Hepatitis C: The Effects on the Liver



Hepatitis C is a viral infection that affects the liver, by causing inflammation, that over time decreases its ability to function properly. The liver's function is to process blood and filter toxins from your body, it also stores glucose and vitamins. The liver also produces proteins, blood components, and bile, which helps the body digest food.

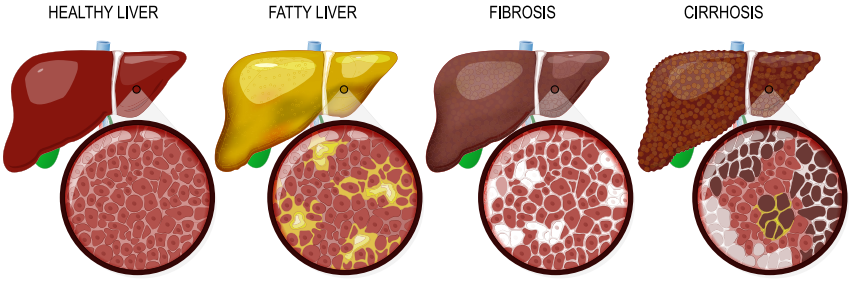
Common symptoms that appear as Hepatitis C progresses, are things like skin prob-lems, blood disorders, and weight loss. More severe symptoms like liver damage, liver cancer, and liver failure can also occur. Earlier symptoms of Hepatitis C may be minor and more likely to be overlooked. Getting treatment early to prevent a chronic infection which will cause serious damage such as cirrhosis and scarring of the liver is extremely important.

If you have been exposed to the Hepatitis C virus, a blood test can be performed to test if you have Hepatitis C antibodies. If you do have the antibodies, a second test will need to be performed to determine if you have Hepatitis C virus.

Most people do not have any symptoms of Hepatitis C, especially in the acute stage, (initial infection period). As the disease becomes chronic, more signs and symptoms may become noticeable.

How does liver cirrhosis from hepatitis C effect the body?

- Yellowing skin and eyes
- Liver inflammation
- Sweet or musty breath
- Inefficient intestines
- Poor bladder and bowel movements
- Type 2 diabetes
- Toxin build up in the brain
- Thyroid Disorders
- Fluids in the stomach
- Weight loss or gain
- Hair loss, dry skin, and poor nails
- Unhealthy blood
- Internal Bleeding



Pietrangelo, A. (2022, June 21). The Effects of Hepatitis C on Your Body. (M. Youssef (Joe) Soliman, Edi-tor) Retrieved October 12, 2022, from Healthline: https://www.healthline.com/health/hepatitis-c/effects-on-the-body

ALABAMA PUBLIC HEALTH

HIV Office of Prevention and Care
Alabama Department
of Public Health
The RSA Tower, Suite 1278
201 Monroe Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36104
Hotline: 1-800-228-0469

6/2026