

WHAT IS HCV?

- Liver infection caused by the Hepatitis C Virus
- Can last a few weeks to lifelong
- 130-150 million worldwide have chronic Hepatitis C
- 350,000-650,000 die each year from Hepatitis C-related liver disease
- No vaccine
- Can lead to:
 - Liver Cirrhosis
 - Chronic Kidney Disease
 - Cryoglobulinemic vasculitis
 - 10-15% of HCV-infected
 - Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma

RISK FACTORS & PREVENTION

- Transmission from sharing blood of an infected person
 - Needle sharing
 - Blood transfusions (if unscreened)
 - Inadequate sterilization of medical equipment
 - Sexually
 - Mother to baby

DIAGNOSIS AND SCREENING

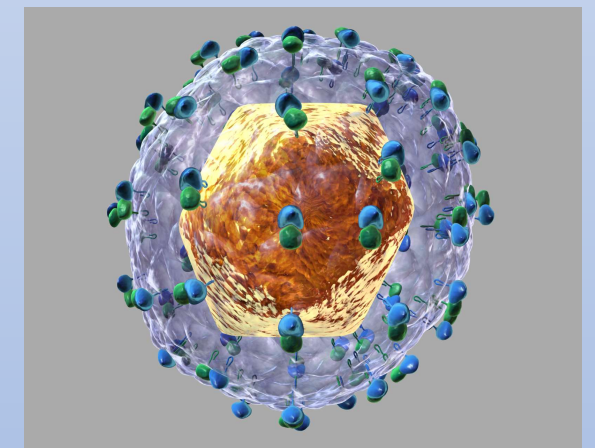
- Early diagnosis is rare because most patients don't have symptoms when they get the infection
- Simple blood testing can reveal if you may have been exposed
 - Further testing of the blood to confirm if there is virus still in the blood (15-45% of people get rid of the infection on their own)
- Screening in all people born 1945-1965 recommended
- Screening those with high risk behaviors or risks of exposure
 - Injection/Intranasal drug users
 - Hemodialysis patients
 - Those after needle stick injuries
 - Children born to infected mothers
 - Received a transfusion from affected donor or before July 1992
 - Incarcerated persons
 - HIV
 - Solid organ donors/recipients

EPIDEMIOLOGY

- Number infected:
 - 3.5 million in USA
 - 130-150 million worldwide have chronic Hepatitis C
 - 50 % don't know they're infected
- 55-85% of those infected will get chronic Hepatitis C
- Cirrhosis of the liver can occur within 20 yrs in 15-30% of those infected

TREATMENT & RECENT ADVANCES

- Treatment has many benefits
- Previous regimens with up to 73% cure rate
 - But many side effects
- Now depending on the medication, up to 100% cure rates!!!
 - Minimal side effects



REFERENCES

- 1) HCV Guidance: Recommendations for testing, managing, and treating Hepatitis C. AASLD guidelines.
- 2) WHO Hepatitis C. <https://www.who/int>