



Hepatitis C: Know the facts

Hepatitis C Quiz

Facilitators Answer Sheet

1. What is hepatitis C?

Hepatitis C is a blood-borne virus.

2. What part of the body is affected by hepatitis C?

Hepatitis C affects the liver.

3. Hepatitis C can be transmitted in the following ways

- Blood to blood contact.
- Using/sharing drug injecting equipment (highest rate of transmission) and using/sharing contaminated snorting/smoking equipment.
- Unprotected sexual intercourse (vaginal, anal and oral sex) if blood is present.
- Mother to child during childbirth, although rare.
- Tattoos, body modifications and acupuncture if the tools used were not sterilised properly after being used on an infected person.

4. You can get hepatitis C more than once?

True – You are not immune to hepatitis C if you have had it before. You can be re-infected if you are exposed to it again.

5. You can have hepatitis C and not have any symptoms?

True – you can have hepatitis C and not have any symptoms. Most people will show no signs or symptoms of initial infection and could live with hepatitis C for years and not know it.



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However if symptoms exist they can include:

- Tiredness/fatigue
- Nausea
- Loss of appetite
- Vomiting
- Abdominal pain & discomfort
- Swelling of the abdomen
- Fever
- Jaundice (yellowing of the skin & the whites of the eyes)

Remember: these signs and symptoms can also be associated with other illnesses or infections.

You can still pass hepatitis C on to others even if you don't have symptoms.

6. Hepatitis C can be treated?

True – Hepatitis C can be treated and cured. The goal of current hepatitis C treatment is to eradicate the virus and cure the patient. In 2015 cure rates are approaching 100% for certain patient types. New treatments are free from interferon leading to greatly improved side-effects. Treatment duration is currently 12 to 24 weeks.

7. Hepatitis C can survive outside the body?

True – Hepatitis C can live in dried blood for at least a few days and is considered 10 times more infectious than HIV.

8. How many tests do I need to confirm that I have hepatitis C?

Two blood tests: one to check if you have ever had hepatitis C, and a second to test if you currently have hepatitis C. It is very important that you get both tests.

9. Hepatitis C be passed on through sex?

True – in rare cases hepatitis C can be passed through unprotected sex if blood is present.

10. A pregnant woman with hepatitis C can pass it on to her baby during childbirth?

True – a pregnant woman can pass on hepatitis C to her unborn baby during childbirth, however it is low risk.



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11. There is a vaccination for Hepatitis C?

False – There is no vaccination to protect against hepatitis C

12. How can Hepatitis C be prevented?

- Safer drug using practices: do not share any drug-using equipment.
- When sexually active, always use condoms and/or dental dams for vaginal, anal and oral sex.
- Do not share sex toys (or if toys are shared, use condoms on the sex toy, remove it after use, and thoroughly clean the toy before using it again).
- When using fingers or hands for penetration (anally and/or vaginally), use latex gloves OR finger cots, particularly if there are visible cuts or broken skin on the hands, where blood could be present.
- Get tested, and treated if required.
- Make informed decisions: talk to sexual partner(s) about testing and using condoms, and get informed about the risks.
- Mutual monogamy (both partners test for hepatitis and other STIs and don't have any, and both partners agree to only have sex with each other, and keep it that way!). Also, if one or both partners use drugs, both agree never to share drug-using equipment.
- Do not share personal grooming items e.g. razors, tweezers, toothbrushes.
- Use standard, universal precautions when cleaning up spillages of human blood and body fluids, and in situations where needles and other skin piercing equipment are used to avoid needle stick injuries.
- If getting tattoos or body piercings, ensure that the equipment used is sterilised.