

The A, B, Cs of Hepatitis

Hepatitis is a disease that affects the liver. It is often caused by a virus. In the United States, common types of viral hepatitis are **Hepatitis A**, **Hepatitis B**, and **Hepatitis C**.

Symptoms for all three types can include yellow skin or eyes, fever, tiredness, stomachache, loss of appetite, dark urine, grey-colored stools, and joint pain.



Hepatitis A

Hepatitis B

Hepatitis C

How is the virus spread?

- Through fecal matter, even tiny amounts, from personal or sexual contact with an infected person, or by eating or drinking infected food or water

- Through body fluids from sexual contact with an infected person, or contact with infected needles
- An infant can be born with the virus if the mother has Hepatitis B

- Through infected blood, from sharing infected needles, sexual contact with an infected person
- An infant can be born with the virus if the mother has Hepatitis C

Who is at risk?

- Travelers to countries where Hepatitis A is common
- Users of illegal drugs, whether injected or not
- Sex partners of infected people
- Household members or caregivers of infected people
- People with clotting factor disorders, such as hemophilia

- Infants born to infected mothers
- Injection drug users
- Sex partners of infected people
- People who have multiple sex partners
- People with Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)
- Household contacts of infected people
- Health care and public safety workers in contact with infected blood
- Dialysis patients
- Travelers to places where Hepatitis B is common

- Infants born to infected mothers
- Injection drug users
- People who received clotting factor materials before 1987
- People who received blood transfusions or organ transplants before July 1992
- Long-term dialysis patients
- People exposed to Hepatitis C (health care workers, for example)
- People with HIV

Talk to your health care professional to discuss ways to help protect yourself.

Provided as an educational resource by Merck



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