

Hepatitis Overview

Hepatitis Virus	Hepatitis A (HAV)	Hepatitis B (HBV)	Hepatitis C (HCV)
What it is	HAV is a virus that causes inflammation of the liver. It does not lead to chronic disease.	HBV is a virus that causes inflammation of the liver. It can cause liver cell damage, leading to cirrhosis (end stage liver disease) and cancer.	HCV is a virus that causes inflammation of the liver. It can cause liver cell damage, leading to cirrhosis (end stage liver disease) and cancer.
Incubation period	15-50 days average 30 days	4-26 weeks average 8-12 weeks	2-26 weeks average 7-9 weeks
How it is spread	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fecal/oral • Person to person contact • Ingestion of contaminated food or water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blood/body fluid exposure • Sexual contact • Infected mother to newborn • Contaminated needles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blood to blood exposure • Contaminated needles • Infected mother to newborn • Sexual/household contact (not as likely)
Symptoms	Dark urine, fatigue, fever, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain and jaundice. Some adults and children may have none.	Often none or mild flu-like symptoms. Others may have jaundice, fever, dark urine and fatigue	Most have no symptoms. Some have flu-like symptoms.
Prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HAV Vaccine • Good hand hygiene and sanitation • Safe sex 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HBV vaccine • Avoid contact with blood or body fluids • Do not share razors, toothbrushes or needles • Safe sex • Universal precautions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid contact with blood or body fluids • Do not share razors, toothbrushes or needles • Safe sex • Universal precautions
Who is at risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Household or sexual contact with an infected person • Travelers to developing countries • Person living in an area with HAV outbreak • Persons engaging in anal/oral sex 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infants born to infected mothers • Having sex with an infected person or multiple partners • IV drug users • Health care workers/ emergency responders • Hemodialysis patients 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IV drug users • Blood transfusion before 1992 • Healthcare workers • Hemodialysis patients • Infants born to infected mothers • Multiple sex partners
Vaccine	2 doses of vaccine to anyone 2 years of age or older (given at proper intervals)	3 doses of vaccine to persons of any age (given at proper intervals)	No vaccine available. If you have Hepatitis C, consider vaccination against Hepatitis A and B.