

Hepatitis B Virus: What You Should Know

Hepatitis B and the Liver

Hepatitis B is a vaccine-preventable infection of the liver caused by the hepatitis B virus

The liver acts as the body's filter by removing toxins (harmful substances) from anything you eat, drink, inhale, inject, or put into your body

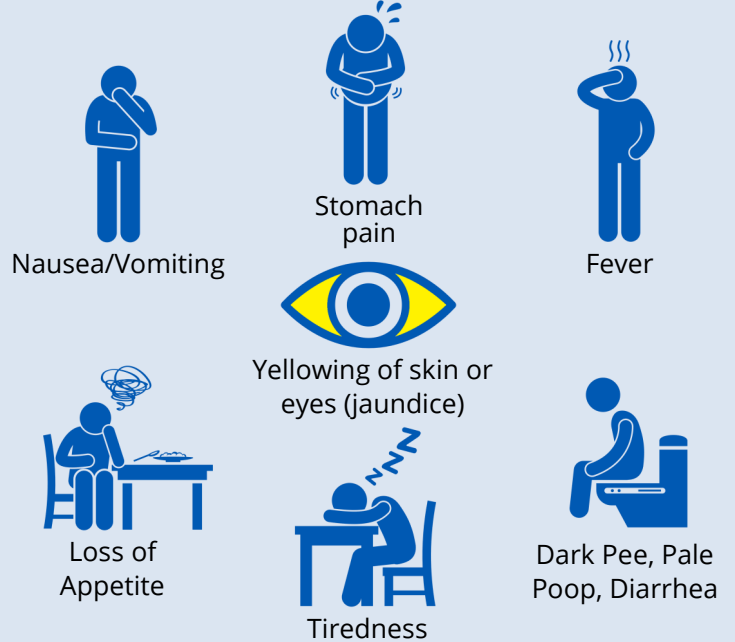
The liver also helps with digestion and blood clotting

You cannot live without your liver



Symptoms

Many people have no symptoms, but you may have one or more of the following:



Acute and Chronic Hepatitis B

Acute

Short-term infection

Body may clear the virus on its own

Chronic

Possible lifelong infection

9 out of 10 infections in infants become chronic

1 in 3 infections in children 1-5 years old become chronic

If left untreated, serious complications such as cirrhosis (scarring of liver), liver cancer, and even death can occur



Vaccination and Testing

Getting vaccinated is the best way to protect against hepatitis B

Ask your local health department or primary care provider about getting a vaccine today

Vaccine Preventable



Type of Test



Blood Draw

You can find out if you currently have hepatitis B by getting your blood drawn

A blood test can also show if you have immunity to hepatitis B virus or have already been vaccinated

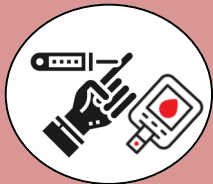
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Preventing the Spread of Hepatitis B

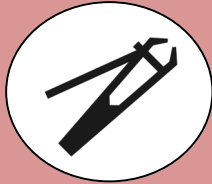
Hepatitis B virus is spread when the blood of someone with hepatitis B mixes with tiny, invisible amounts of blood from someone without hepatitis B

Hepatitis B can also be spread through other body fluids, such as semen, and/or be passed from mother to baby during pregnancy and childbirth

Do **not** share personal items that may come in contact with blood



Diabetic Equipment



Nail Clippers

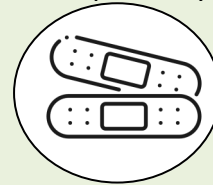


Toothbrushes

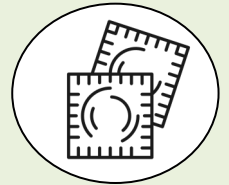


Razors

To protect your loved ones



Cover Wounds



Use Condoms during Sex

Do **not** share injection or inhalation products



Medications or Injected Drugs



Nasal Sprays or Snorting Straws

Do **not** get tattoos or piercings except at a licensed facility



Tattoos



Piercings



Clean Surfaces with Bleach Solution

Treatment

Facts

Liver damage can happen over months to years so early intervention is best

Treatment options focus on slowing the virus from causing more liver damage, as there is no known cure

Hepatitis B treatment varies, making it especially important for you to speak a healthcare professional for guidance

Treatment can range from lifestyle changes to taking daily medications

Next Steps

Contact the medical provider of your choosing for evaluation and possible treatment options

Be prepared for a referral to a liver specialist

Keep all your appointments

Take medications as prescribed and follow your provider's instructions

Do You Also Have HIV or Hepatitis C?

Your body's ability to fight off hepatitis B virus may be lower than in persons with only hepatitis B infection

Liver damage can happen faster

You will need to see a liver specialist in addition to your primary care doctor

