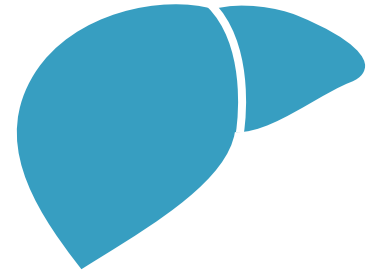


What Are The Differences Between Hepatitis A, B, and C?

The term “hepatitis” refers to inflammation of the liver.
There are 3 common types of viral hepatitis:
hepatitis A, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C.

Hepatitis A, B, and C can have *similar symptoms*, including fever, fatigue, nausea, abdominal pain, joint pain, loss of appetite, and jaundice. Hepatitis can be diagnosed through blood tests.



A

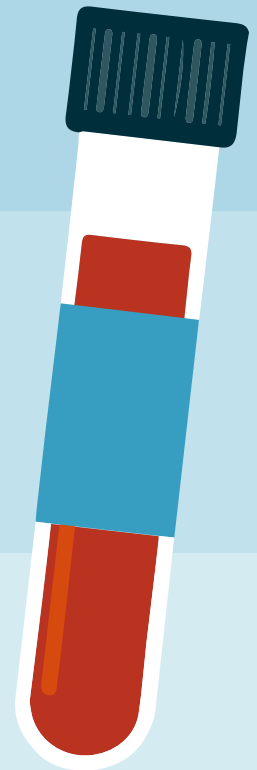
Hepatitis A is an *acute (short-lasting)* illness, and does not usually cause liver disease. Hep A is highly contagious.

B

Hepatitis B can be an *acute or chronic* illness. The younger a person is when they are infected with hep B, the more likely they will develop the chronic condition. Chronic hep B can lead to liver disease.

C

Hepatitis C can be an *acute* illness, but usually develops into a *chronic* condition. Untreated, hep C can lead to liver disease, and even liver cancer.



Resources: Resources: Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, Cleveland Clinic, HepVu

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| | Hepatitis A | Hepatitis B | Hepatitis C |
|---------------------------------|---|--|---|
| How can you contract hepatitis? | Spread through fecal matter (stool). You can contract hep A through close or sexual contact with an infected person, or by ingesting contaminated food or drinks. | Spread through blood, semen, and other bodily fluids. You can contract hep B through sharing needles, or through close or sexual contact with an infected person. Infants born to infected mothers can also contract hep B. | Spread through blood. You can contract hep C through direct contact with infected blood, an unsafe blood transfusion or organ transplant, or sharing needles. Rarely, hep C is spread through sexual contact. Infants born to infected mothers can also contract hep C. |
| Who is at risk? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travelers to areas with high rates of hep A People who have sex with infected people People who live with or care for infected people Men who have sex with men (MSM) People with clotting-factor disorders | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infants born to infected mothers People who have sex with infected people Men who have sex with men (MSM) People who use injection drugs People who live with infected people Healthcare and public safety workers Hemodialysis patients | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infants born to infected mothers People born between 1945 and 1965 (“Baby Boomers”) Current or former users of injection drugs Recipients of blood transfusions or organs before 1992 People with HIV |
| Is there a vaccine? | Yes! The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that all high-risk individuals, and all children at age 1, be vaccinated to prevent hep A. | Yes! The CDC recommends that all high-risk individuals, and all infants at birth, be vaccinated to prevent hep B. | No. There is no vaccine for hepatitis C. |
| How common is it? | Least Common | Second-Most Common | Most Common |
| Will it cause liver damage? | Most people with hep A will not develop liver damage. Hep A is rarely fatal. | Most people with acute hep B will not develop liver damage. Some people (15-25%) with chronic hep B will develop liver disease. Left untreated, hep B can be fatal. | Most people (60-70%) with chronic hep C will develop liver disease. Left untreated, hep C can be fatal. |
| Is there a treatment? | There is no treatment available for hep A. Most people will clear (“get over”) hep A within a few weeks or months. | There is no treatment available for acute hep B. There are several antiviral medications available for people with chronic hep B. | There are several highly effective medications available to treat and cure hep C. |

Resources: Resources: Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, Cleveland Clinic, HepVu

