

- Hepatitis C is liver disease caused by the hepatitis C virus (HCV)
- HCV infection sometimes results in an acute symptomatic illness. It can range in severity from a mild illness lasting a few weeks to a serious, lifelong chronic condition that can lead to cirrhosis of the liver and liver cancer.
- HCV is transmitted through contact with the blood of an infected person.
- About 130–170 million people are chronically infected with hepatitis C virus, and more than 350 000 people die from hepatitis C-related liver diseases each year.
- HCV infection is curable using increasingly effective antivirals.
- Despite on-going research, there is currently no vaccine to prevent hepatitis C virus infection.

Hepatitis C is a contagious liver disease that results from infection with hepatitis C virus (HCV). It can range in severity from a mild illness lasting a few weeks to a serious, lifelong illness. HCV is usually spread when blood from a person infected with HCV enters the body of someone who is not infected. HCV is among the most common viruses that infect the liver.

The virus is most commonly transmitted through exposure to infectious blood such as through: receipt of contaminated blood transfusions, blood products, and organ transplants; injections given with contaminated syringes, needle-stick injuries in health-care settings; injection drug use; being born to an HCV-infected mother. It is less commonly transmitted through sex with an infected person and sharing of personal items contaminated with infectious blood.

Hepatitis C is not spread through breast milk, food or water or by casual contact such as hugging, kissing and sharing food or drinks with an infected person.

<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs164/en/>

QUESTIONS: (Express your idea)

- 1. What is hepatitis C? Please answer in 2-3 sentences.**
- 2. What are the signs and symptoms of hepatitis C?**
- 3. How can we prevent the spread of hepatitis C?**
- 4. How can we treat a person who has hepatitis C?**
- 5. Can Caesarean section decrease the transmission of hepatitis C to the baby? Why?**
- 6. Role play: Give me advices in preventing hepatitis C**