

## COMPARING HEPATITIS A, B, C

	<b>Hepatitis A</b> (hep A, HAV)	<b>Hepatitis B</b> (hep B, HBV)	<b>Hepatitis C</b> (hep C, HCV)
<b>What is it?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A virus that causes inflammation of the liver</li> <li>Only acute infection (short term)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A virus that causes inflammation of the liver</li> <li>Chronic in around 5% of adults</li> <li>Chronic for around 90-95% of newborns who contract hep B at birth</li> <li>Can lead to cirrhosis and liver cancer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A virus that causes inflammation of the liver</li> <li>Chronic for around 75% of people</li> <li>Can lead to cirrhosis and liver cancer</li> </ul>
<b>How long is the incubation period?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Between 15 and 50 days</li> <li>Average 30 days</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Between 30 and 180 days</li> <li>Average 30 days</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Between 6 to 10 weeks</li> </ul>
<i>Incubation period: time of exposure until onset of sickness</i>			
<b>How long is the window period?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hard to define due to length of infection</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Between 3 and 6 months</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Between 3 and 6 months</li> </ul>
<i>Window period: time of exposure until antibodies can be detected</i>			
<b>How is it transmitted?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By faecal-oral contact (poo-to-mouth)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blood-to-blood contact</li> <li>Sexual contact</li> <li>From a hep B positive mother to newborn baby (vertical transmission)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blood-to-blood contact</li> <li>From a hep C positive mother to newborn baby (vertical transmission - rare)</li> </ul>
<b>What behaviours place people at risk?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eating food prepared by a person with hep A who hasn't washed their hands</li> <li>Intimate sexual contact with a person with hep A (e.g. oral/anal sex)</li> <li>Travel to developing countries</li> <li>Drinking water infected with hep A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sexual contact with a person who has hep B</li> <li>Use of unsterile equipment when injecting drugs</li> <li>Use of unsterile tattooing or body piercing equipment</li> <li>People born in countries with high hep B prevalence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use of unsterile equipment when injecting drugs</li> <li>Use of unsterile tattooing or body piercing equipment</li> <li>Receiving blood products (prior to 1990 in Australia)</li> <li>People born in countries with high prevalence</li> </ul>
<b>Is there a vaccine?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yes - 2 injections over 6 months</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yes - 3 injections over 6 months for adults (4 injections for children – part of childhood vaccinations)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No available vaccine</li> </ul>

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<b>What are the symptoms in acute (short term) infection?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adults may have light coloured faeces, dark urine, fatigue, jaundice (yellowing of the eyes and skin), nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain or discomfort and loss of appetite</li> <li>Some people, especially young children, may have no symptoms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adults may have light coloured faeces, dark urine, fatigue, jaundice (yellowing of the eyes and skin), nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain or discomfort and loss of appetite</li> <li>Most people have some symptoms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adults may have light coloured faeces, dark urine, fatigue, jaundice (yellowing of the eyes and skin), nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain or discomfort and loss of appetite</li> <li>People may have a range of symptoms, these are usually mild</li> </ul>
<b>What are the symptoms in chronic infection?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NONE</li> <li>Hep A is only an acute (short term) infection</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fatigue, nausea, muscle aches and pains, abdominal discomfort and jaundice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fatigue, nausea, muscle aches and pains, abdominal discomfort and mood swings</li> </ul>
<b>What treatment is available?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not necessary</li> <li>Some people may require hospitalisation if symptoms are severe enough</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pegylated interferon</li> <li>Anti-viral medication (entecavir, tenofovir or lamivudine)</li> <li>Some people choose to use complementary therapies for symptoms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Treatment can cure HCV</li> <li>Direct acting antiviral (DAA) tablets, no injections</li> <li>95% of people cured</li> <li>Tablets taken daily for 8-12 weeks</li> <li>Little to no side effects</li> </ul>
<b>What are methods of prevention?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vaccination</li> <li>Immunoglobulin within two weeks of exposure</li> <li>Washing hands with soap and water after going to the toilet, and before eating or handling food</li> <li>If travelling to developing countries, consider vaccination and seek advice on food and water risks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vaccination</li> <li>Immunoglobulin within 72 hours of exposure</li> <li>Avoid blood-to-blood contact</li> <li>Do not re-use or share any injecting equipment</li> <li>Practice safe sex</li> <li>Avoid sharing personal items (e.g. razor and toothbrushes)</li> <li>Follow standard infection control precautions for first aid</li> <li>Seek medical advice for accidental exposure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid blood-to-blood contact</li> <li>Do not re-use or share any injecting equipment</li> <li>Avoid sharing personal grooming items (e.g. razor and toothbrushes)</li> <li>Follow standard infection control precautions for first aid</li> <li>Seek medical advice for accidental exposure</li> </ul>