

HEPATITIS C VIRUS & ALCOHOL USE



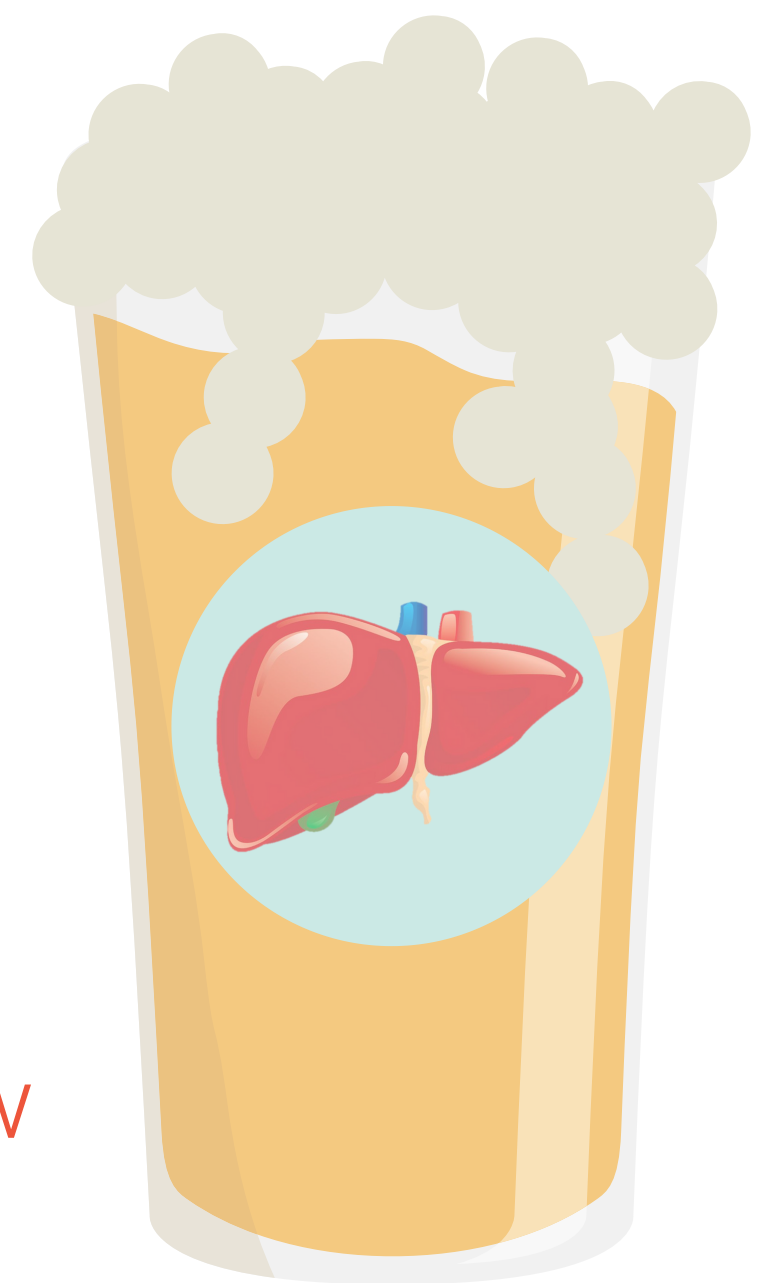
Even small amounts of alcohol can be **dangerous** for persons infected with hepatitis c virus (HCV)

HEPATITIS C VIRUS (HCV) & YOUR LIVER:

- HCV is a viral infection that damages the **liver** and can lead to **liver cancer**
- It affects millions of people, but **at least half don't know they have it**
- **HCV can be cured** with 8-12 weeks of pills
- Curing HCV can slow the growth of liver cancer or even prevent it

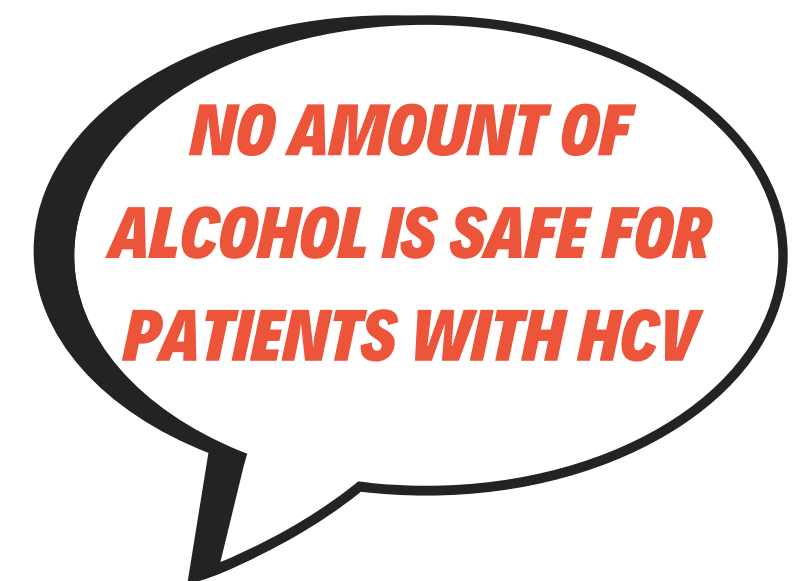
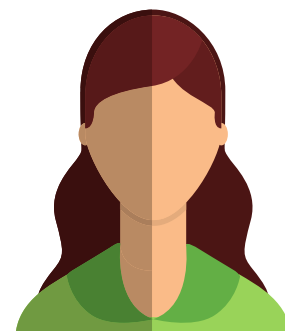
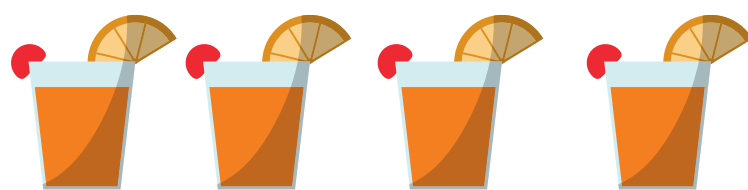
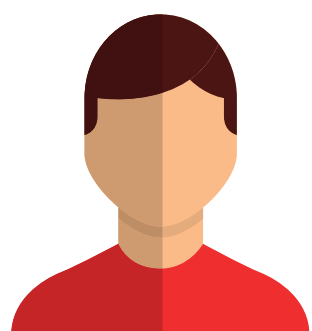
HOW DO ALCOHOL AND HCV AFFECT THE LIVER?

- **Alcohol** can poison the liver
- Drinking alcohol can **hurt the liver** for patients with HCV
- People with HCV can get even sicker when they drink alcohol
- Patients with HCV who engage in heavy drinking are **less likely to cure HCV**



WHAT IS UNHEALTHY DRINKING?

- For healthy men: **4 or more** drinks per day
- For healthy women: **3 or more** drinks per day



ONE DRINK MEANS:



12 ounces of beer
= one bottle/can of beer



5 ounces of wine
= one glass of wine



1.5 ounces of liquor
= one shot of liquor

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Baby-boomers (b. 1945-1965) are more likely to have hepatitis c virus, so it is important for every baby-boomer to get tested
- If you have HCV, ask your healthcare provider to help you avoid drinking because it is dangerous to you and your health

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