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Viral hepatitis is inflammation of the liver caused by a virus.

The most common types of hepatitis are A, B, and C.

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HAV, HBV, and HCV can all lead to symptoms of nausea, abdominal pain, fatigue, malaise, and jaundice.

HBV and HCV may result in chronic infection leading to cirrhosis or hepatocellular carcinoma.

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HAV is caused by contaminated food/water. HBV is transmitted through blood and body fluids. HCV is spread by direct blood to blood contact.

Over 3.5 million people in the US are infected with HCV although many people have no symptoms and have the disease for many years before being diagnosed. It is important to be tested for HCV if you are in any of the at risk populations.

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New treatments and medications show 85-100% cure rates for HCV.



Morbidity and mortality from viral hepatitis is projected to decline in developed countries due to successful eradication of hepatitis C and increased awareness of hepatitis B.

- Dr. Zohair Ahmed, University of Illinois at Chicago

