



HEPATITIS B

Department of Health and Human Services



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Hepatitis B is a serious liver disease caused by hepatitis B virus (HBV). HBV is found in the blood and body fluids of persons who have hepatitis B. Having sex or sharing needles to shoot drugs are the most common ways that people get infected with HBV. Babies can get it at birth from an infected mother. People with hepatitis B may have pain in their belly, tiredness, loss of appetite, joint pain, or have yellow skin or eyes. Many people have no symptoms and don't know they are infected. Hepatitis B can lead to long-term infection. This happens most often in babies and young children and can lead to liver damage, liver cancer, and death. This is why it is so important to get vaccinated against hepatitis B early in life. It takes only three shots to be protected. Today most children are vaccinated against hepatitis B at birth. Ask your parents if you have been vaccinated!

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