
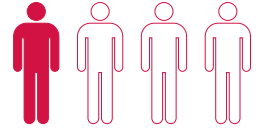


CHRONIC HEPATITIS B FACT SHEET

What is chronic hepatitis B?

 Chronic hepatitis B is a liver disease caused by the hepatitis B virus that can lead to **serious health problems over time**.¹

It is the leading cause of liver cancer worldwide, and if left untreated, as many as **one in four** chronically infected with hepatitis B will develop liver problems such as cirrhosis and liver cancer.^{2,3}




Who is at risk for chronic hepatitis B?

+ Up to **2.2 million** people are chronically infected with hepatitis B in the U.S.² Asian American and Pacific Islanders are disproportionately impacted by chronic hepatitis B, with **1 in 12 living with the disease**.¹




What are the symptoms?

 Hepatitis B is often called a **“silent killer”** because it does not always cause symptoms. In fact, many people can go decades without feeling sick, but they can still spread the virus to others and liver damage can still occur.¹ Symptoms that may occur include: fever, fatigue, loss of appetite, nausea, abdominal pain and jaundice.¹

Up to 1.4 million Americans don't know they have hepatitis B,³ and as many as **2 out of 3 Asian Americans** with hepatitis B don't know they have it.⁴



How is chronic hepatitis B spread?

 Hepatitis B is passed from person to person and **can be transmitted through contact with infected blood or bodily fluid**.⁵ A mother with chronic hepatitis B can pass the virus to her child during birth, and this is one of the most common ways the disease is spread.² There is an effective hepatitis B vaccine that is recommended for all children.¹


Hepatitis B **cannot be spread by** sharing meals or utensils with someone who has the virus, or through casual contact such as kissing, hugging or holding hands.



What are the testing and treatment options?

 By talking to a doctor and **getting a simple blood test** — one that is often covered by health insurance — individuals can learn their hepatitis B status.

Rx Treatments such as **antiviral medicines are available for those diagnosed with hepatitis B**. The goal of treatment is to reduce the amount of the hepatitis B virus in the body and reduce the risk of liver problems.

 Because chronic hepatitis B is a lifelong disease, it's important to encourage **patients with hepatitis B to talk to their doctors** about the best way to manage their disease.

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Know Hepatitis B Questions and Answers. (<http://www.cdc.gov/knowhepatitisb/faqs.htm>.) Accessed September 2, 2016.

² Stanford University Asian Liver Center. What is Hepatitis B? (<http://med.stanford.edu/liver/education/whatishepb.html>.) Accessed September 2, 2016.

³ Cohen et. al., Is Chronic Hepatitis B Being Undertreated in the United States? *Journal of Viral Hepatitis* 2011; 18, 377-383.

⁴ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Asian Americans and Hepatitis B. (<http://www.cdc.gov/features/aapihepatitisb/>.) Accessed September 2, 2016.

⁵ Mayo Clinic. Hepatitis B. (<http://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/hepatitis-b/basics/causes/CON-20022210>.) Accessed September 2, 2016.

⁶ Hep B United. Hepatitis B: Preventable and Treatable. (<http://hepbunited.org/hep-b-facts>.) Accessed September 2, 2016.

⁷ Hepatitis B Foundation. Treatment Options. (<http://www.hepb.org/treatment-and-management/treatment/>.) Accessed September 2, 2016.