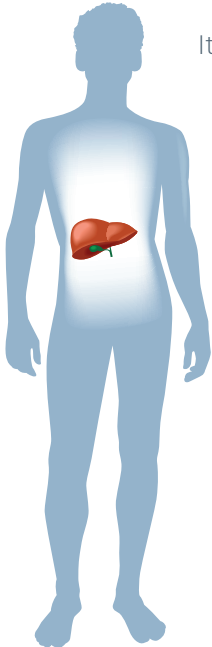


# What you need to know about **hepatitis C**



# What is hepatitis C?



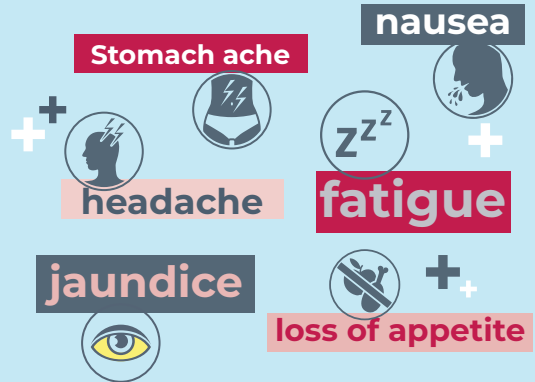
It is an **inflammation of the liver**, caused by the **hepatitis C virus** (HCV).

The virus spreads through **exposure with contaminated blood**.

# What are the symptoms?

Approximately **80%** of patients do not exhibit **any symptoms**.

Some patients might have the following **symptoms**:

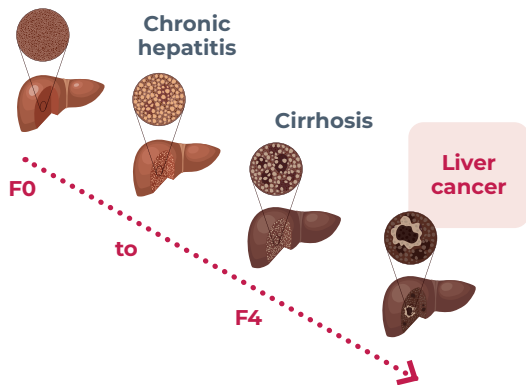


If left untreated,

**hepatitis C can damage the liver (fibrosis) and cause cirrhosis and/or liver cancer on the long term.**

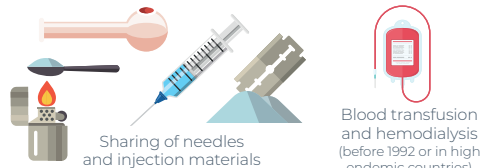
**Early stage to advanced disease**

Healthy liver



## How does hepatitis C spread?

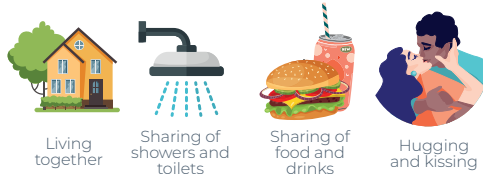
### HIGH RISK



### MODERATE RISK



### NO RISK



# How do you know if you are **infected** with HCV ?

## First test

### FINGERPRICK OR BLOOD WITHDRAWAL

**If your test is positive =  
HCV antibodies are  
positive.**

This means you have been in contact with hepatitis C, but it is not yet known if you are currently infected.



## Second test

### BLOOD WITHDRAWAL

**If your test is positive =  
you are currently infected  
with hepatitis C.**

This can be treated. Please consult your medical doctor.



# How is **fibrosis** **evaluated?**

The grade of fibrosis is assessed with a Fibroscan\*. The Fibroscan is a simple and painless ultrasound examination that measures the **elasticity** of your liver.

The more fibrosis, the less elastic is your liver.

For this examination an **ultrasound device is placed on your body.**



\*Or ShearWave or ARFI = other elastography techniques  
Hepatitis C: Diagnosis, NHS website. Available at: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/hepatitis-c/diagnosis/> (accessed February 2021)

All hepatitis C patients can be treated, **almost all will be cured!**



Treatment is simple **by taking oral medication (pills).**

Treatment takes **8 to 16 weeks.**

**There are no serious side effects,** in contrast to the previously used interferon.

**Do not** combine **with other medication** before discussing with your doctor.



**You remain infectious during your treatment!**

When are you **cured?**

**12 weeks after the end** of your treatment, **a blood test** is done.



Your cure will be confirmed if **no more virus is found in your blood.**

Attention!

With hepatitis C, **the antibodies** are **not protective.** You can always get infected again.



# Who can you **contact**?

> .....

> Profession : .....

> E-mail address : .....

> Phone number : .....

> .....

> Profession : .....

> E-mail address : .....

> Phone number : .....

> .....

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> E-mail address : .....

> Phone number : .....