

Who is at risk for Hepatitis?

Hepatitis B (HBV) is a chronic liver disease and can cause lifelong infection, scarring (cirrhosis), liver cancer and death.

Approximately 30% of all acute and chronic HBV patients have no signs or symptoms. HBV is spread through infected blood and body fluids. Common risk factors is having sex with an infected person, men who have sex with men, injection drug users, infants born to infected mothers, health care workers exposed to blood, hemodialysis patients and infants and children who immigrate from areas with high rates of HBV infection.

HBV vaccination is the best protection. If you are having sex and you are unsure if your partner is infected with HBV, use of a latex condom used properly every time you have sex might reduce transmission. Do not share personal care items that might have blood on them. Do not shoot drugs; if you do use drugs, stop and get into a treatment program. If you are considering tattoo's or body piercing make sure their tools do not have blood on them and that they follow good health practices.

Hepatitis C (HCV) is a viral infection that attacks the liver and can cause lifelong infection, scarring (cirrhosis), liver cancer and death.

Health experts estimate that more than 4 million people in the US are infected with HCV.

HCV is spread when infected blood enters that body. Risk factors for HCV include IV drug use or sharing needles, snorting recreational drugs, blood transfusions prior to 1992, tattoos or piercing through utensils infected with someone else's blood, and through sexual transmission. However, HCV transmission is very rare in cases were both partners are monogamous with one another.

There is no vaccine to prevent HCV. HCV can be treated with interferon and ribavirin combination treatment. This treatment can get rid of the virus in about 5 out of 10 persons with Genotype 1 and in up to 8 out of 10 persons with genotype 2 and 3.

Please see the links on our website for more information.

www.hepatitisalliance.org

Kansas City Hepatitis C Support Group-2011



3 Monthly Meetings:

3rd Tuesday of the month Jan through Oct
6:30 PM to 7:30 PM
Shawnee Mission Medical Center's Life Dynamics Building
9120 W 75th Street
Shawnee Mission, KS

NEW GROUP-NOTE TIME DIFFERENCE:
3rd Tuesday of the ODD months only
6:30PM to 7:30 PM
Mar-May-July-Sept ONLY
Clay County Public Health Center
800 Haines Drive
Liberty, Missouri 64068

4th Tuesday of the month- Jan through Oct
6:30 PM to 7:30 PM
Family Health Care
340 Southwest Blvd
Kansas City, Kansas 66103

Led by licensed credentialed professionals

For more information contact:
Phone: 913-754-6077
www.hepatitisalliance.org

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Kansas City Hepatitis Alliance Inc. (KCHA) is to be a resource that provides education, awareness and support to the Greater Kansas City community in regards to Hepatitis.

KCHA was founded in 2006 and has provided education and support to the KC area. KCHA is a non-profit organization 501 (c) (3).

We encourage family, friends and significant others to also attend.

Our content is the same information at all locations.

Donations for this non-profit organization can be mailed to:

**KCHA
3965 W 83rd St, Suite 222
Prairie Village, KS 66208**

**For more information call:
913-754-6077**

2011 Program Schedule

January: Effects of Diet and Exercises on Hepatitis

February: Impact of Vitamins, Herbal Products with Hepatitis

March: Lab Test Interpretation

April: Hepatitis 101: The Basics

May: Psychological/Social Effects and Hepatitis C

June: New Treatment Options/Side Effect Management

July: Hepatitis BINGO

August: Complications of Hepatitis C

September: Ask the Expert: Presentation: MD/Patient

October: Effects of Hepatitis C on Sexuality

November: No Meeting

December: No Meeting

Meeting Format

First 20 minutes: educational component

Followed by Q&A, Updates and Networking

Light refreshments served

IN THE EVENT OF INCLEMENT WEATHER PLEASE CALL 913-754-6077 TO SEE IF SUPPORT GROUP IS MEETING THAT NIGHT

Please see the website for directions to the support group locations.

www.hepatitisalliance.org

If you have just learned of a diagnosis of Hepatitis, please see your health care provider for specific health instructions on what medications you should take. Additionally, avoid all alcoholic beverages.