

HEPATITIS A

The importance of knowing more

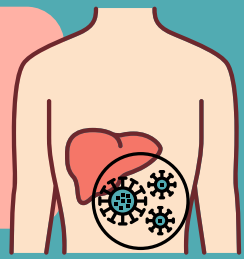
Learn about hepatitis A.



1

WHAT IS HEPATITIS A VIRUS (HAV)?

Hepatitis means inflammation of the liver. When the liver is inflamed or damaged, its function can be affected. Hepatitis A (HAV) is a vaccine-preventable liver infection caused by the hepatitis A virus.



2

HOW IS HEPATITIS A TRANSMITTED?

HAV is found in the stool and blood of people who are infected. Hepatitis A is very contagious. It is spread when someone unknowingly ingests the virus — even in microscopic amounts through close personal contact with an infected person or through eating contaminated food or drink.



3

WHAT ARE HEPATITIS A SYMPTOMS?

Symptoms of hepatitis A can last up to 2 months and include fatigue, nausea, stomach pain, and jaundice. Most people with hepatitis A do not have long-lasting illness.



4

HOW IS HEPATITIS A DIAGNOSED?

A doctor can determine if you have hepatitis A by discussing your symptoms and ordering a blood test that can tell whether you have been recently infected with the virus that causes hepatitis A.



5

HOW IS HEPATITIS A TREATED?

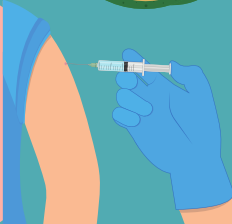
Doctors usually recommend rest, adequate nutrition, and fluids to treat symptoms. Some people with severe symptoms will need medical care in a hospital.



6

HOW TO PREVENT HEPATITIS A?

The best way to prevent hepatitis A is through vaccination with the hepatitis A vaccine. To get the full benefit of the hepatitis A vaccine, more than one shot is needed.



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