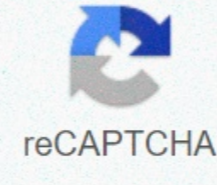




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## Hepatitis c treatment easl guideline

The guidance groups contradict in examining every future mother. Read More Learn A, B, C, D, and E—and how to protect yourself from each other. Read more Although this liver-damaging virus does not spread easily, the consequences of catching it can be serious. Read more Few people develop noticeable symptoms of this liver disease that often progress slowly. Those who do can display the subject signs. Read more Do you know if hepatitis C has been set up shop in your liver? Most people with this blood infection have no clue. Hepatitis C symptoms are often vague or nonexistent. Sometimes the symptoms surface just years down the road, after the liver has made a beating. You may develop mild, flu-like symptoms the first time you are exposed to hepatitis C. But most acute, or recent, infections go ingested, doctors say. Experts say about 20% of people infected with the virus leave their bodies without treatment. But most people continue to develop a chronic infection. Hepatitis C can live quietly in a person's body for many, many years. But it's doing nothing, said Amy Jessop, Ph.M., director of the Center for Hepatitis Training, Research and Education (HepTREC) in Philadelphia. Doctors have no way of predicting who's disease will remain asymptomatic and will cause mild to severe symptoms, said Aaron Glatt, MD, spokesman for the Infectious Diseases Association of America (IDSA) and president of the Faculty of Medicine at South Nassau Community Hospital in Oceanside New York said. The most onerous C hep symptoms often signal impaired liver function or scarring of the liver (known as cirrhosis), but the absence of symptoms does not mean that you are out of the woods. A lot of patients have no symptoms even though they have significant long-term illness, Dr. Glatt said. That's why experts say you should never wait for symptoms to appear. If you think you may have been exposed to hep C virus, talk to your doctor about the test. RELATED: 7 Celebrities Living with hepatitis C A person newly infected with hepatitis C may have a mild fever. But most people don't have an immediate strong response to the virus, notes Jessop, who is also an associate professor of public health at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo. Initially, you may get tired when your body tries to fight the virus. If the infection becomes chronic, you may have periods of fatigue or just a general feeling wiped out. It's kind of there all the time at a low level, Jessop said. Blaire E. Burman, M.D., director of the hepatitis C treatment clinic at Virginia Mason Medical Center in Seattle, said her female patients tend to report fatigue more often than men. RELATED: 14 Reasons You're Always Tired People Notice It in Your Hands and Wrists, Dr. Burman says. Liver without a sensory nerve pain, but capsules of connective tissue around the liver do, Explains Dr. Burman. With acute With infection C, sudden hepatitis can stretch that outer layer of tissue, causing pain in the upper right part of the abdomen, she said. You should not suffer from abdominal pain with chronic C hep, she added. Anorexia may be a symptom of both acute and chronic C. HEP RELATED: 5 Surprising Facts About Nausea and Vomiting of Your Liver Are One Of The Nonsymptomatic Symptoms of Acute and Chronic Hepatitis C. When your liver is not functioning well, that's when more serious symptoms, like vomiting, often occur. Jessop said. When your body breaks down old red blood cells, it form a yellow-orange pigment called bilirubin. Excess bilirubin in the blood causes jaundice, jaundice or whites of the eyes. Hepatitis, including acute and chronic hep C, is one of the common causes of jaundice. If anyone thinks they have jaundice, they should go to the doctor immediately, because it's a sign that your liver is in trouble. Jessop said. Skin symptoms may be less noticeable in a person with dark skin, she adds. RELATED: 8 Things You May Not Know About Common Hepatitis. bilirubin Linked to Bile in the Liver and Excreted. It's a big part of what gives your stool its dark brown color. High levels of bilirubin excreted in the urine are another sign of jaundice. Instead of urinating yellow or straw, it can be as dark as cola. However, dark urine alone doesn't necessarily mean you're infected with hepatitis C. There are many other things that can cause darker urine, including dehydration, Dr. Glatt said. RELATED: What does your urine color say about your health technically, it is called ascites- an abnormal accumulation of fluid in the abdomen. A large abdomen can be a complication of long-term chronic hepatitis C, which is not treated. Here's what happens: Severe liver scarring puts pressure on the blood vessels that supply the blood liver, causing fluid to leak from the blood vessels and pools in the abdomen. Dr Burman said it may be due to the physical toll of fighting a chronic viral infection. Or the fatigue and discomfort that comes with it. Or even the stigma of the disease. The exact relationship remains unclear. RELATED: 10 Health Conditions That Are Linked to Depression Researchers have suggested a number of possible causes of cognitive decline in chronic hep C. It can be a virus that directly affects the brain, for example, or it can be a second-class effect of the anti-infection process. Hepatitis C is one of those diseases you know exists, but you're not sure if that's something you need to worry about. So what is hepatitis C? It's a liver infection caused by the hepatitis C virus, and it infects more people than you realize. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, an estimated 30,500 new cases of hepatitis C were reported in 2014, and as many as 3.9 million people in the United States had chronic hepatitis C. For some, hepatitis C is a short-term disease, the CDC said, for up to 85 percent of people disease, which is a chronic infection that can cause long-term health problems and even death. That's because the infection is usually silent for years, which means a person can have it and not recognize it. Once they develop symptoms, they often include easy bleeding, easy bruising, fatigue, a poor appetite, jaundice (i.e., yellowishness of the skin and eyes), dark-colored urine, itchy skin, weight loss, and swelling in the legs, the Mayo Clinic said. Fortunately, you can't afford to get infected with hepatitis C only when walking down the street. According to the World Health Organization, hepatitis C is a virus in the blood, which means that it is infected with a small amount of blood. That can happen through the use of injections, unsafe injection practice, unsanitary health care, and unfiltered blood transfusions. The biggest risk factor for hepatitis C today is the use of injections. It is a virus that spreads very effectively through contaminated needles used to inject drugs, Amesh A. Adajia, M.D., senior affiliate at John's Hopkins Medical Security Center, told SELF. That's why the CDC recommends that all injectable drug users be screened for infection, even if someone only injected once a few years ago. But injectable drug users are not the only ones who should be screened for hepatitis C. The CDC also recommends that health workers who have been stuck with a needle containing blood positive for hepatitis C be tested, as well as those with symptoms of liver disease, those who had a blood transfusion or organ transplant before July 1992 (when screening was not thorough), children born to mothers with hepatitis C and people living with HIV. (Hepatitis C is common in people with HIV who can get extremely ill if they have a liver infection, Dr. Adajia explains, which is why screening is recommended for them.) The CDC also recommends that baby boomers (those born between 1945 and 1965), tested for hepatitis C. Baby boomers are five times more likely than other adults to have hepatitis C, the CDC said, which may have been due to health care they received years before extensive screening practically removed the virus from the medical blood supply in 1992. Fortunately, advances in health care have made it possible to cure chronic hepatitis C with oral medication for up to six months. However, the drug can not help if you do not know you have an infection in the first place. Hepatitis C is a silent epidemic, Dr. Adajia said, which is why he urges people to take tests if they fall into one of the high-risk groups. If you are worried about your risk, talk to your doctor: He or she can give you a simple blood test and recommend the next steps from there. Related: You May Also Like: I Have a Pre-Existing Condition: Real People Share Their Health Conditions

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