

hepatitis C

a virus that can cause long-term damage to the liver and other organs.

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Hepatitis C Virus (HCV)

HCV is a virus that attacks the liver and can lead to cirrhosis (severe liver scarring), liver failure, and liver cancer.

HOW DO YOU GET IT?

By contact with blood or other bodily fluids infected with Hepatitis C Virus (HCV), such as reusing needles and works for drugs or piercings; sharing razors, nail clippers, or toothbrushes; or having sex without condoms. HCV can live on surfaces for 16 hours, even longer on needles! If infected, pregnant women can pass it to their babies at birth.

HOW CAN I TELL?

Many people who have HCV do not have any signs for years, but the virus can still cause permanent damage, like cancer. The only way to know if you have HCV is to get a blood test.

HOW TO PREVENT?

You can prevent getting infected with HCV by never sharing needles, toothbrushes, nail clippers, and using condoms for sex. During a manicure, tattoo or piercing the tools need to be new or sterilized.

ARE THERE TREATMENTS OR CURES?

Good News! New drugs are now available to treat HCV with fewer side effects. More than 90% of people who are treated with the new drugs are cured. HCV treatment can also repair scarring in the liver and lower the chance of liver failure or cancer.

Learn more at:

iknowmine.org