

HEPATITIS C: a chronic liver disease

Cause: hepatitis C virus (HCV)

Spread: contact with infected blood

Affects: the liver

(can damage liver and cause liver cancer)

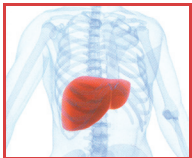
Risk Factors:

- **Sharing drug use equipment**
(past and/or present)
- **Tattooing, body piercing, acupuncture**
(from unsterile equipment/techniques)
- **Workplace exposure**
(needle prick or cut by sharp object containing infected blood)
- **Sharing personal care articles with an HCV-infected person** (razor, toothbrush, nail clipper)
- **Born or lived in countries where hepatitis C is common**
- **Received blood or blood products before 1992**
(in Canada)
- **Unprotected sexual activity**
(blood exchange with infected person)
- **Born to a mother with HCV**

Symptoms:

Most have none, but some develop

- Fatigue
- Yellowing of skin and eyes
- Stomach pain and nausea



Detection: Blood test

Treatment/Recommendations:

- Medication (see your healthcare provider)
- Vaccination against hepatitis A and B
- Adopt a healthy lifestyle

Presently no vaccine for HCV

If infected with HCV, NEVER:

- Donate blood, organs, semen
- Share razors, tooth brushes, scissors, nail clippers
- Share drug use equipment

For more information contact:

Canadian Ethnocultural Council
613-230-3867
www.ethnocultural.ca

Canadian Liver Foundation
1-800-563-5483
www.liver.ca

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