# Hepatitis C

Hepatitis is an inflammation of the liver. It is usually due to a virus infection. Symptoms include fatigue, fever, poor appetite, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, jaundice, and dark urine. It is most commonly transmitted by IV drug abuse and blood transfusion, but about half the time the source is unknown. **Chronic infection develops in many patients with Hepatitis C. Permanent liver damage (*cirrhosis*) is common. The diagnosis can be confirmed by laboratory tests or liver biopsy.**

Treatment for hepatitis includes bed rest, especially if you have a fever. A good diet is important. If you feel nauseated or vomit, stick to a clear liquid diet until your stomach settles down. Do not drink alcohol or abuse drugs. This will increase liver damage. If Hepatitis C becomes chronic, some patients benefit from treatment with a special drug called interferon.

**Be sure to call for a follow up appointment as recommended.**

**SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF YOU DEVELOP:**

- Marked increase in pain, repeated vomiting, or dehydration.
- A high fever, marked weakness, severe headache, or confusion.

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