



Better2Know

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Hepatitis A

What is Hepatitis A?

Hepatitis A is an infection of the liver caused by a virus which is spread in the faeces of an infected person.

Most infections occur in parts of the world where sanitation and food standards are poor, however there is evidence to suggest that the virus can be transmitted sexually, particularly in anal-oral sex or sexual activities which involve touching the anus with a finger or tongue.

What are the symptoms (if any)?

As with many sexually transmitted infections, not everyone with Hepatitis A will develop symptoms.

For those that do, symptoms develop on average around 4 weeks after becoming infected and can include tiredness, joint and muscle pain, a raised temperature, loss of appetite, feeling or being sick, yellowing of the skin or eyes due to jaundice, dark pee, pale faeces or itchy skin. Symptoms usually pass within a couple of months.

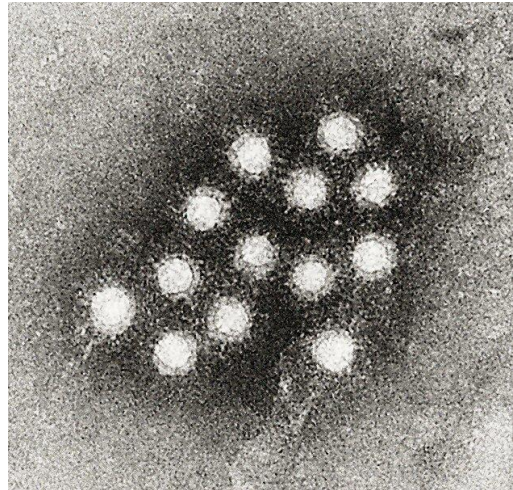
How is it treated?

Currently there is no known cure for Hepatitis A, but most people with the infection make a full recovery in a few weeks.

There is a vaccine for Hepatitis A, however this is not routinely offered in the UK due to the risk of infection being low for most people and is only recommended for those groups most at risk.

What happens if you do not get treated?

Hepatitis A is an acute infection, which means it is not considered a long-term condition, so people usually recover from it quickly.



Electron micrograph of 'Hepatovirus A' virions

However, it can on rare occasions cause life threatening liver damage. If left untreated or unmonitored you may be at risk of developing a more serious health problem. It can cause chronic inflammation of the liver and may lead to liver cancer.

As your immune system is fighting the infection, you will be at higher risk of contracting other infections including STIs and HIV.

Better2Know Testing Information

Although Hepatitis A is not usually serious, a simple blood test can confirm whether you have the infection and can also rule out more serious conditions such as Hepatitis C or Cirrhosis, which is scarring of the liver.

Better2Know can arrange a confidential appointment at a convenient clinic in order to be tested.

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Better2Know is the leading provider of Sexual Health testing services around the globe. We will get you a clinic appointment or home testing kit quickly and deliver fast and accurate results for your peace of mind. If you are concerned about your sexual health please visit our website www.better2know.com to book an appointment or purchase your test with us today.

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