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Most people get vaccinated against so many diseases as a child that it can be easy to assume that you have received vaccines for almost everything. Unfortunately, this is not the case, and some infections are still a threat. Take hepatitis C, for example, an infection that can attack the liver and inflammation and even damage the liver in some cases. Hepatitis C virus can lead to serious and even life-threatening complications, but it does not have a vaccine that begs the question: why and will there ever be one? Health has spoken to infectious disease specialists to learn more about hepatitis C transmission, the likelihood of a future vaccine, and what you can do to protect yourself at the same time. ANSWER: How do you get hepatitis C? That's what you need to know about hepatitis, essentially liver inflammation, and when your liver is inflamed or damaged, it won't function the way it should, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) - meaning that it can't help your body digest food, store energy, and remove poisons as it meant. There are three main forms of hepatitis that are more common in the U.S.: hepatitis A, B and C, each of which is spread through different viruses. It can also be caused by drug or alcohol use at the U.S. National Library of Medicine (NLM). Hepatitis C, in particular, can be divided into two categories: acute and chronic. Acute hepatitis C occurs within the first six months after you are exposed to the hepatitis C virus, the CDC says, and some people's bodies are able to fight the infection, whose symptoms may include dark yellow urine, fatigue, fever and jaundice. But even an acute version of hepatitis C can lead to chronic infection for up to 85 percent of people who are infected, according to the CDC. Chronic hepatitis C can be a lifelong disease that can cause serious health problems, including liver damage, cirrhosis, liver cancer, and death, said infectious disease expert Ames A. Adalja, M.D., a senior researcher at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Safety. It is estimated that between 2.7 and 3.9 million people in the U.S. alone have chronic hepatitis C, many of whom do not know they have the virus, according to the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK), as the chronic version usually does not cause symptoms until complications arise. Generally speaking, people become infected with hepatitis C as a result of blood contact with an infected person, which can include blood transfusions, organ transplants and IV drug use, says Dr. Adalja. Less frequently, the CDC says you can get hepatitis C by sharing personal hygiene items that may come into contact with an infected person's blood like Or toothbrushes; sexual contact with a person infected with hepatitis C; to be born in a mother with hepatitis C; or get a tattoo or or with an infected needle. RELATED: Should all pregnant women be tested for hepatitis C? There are vaccines against hepatitis A and hepatitis B, but not for hepatitis C, mainly because all viruses are so different. Although they are all called hepatitis, they are different viruses, and each has its own problems with the vaccine, says Dr. Adalja. Hepatitis C, in particular, was difficult to create an effective vaccine against. It's more of a scientific challenge because the hepatitis C virus can mutate and change, said William Schaffner, M.D., an infectious disease specialist and professor at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. Hepatitis C is also difficult to find a vaccine because people can be re-infected with the virus after they have had it in the past, Dr. Adalja says. However, Dr. Schaffner says: The hepatitis C vaccine is very welcome. That's why the hepatitis C vaccine is now in the CDC, but it may be some time before one is ready for use. We're probably talking eight to 10 years, says Dr. Schaffner says. Until then, the NLM says you can protect yourself by wearing gloves if you ever come into contact with another person's blood, making sure tattoo or piercing artists use sterilized tools, don't exchange personal items like toothbrushes or razors, and never exchange needles on drugs or other drug materials. To get our best stories delivered to your inbox, subscribe to a healthy lifestyle newsletter. We include products that we find useful for our readers. If you buy by links on this page, we can earn a small commission. That's our process. Hepatitis refers to the inflammatory condition of the liver. It is usually caused by a viral infection, but there are other possible causes of hepatitis. These include autoimmune hepatitis and hepatitis, which occurs as a secondary result of drugs, drugs, toxins and alcohol. Autoimmune hepatitis is a disease that occurs when your body makes antibodies against your liver tissue. Your liver is in the right upper abdomen. It performs many critical functions that affect metabolism throughout the body, including: the production of bile, which is essential for the digestion of toxins from your body excretion bilirubin (product of broken red blood cells), cholesterol, hormones, and drugs breakdown carbohydrates, fats and protein activation enzymes that are specialized proteins essential for the bodily functions of glycogen (a form of sugar), Such as albumin synthesis clotting factors According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), about 4.4 million Americans currently live with chronic hepatitis A and a lot more people don't even know they have hepatitis. Treatment options vary depending on whether hepatitis you have. You can prevent some forms of hepatitis through immunization and lifestyle precautions. Viral liver infections that are classified as hepatitis include hepatitis A, B, C, D and E. Another virus is responsible for every type of viral hepatitis. Hepatitis A is always an acute, short-term disease, while hepatitis B, C and D are likely to become permanent and chronic. Hepatitis E is usually acute, but can be particularly dangerous in pregnant women. Hepatitis A is caused by hepatitis A virus (HAV) infection. This type of hepatitis is most often transmitted by eating food or water contaminated with faeces from a person infected with hepatitis A. Hepatitis B is transmitted through contact with infectious bodily fluids such as blood, vaginal discharge or sperm containing hepatitis B virus (HBV). Injecting drug use, sex with an infected partner, or sharing razors with an infected person increase the risk of contracting hepatitis B. It the CDC estimates that 1.2 million people in the United States and 350 million people worldwide live with this chronic disease. Hepatitis C comes from the hepatitis C virus (HCV). Hepatitis C is transmitted through direct contact with infected bodily fluids, usually through injecting drugs and sexual contact. HCV is one of the most common blood-transmitted viral infections in the United States. Approximately 2.7 to 3.9 million Americans currently live with a chronic form of the infection. Hepatitis D Also is called delta hepatitis, hepatitis D is a serious liver disease caused by the hepatitis D virus (HDV). HDV is infected by direct contact with infected blood. Hepatitis D is a rare form of hepatitis that occurs only in combination with hepatitis B infection. Hepatitis D virus cannot reproduce without the presence of hepatitis B. This is very rare in the United States. Hepatitis E hepatitis E is a disease transmitted through water caused by hepatitis E virus (HEV). Hepatitis E is mainly found in areas with poor sanitation and is usually the result of a faecal substance that pollutes the water supply. This disease is rare in the United States. However, cases of hepatitis E have been reported in the Middle East, Asia, Central America and Africa, according to the CDC. Excessive alcohol consumption can lead to liver damage and inflammation. Sometimes it is called alcoholic hepatitis. Alcohol directly injures liver cells. Over time, this can lead to irreversible damage and lead to liver failure and cirrhosis of the liver, thickening and liver scarring. Other toxic causes of hepatitis include excessive use or overdose of drugs and exposure to Autoimmune system response In some cases the immune system mistakes the liver as a harmful object and begins to attack it. This causes continued inflammation can range from mild to severe, often impeding liver function. This is three times more common in women than in men. If you have infectious forms of hepatitis that are chronic like hepatitis B and C, you may not have symptoms at the beginning. Symptoms may not occur as long as the damage affects liver function. Signs and symptoms of acute hepatitis appear quickly. These include: Chronic hepatitis develops

slowly, so these signs and symptoms may be too subtle to notice. To diagnose hepatitis, first your doctor will take your story to determine any risk factors that you may have for infectious or noncommunicable hepatitis. During a physical examination, your doctor can gently press on your stomach to see if there is pain or tenderness. Your doctor may also feel to see if your liver is enlarged. If your skin or eyes are yellow, your doctor will notice this during the exam. Liver function testsLiver function tests use blood samples to determine how effectively your liver works. Abnormal results of these tests may be the first sign that there is a problem, especially if you are not showing any signs of physical examination of liver disease. High levels of liver enzymes may indicate that your liver is tense, damaged or not functioning properly. Other blood testsIf your liver function tests are abnormal, your doctor is more likely to order other blood tests to discover the source of the problem. These tests can test for viruses that cause hepatitis. They can also be used to test for antibodies that are common in conditions like autoimmune hepatitis. Abdominal ultrasound uses ultrasonic waves to create images of organs in the abdominal cavity. This test allows the doctor to take close in the liver and nearby organs. This can reveal: fluid in the abdominal cavity damage or the enlargementliver tumors of your gallbladder Sometimes the pancreas appears on ultrasonic images as well. This can be a useful test in determining the cause of your abnormal liver function. A liver biopsy of the liver biopsy is an invasive procedure that involves your doctor taking a tissue sample from the liver. It can be done through the skin with a needle and does not require surgery. As a rule, ultrasound is used to guide your doctor when taking a biopsy sample. This test allows your doctor to determine how the infection or inflammation has affected your liver. It can also be used to sample any areas in the liver that seem abnormal. Treatment options are determined by what type of hepatitis you have and whether the infection is acute or chronic. Hepatitis A Hepatitis A usually does not require treatment, that it's a short-term disease. Bed rest may be recommended if the symptoms cause great discomfort. If you experience vomiting or diarrhea, follow your doctor's orders for hydration and nutrition. The hepatitis A vaccine is available to prevent this infection. Most Of the start vaccination between the ages of 12 and 18 months. This is a series of two vaccines. Hepatitis A vaccination is also available for adults and can be combined with hepatitis B vaccine. Hepatitis B hepatitis B does not require specific treatment. Chronic hepatitis B is treated with antiviral drugs. This form of treatment can be costly as it should be continued for months or years. Treatment of chronic hepatitis B also requires regular medical evaluations and monitoring to determine whether the virus is responding to treatment. Hepatitis B can be prevented by vaccination. The CDC recommends hepatitis B vaccinations for all newborns. A series of three vaccines usually ends within the first six months of childhood. The vaccine is also recommended for all health care providers and medical staff. Hepatitis CAntivirus drugs are used to treat both acute and chronic forms of hepatitis C. People who develop chronic hepatitis C are usually treated with a combination of antiviral drugs. They may also need further testing to determine the best form of treatment. Candidates for liver transplantation may be people who develop cirrhosis of the liver (liver scar) or liver disease as a result of chronic hepatitis C. Currently there is no vaccination against hepatitis C.Hepatitis DNo antiviral drugs exist to treat hepatitis D currently. According to a 2013 study, a drug called alpha interferon can be used to treat hepatitis D, but it only shows improvement in about 25-30 percent of people. Hepatitis D can be prevented by getting vaccinated against hepatitis B, as hepatitis B infection is necessary for the development of hepatitis B. Hepatitis ECurrently, there are no specific medical treatments for hepatitis E. Since the infection is often acute, it usually decides on its own. People with this type of infection are often advised to get adequate rest, drink plenty of fluids, get enough nutrients, and avoid alcohol. However, pregnant women who develop this infection require careful monitoring and care. Autoimmune hepatitisCorticosteroids, such as prednison or budesonide, are extremely important for early treatment of autoimmune hepatitis. They are effective in about 80 percent of people with the disease. Nitrogenoprin (Imuran), a drug that suppresses the immune system, is often included in treatment. It can be used with or without steroids. Other immune suppressants such as CellCept, tacrolimus (Prograf) and cyclosporine (neoral) can also be used as an alternative to azatioprin for treatment. The practice of good hygiene is one of the key ways to avoid contracting hepatitis A and E. If you are traveling in a developing country, you should local watericeraw or undercooked shellfish and oyster fruits and vegetablesGepatite B, C, and D contract through contaminated blood can be prevented The exchange of drugs needlesnot the exchange of razors, using someone else's toothbrush touching the spilled bloodGepatite B and C can also be concluded through sexual intercourse and intimate sexual contact. The practice of safe sex with condoms and dental dams can help reduce the risk of infection. You can find many options available to buy online. VaccinesUse vaccine is an important key to hepatitis prevention. Vaccination is available to prevent the development of hepatitis A and B. Currently, experts are developing hepatitis C vaccines. Hepatitis E vaccination exists in China, but it is not available in the United States.Chronic hepatitis B or C can often lead to more serious health problems. Because the virus affects the liver, people with chronic hepatitis B or C are at risk: chronic liver disease cirrhosisliver cancer When your liver ceases to function normally, liver failure can occur. Complications of liver failure include: bleeding disordersa accumulation of fluid in the abdomen, known as asincreased blood pressure in the veins of the portal that enter your liver, known as the portal of hypertensionkidney failurehepatic encephalopathy, which can include fatigue, memory loss, and decreased mental capacity due to the accumulation of toxins like ammonia, which affect the function of the brain function. Some supplements and medications can also affect liver function. If you have chronic hepatitis B or C, see your doctor before taking any new medications. Read this article in Spanish. Spanish. australian immunisation handbook hepatitis b. australian immunisation handbook hepatitis b non responder. australian immunisation handbook hepatitis b immunoglobulin

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