

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



2 Monthly Meetings:

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

**4th Tuesday of the month
6:45 PM to 7:45 PM
Sheffield Life Center
5700 Winner Road
Kansas City, MO**

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 (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).

Donations for this non-profit organization can be mailed to 3965 W 83rd St, Suite 222 Prairie Village, KS 66208

We encourage family, friends and significant others to also attend

For more information call:

913-754-6077

2010 Program Schedule

January: Hepatitis update and overview

February: Side effect management

March: Lab test interpretation

April: Psychological aspects of chronic illness

May: Hepatitis BINGO

June: Diet and exercises impact on Hepatitis

July: Panel discussion of patients with HCV

August: Assistance with navigating through the health care system

September: Presentation from a local Physician

October: Skin conditions and HCV

November: Update from national liver meeting (AASLD)

December: Herbal products and HCV

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