

## Fact Sheet

<b>Disease:</b>	<b>Viral Hepatitis (B)</b>
<b>Overview:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hepatitis B is a viral infection that attacks the liver and can cause both acute and chronic disease.</li> <li>- The virus is transmitted through contact with the blood or other body fluids of an infected person.</li> <li>- However, it can be prevented by currently available safe and effective vaccine.</li> </ul>
<b>Introduction</b>	It is a major global health problem. It can cause chronic infection and puts people at high risk of death from cirrhosis and liver cancer.
<b>Causes:</b>	Hepatitis B Transmission.
<b>Transmission</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From mother to child at birth.</li> <li>• Exposure to infected blood from an infected child to an uninfected child during the first 5 years of life.</li> <li>• By percutaneous or mucosal exposure to infected blood and various body fluids (such as: saliva, menstrual, vaginal, and seminal fluids...etc).</li> <li>• Sexual transmission.</li> <li>• Reuse of needles and syringes either in health-care settings or among persons who inject drugs.</li> <li>• During medical, surgical, dental procedures and tattooing.</li> <li>• Use of razors and similar objects that are contaminated with infected blood.</li> </ul>

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<p><b>Symptoms:</b></p>	<p>Some people have acute illness with symptoms that last several weeks, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jaundice (a yellowing of the skin and whites of the eyes).</li> <li>• Abdominal pain.</li> <li>• Dark urine.</li> <li>• Nausea and vomiting.</li> <li>• Fatigue.</li> </ul> <p>Most people do not experience any symptoms during the acute infection phase.</p>
<p><b>Diagnosis:</b></p>	<p>Laboratory diagnosis can be used to distinguish acute and chronic infections.</p>
<p><b>Incubation Period</b></p>	<p>The incubation period period can vary from 30 to 180 days (75 days on average).</p>
<p><b>Virus Survival Outside the Body:</b></p>	<p>The hepatitis B virus can survive outside the body for at least 7 days. During this time, the virus can still cause infection if it enters the body of a person who is not protected by the vaccine.</p>
<p><b>Risk Factor:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People who frequently require blood or blood products.</li> <li>• Persons who inject drugs.</li> <li>• Men who homosexual relations with men,</li> </ul>

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### Higher Susceptibility Groups:

- Dialysis patients.
- Recipients of solid organ transplantations.
- Healthcare workers and others who may be exposed to blood and blood products through their work.
- People interned in prisons.
- Travelers who have not completed their hepatitis B vaccination series.

### Complication s:

Persons with acute hepatitis can develop acute liver failure, which can lead to death. In some people, the hepatitis B virus can also cause a chronic liver infection that can later develop into cirrhosis (a scarring of the liver) or liver cancer.

### Prevention:

The hepatitis B vaccine is the mainstay of hepatitis B prevention. WHO recommends that all infants receive the hepatitis B vaccine as soon as possible after birth, preferably within 24 hours.

### Treatment:

There is no specific treatment for acute hepatitis B. Therefore, care is aimed at maintaining comfort and adequate nutritional balance, including replacement of fluids lost from vomiting and diarrhoea.

Chronic hepatitis B infection can be treated with medicines, including oral antiviral agents. Treatment can slow the progression of cirrhosis and reduce incidence of liver cancer.

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### References:

- WHO  
<http://www.who.int/en/>

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