

What is hepatitis C?

Hepatitis C is a life-threatening viral disease that damages the liver.

Many people affected do not notice the illness for many years.

Hepatitis C can be treated without complications and can almost always be cured.

For more information:

www.hepatitis-schweiz.ch



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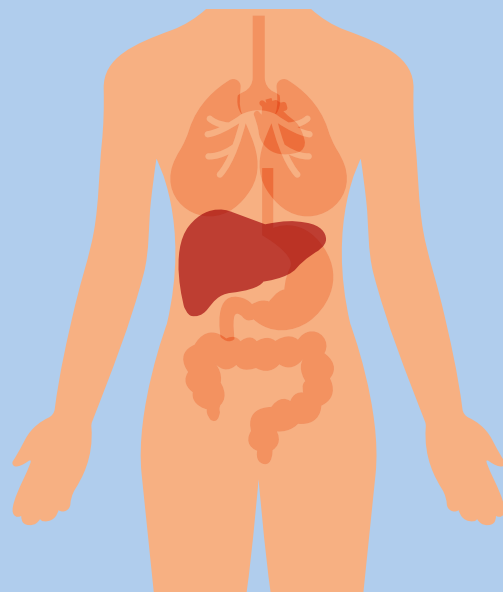


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1

The virus

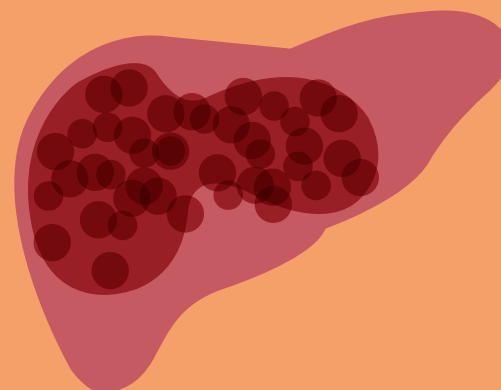
Hepatitis C is caused by a virus that damages the liver. Hepatitis C can almost always be cured without complications.



3

Damaged liver

In case of infection, the virus becomes lodged in the liver. The liver becomes scarred and hard. As a result, it no longer functions properly. This can lead to death.



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Symptoms

There are no clear signs of illness. This is why hepatitis C often goes undiagnosed for a long time. But some of the people affected report the following symptoms:

- Severe fatigue
- Problems concentrating
- Muscle and joint pain
- Upper abdominal pain
- Depression

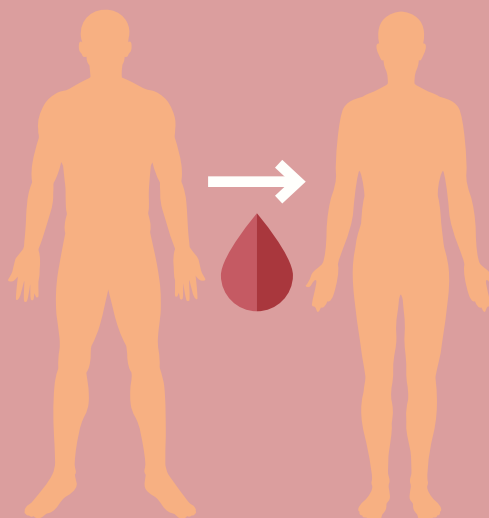


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Transmission

The hepatitis C virus is passed from person to person via blood in the following situations:

- Sharing material when using drugs (syringes, needles, tubes)
- Tattooing and piercing under unclean conditions
- Medical procedures performed in an unclean manner (dentistry, surgery)
- Rarely through sexual activities



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Test

A simple blood or saliva test shows whether the patient has come into contact with the virus. If this is the case, another test is needed for confirmation.



6

Treatment

There is a well-tolerated treatment. It almost always kills the virus completely. Over 8 or 12 weeks, one to three tablets must be taken each day.

