

# HEPATITIS B (HBV)

## THE IMPORTANCE OF KNOWING MORE

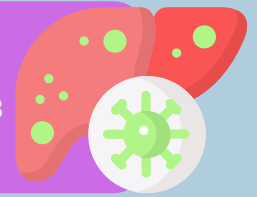
Learn more about Hepatitis B



1

### WHAT IS HEPATITIS B (HBV)?

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



2

### HOW IS HEPATITIS B TRANSMITTED?

Hepatitis B is spread when blood, semen, or other body fluids from a person infected with the virus enters the body of someone who is not infected. This can happen through sexual contact; sharing needles, syringes, or other drug-injection equipment; or from mother to baby at birth.



3

### WHAT ARE HEPATITIS B SYMPTOMS?

Not all people newly infected with HBV have symptoms, but for those that do, symptoms can include fatigue, poor appetite, stomach pain, nausea, and jaundice. For many people, hepatitis B is a short-term illness. For others, it can become a long-term infection that can lead to serious, even life-threatening health issues like cirrhosis or liver cancer.



4

### HOW IS HEPATITIS B DIAGNOSED?

A doctor can determine if you have hepatitis B by ordering a blood test. Testing can determine whether you have chronic or acute hepatitis B; are immune to hepatitis B after vaccination; or were infected in the past, have cleared the virus from your body, and are protected from future infection.



5

### HOW IS HEPATITIS B TREATED?

Doctors usually recommend rest, adequate nutrition, and fluids to treat symptoms of acute (short-term) hepatitis B. Several medications have been approved to treat people who have chronic hepatitis B, and new drugs are in development. However, not every person with chronic hepatitis B needs medication.



6

### HOW TO PREVENT THE HEPATITIS B?

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



  
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