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Treatment of hepatitis c virus pdf

The hepatitis C virus (HCV) is an infection that causes inflammation of the liver. It is spread by contact with blood or bodily fluids of an infected person. The most common ways that you could get HCV infections are through injected drug use, unprotected sex, medical procedure using a contaminated device, or through injuries or injuries that expose you to blood infected with HCV. Verywell HCV enters the body and reproduces in the host (infected person's) body, specifically aimed at the liver. HCV often avoids the body's immune system and causes disease as a result of a direct attack on the liver. The liver is responsible for many body functions such as blood clotting, digestion, food absorption and metabolism, so that's why HCV has such a wide impact on the body. There are several known mechanisms by which HCV attacks the body. Injecting drug use Sharing needles, syringes or other equipment for injecting drug use puts you at extreme risk of developing HCV. Intravenous drug use is responsible for most HCV infections in the United States. The course of HCV disease may vary for those who acquire infection through drug use than it is for people who acquire the infection in other ways. The reasons are unclear, but people who are often exposed to the virus again by repeated drug use are more likely to become infected again after treatment. Sexual contact Hepatitis C can spread through sexual contact, but this does not happen often. Unlike the hepatitis B virus, which is known to be present in semen and vaginal fluids, HCV does not accumulate in significant amounts in these fluids. The risk of developing HCV from sexual contact increases if you have multiple sexual partners, have direct contact with blood, have a sexually transmitted disease or are infected with HIV. It is difficult to quantify the number of people who acquire hepatitis sexually versus by other means. One study found that long-term monogamous partners of someone infected with hepatitis C became infected around 4 percent of the time. There has been research examining whether gay men are at a higher risk of HCV, and studies show that the population may be at higher risk of getting HCV under certain circumstances, such as unprotected sex with an infected partner. Transmission of mother and child Only about 4 to 8 percent of babies born to mothers with hepatitis C will be infected with the virus. The risk of vertical spread almost doubles if the mother also has HIV or a higher viral load (a high amount of the virus in the body) at the time of childbirth. The C-section does not appear to increase the risk of transmission, but prolonged rupture of membranes during childbirth is associated with an increased risk of transmission of HCV from mother to child. Almost all babies born to mothers with HCV have antibodies to the virus. This will that the child is infected. Antibodies are immune proteins produced by the body in response to disease-causing substances such as HCV, and these immune proteins are transmitted to young children from their mothers. There is no evidence suggest that breastfeeding may increase the risk of transmission of HCV from mother to child. In fact, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the American Congress of Obstetrics and Gynecologists (ACOG) will confirm breastfeeding for mothers with HCV. Needle injuries in medical institutions Nurses, doctors and all healthcare professionals who routinely use needles to provide medical care are at risk of needle injury. In fact, it is estimated that more than 600,000 needle injuries happen each year, with nurses being at the highest risk. On average, about 2 percent of needle injuries where exposure to the virus occurred will result in acute hepatitis C. Blood transfusions In the past, blood transfusions were a common way for HCV to spread. People who are at risk of hemophilia, thalassemia or other diseases requiring multiple transfusions were particularly at risk of exposure. However, today, exposure to HCV through blood transfusions is very rare because donated blood is tested for HCV antibodies as well as HCV genetic material. Experts believe that your chance of getting HCV from a blood transfusion is about one in 2 million. Medical procedures Some medical procedures, such as organ transplants, may also expose you. As with blood transfusions, organ donors are tested for both the virus and antibodies, so the risk is extremely low. Vaccination with contaminated needles can also expose people to HCV. This is not common in developed countries, because disposable needles are usually used. Contact with a HCV household can spread in the home, but this is rare. Living with someone who has HCV will slightly increase your chances of exposure to the virus. The risk of this type of spread may be reduced by taking certain measures. For example, since razors and toothbrushes can theoretically be a source of HCV exposure, it is a good idea not to share these items. Unknown spread There are a relatively small number of people with HCV who do not know how they were infected. This type of spread is known as sporadic, idiopathic, or community-acquired infections. Some estimates suggest that 10 percent of acute hepatitis and 30 percent of chronic hepatitis stem from unknown exposures. Most experts believe that this type of spread comes from contact with a contaminated wound, forgotten high-risk contact with someone infected with HCV or exposure to HCV from a medical procedure. Since many people have developed hepatitis C without being exposed to any known risk factors, it is now recommended that all adults born between 1945 and 1965 be tested. There are several lifestyle risk factors that can increase your chances of getting HCV infection. These lifestyle factors increase contact with contaminated blood. Tattoos or body piercings: Some tattoos are placed using needles that have not been properly cleaned, potentially increasing the risk of HCV. Injectable drug use: Injecting any kind of drug into your skin, veins (IV), or muscles can increase your chances of getting HCV if you share needles. Unprotected sexual activity: Sexual activity without the use of condoms or during sexual activity involves contact with blood, there is an increased risk of HCV. Drug use: A study has shown that drug use or sex parties associated with drug use can increase sexual risk. This risk appears to be separate from the risk of infection through injecting drug use. Healthcare professionals: Healthcare professionals can become infected, especially when caring for patients in non-hygienic conditions. Medical and cosmetic procedures: Procedures carried out in an unaccredited environment may increase the likelihood of infection by contaminated equipment. Casual contact: There is no evidence that casual contact generally spreads hepatitis C. Occasional contact involves kissing, sneezing, hugging, coughing, sharing food or water, sharing dining options or drinking glasses. There is no genetic tendency to acquire HCV or develop a more serious infection. The only health factor associated with HCV is the lack of an immune system, which makes it difficult for your body to fight infection. Immune deficiency most commonly noted with HCV is HIV infection. HIV Infection: HIV, as well as HCV, can be obtained through injected drug use with contaminated needles and sexual intercourse. Immune deficiency of HIV can make it difficult for your body to ward off HCV infections. In addition, you may need antiviral drugs for any infection that can make treatment decisions somewhat more complicated if you are co-infected. co-infected.

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