

Hepatitis C Virus

WHAT IS IT?

Hepatitis C virus (HCV) is a viral infection that spreads from infected blood and can severely hurt the liver. HCV affects millions of people, but many don't know it.

Although there is no vaccine, there is a **CURE**.

HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE HCV?

HCV is the **most common** blood-borne infection

3-5 million people have HCV in the US

Over **400,000** people in Texas have HCV



HOW DO I KNOW IF I HAVE IT?


Most people **don't know** they have HCV until they **develop liver failure or cancer**



WHO SHOULD GET TESTED FOR HCV?

All **baby-boomers** (born 1945-1965) should get tested once

Other people at **increased risk**:

- Injection drug users 
- Needle stick injury at work
- Blood transfusion before 1992
- Baby of a mother with HCV

HOW DO I GET TESTED?

Ask your doctor for the **HCV antibody test**. It is not done with regular blood tests

If the HCV antibody test is positive, a second **HCV RNA test** is needed to check if still infected



IS THERE A CURE?

HCV can be **CURED**

Today's treatments can cure HCV with only **8-12 weeks of pills**



WHAT ELSE DO I NEED TO KNOW?

Several things can hurt the liver:

- **Alcohol**: Even small amounts are bad in persons with HCV
- **Obesity & Diabetes**: Eat healthier foods and exercise
- **Certain types of pills**: Check with your doctor



Infected with HCV? You can find support through health insurance, free medication assistance programs, and county-healthcare assistance programs.

Learn more at www.StopHepatitisC.com



WWW.STOPHEPATITISC.COM



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