BLOOD WITHDRAWAL

**If your test is positive =
you are currently infected
with hepatitis C.**

This can be treated. Please consult your medical doctor.



How is **fibrosis** **evaluated?**

The grade of fibrosis is assessed with a Fibroscan*. The Fibroscan is a simple and painless ultrasound examination that measures the **elasticity** of your liver.

The more fibrosis, the less elastic is your liver.

For this examination an **ultrasound device is placed on your body.**



*Or ShearWave or ARFI = other elastography techniques
Hepatitis C: Diagnosis, NHS website. Available at: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/hepatitis-c/diagnosis/>
(accessed February 2021)

All hepatitis C patients can be treated, **almost all will be cured!**



Treatment is simple
by taking oral medication (pills).

Treatment takes **8 to 16 weeks.**

There are no serious side effects,
in contrast to the previously used interferon.

Do not combine **with other medication** before
discussing with your doctor.



You remain infectious during your treatment !

When are you
cured?

12 weeks after the end of your
treatment, **a blood test** is done.



Your cure will be confirmed if **no more virus is found in your blood.**

Attention!

With hepatitis C, **the antibodies** are
not protective. You can always get
infected again.

Who can you **contact?**

>

> Profession :

> E-mail address :

> Phone number :

>

> Profession :

> E-mail address :

> Phone number :

>

> Profession :

> E-mail address :

> Phone number :