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Easl hepatitis b guidelines 2019

How is hepatitis B transmitted? Medically reviewed by Susan Olender, MD What You Need to Know About Hepatitis B and Your Eyes Medically reviewed by Robert Burakoff, MD, MPH How Do I Get Tested for Hepatitis B/ HBV? Medically assessed by Priyanka Chugh, MD Hepatitis B Symptoms, Causes, Diagnosis, Treatment, and Coping Medically reviewed by Robert Burakoff, MD, MPH The hepatitis B virus is transmitted when blood, semen or any other bodily fluid from an infected person enters the body of another individual. Because the virus is highly contagious - 50 to 100 times more than HIV - even brief, direct contact can be enough to cause infection. The hepatitis B virus causes hepatitis B, a form of liver infection. There are many ways in which the virus can be transmitted, including the following. Spencer Platt/Getty Images Having unprotected sex with someone who is infected is the most common way hepatitis B is transmitted in the U.S. and in other developed countries. Nearly two-thirds of hepatitis B infections in the U.S. are spread through some form of sexual contact. In addition to blood, the virus is found in semen and vaginal fluids. Drug users who share syringes and drug equipment have an increased risk of infection. It is estimated that about 16 percent of new hepatitis B infections are from IV drug use. This risk of infection increases the longer someone abuses injection drugs. In countries with high rates of hepatitis B, mother-to-child transmission (also known as vertical or perinatal transmission) is a major cause of new infections. Some places have a huge public health problem because a significant number of mothers infect their babies, and those babies are more likely to develop a chronic infection than people infected in adulthood. However, if proper medical care is available, effective preventive measures (the hepatitis B vaccine and hepatitis B immune globulin) can thwart most infections in children. Living with someone who has chronic hepatitis B increases the risk of infection. Part of this risk is probably due to the sharing of certain household items. Anything that can contain contaminated blood and bodily fluids can spread the hepatitis B virus. Because the virus can live for a period outside the body, certain items, such as razors, toothbrushes and nail clippers, are possible vehicles for transmission. Between 2 and 6 percent of adults infected with the hepatitis B virus will develop chronic hepatitis B. Chronic hepatitis B can lead to liver failure and liver cancer, so protecting yourself is important. The hepatitis B vaccine is a safe and effective way (for about 9 in 10 people) to have long-term protection against hepatitis B infection. In many countries immunised from infancy because they were exposed at birth or because they benefited from a hepatitis B childhood vaccination programme. Hepatitis B immune globulin (HBIG), is another way to prevent hepatitis B infection. This uses concentrated antibodies to provide immediate protection. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, it is given as a shot and may provide short-term protection against hepatitis B. Because the hepatitis B vaccine does not protect against HIV, hepatitis C or other diseases spread through sex and contact with blood, it is still important to continue using basic protective strategies. Practicing safer sex and not sharing needles is recommended - even if you're immune to hepatitis B. Thanks for your feedback! What are your concerns? Hepatitis B is a liver infection caused by the hepatitis B virus (HBV). In some people, HBV remains in the body, causing long-term illness and long-term liver problems. How do people get hepatitis B? Most often, HBV spreads: through sexual activity with an HBV-infected person via shared infected needles or syringes for injecting drugs via HBV-infected mothers to their newborn babies Who is at risk of hepatitis B? In the United States, the most common way people become infected with HBV is through unprotected sex with someone who has the disease. People who share needles are also at risk because the needles are often not sterilized. What is chronic hepatitis B? Doctors refer to hepatitis B infections as acute or chronic: An acute HBV infection is a short-term disease that erases within 6 months of when a person is exposed to the virus. A person who still has HBV after 6 months is said to have a chronic hepatitis B infection. This is a long-term disease, which means that the virus remains in the body and causes lifelong illness. An estimated 850,000 to more than 2 million people in the U.S. have chronic HBV. The younger someone is when infected, the greater the chance of chronic hepatitis B. About 90% of babies with HBV will develop a chronic infection. That risk drops to 6%-10% if someone over 5 years of age is infected. Therefore, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend that all babies receive the first dose of the hepatitis B vaccine within 12-24 hours of birth. They later receive two more doses, at the age of 1-2 months and at the age of 6-18 months. What are the signs & symptoms of HBV infection? HBV can cause a wide range of symptoms, from mild illness and general feeling of being unwell to more serious chronic liver disease that can lead to liver cancer. Someone with hepatitis B may have symptoms similar to those other viral infections, such as the flu. The person might: feel extra tired if vomiting or actually vomiting does not feel that eating a mild HBV fever can also cause darker than normal urination, jaundice (when the skin and whites of the eyes look yellow), and abdominal pain. People exposed hepatitis B may begin to experience symptoms from 1 to 6 months later. Symptoms can last for weeks to months. In some people, hepatitis B causes few or no symptoms. But even someone who has no symptoms can still spread the disease to others. What problems can hepatitis B cause? Hepatitis B (also called serum hepatitis) is a serious infection. It can cause cirrhosis (permanent scarring) of the liver, liver failure or liver cancer, which can cause serious illness and even death. If a pregnant woman has the hepatitis B virus, her baby has a very high chance of having it, unless the baby receives a special immune injection and the first dose of hepatitis B vaccine at birth. Sometimes HBV does not cause symptoms until a person has had the infection for a while. At that stage, the person already might have more serious problems, such as liver damage. How is hepatitis B diagnosed? Anyone with symptoms or who might have been exposed to the virus through sex or drug use should see a doctor immediately for a blood test. The blood test can also determine whether someone has an acute infection or a chronic infection. How is hepatitis B treated? There is no cure for HBV. Doctors will advise someone with hepatitis B infection on how to manage symptoms - such as getting lots of rest or drinking fluids. A person who is too ill to eat or drink will need treatment in a hospital. In most cases, older children and teens who develop hepatitis B recover and may develop natural immunity to future hepatitis B infections. Most feel better within 6 months. Healthcare providers will keep a close eye on patients who develop chronic hepatitis B. What happens after hepatitis B infection? Some people carry the virus in their body and are contagious for the rest of their lives. They should not drink alcohol, and should contact their doctor before taking medicines (prescription, over the counter, or supplements) to ensure that these will not lead to more liver damage. Anyone who has ever tested positive for hepatitis B cannot be a blood donor. Can hepatitis B be prevented? Yes. Newborn babies in the United States now routinely receive the hepatitis B vaccine as a series of three shots over a 6-month period. There has been a big drop in the number of hepatitis B cases in the last 25 years thanks to vaccination. Doctors also recommend catch-up vaccination for all children and teens younger than 19 years old who are not getting the vaccine as babies or not all three doses. Some children may need to be revaccinated later in life. These include children: If someone who is not vaccinated is exposed to HBV, doctors may give the vaccine and/or a shot of immune globulin with against the virus to try to prevent the person from becoming infected. Therefore, it is very important to go to a doctor immediately after possible exposure to the virus. To prevent the spread of hepatitis B through infected blood and other bodily fluids, adults and teens should: always use latex condoms having sex (oral, vaginal, or anal) avoid contact with the blood of an infected person not using intravenous drugs or sharing needles or other drug tools not sharing things like toothbrushes or razors examination tattoo and piercing places carefully to make sure they don't reuse needles without properly sterilizing them Reviewed by: Elana Pearl Ben-Joseph, MD Date reviewed : February 2020 2020

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