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# HEPATITIS AWARENESS

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## What is Hepatitis?

Hepatitis refers to an inflammatory condition of the liver. It's commonly caused by a viral infection, but there are other possible causes of hepatitis. These include autoimmune hepatitis and hepatitis that occurs as a secondary result of medications, drugs, toxins, and alcohol. Autoimmune hepatitis is a disease that occurs when your body makes

antibodies against your liver tissue. Viral infections of the liver that are classified as hepatitis include hepatitis A, B, C, D, and E. A different virus is responsible for each type of virally transmitted hepatitis.



## Statistics:

- 2.4 million people are estimated to be living with hepatitis C in the United States.
- 850,000 people in the U.S. are estimated to be living with hepatitis B.
- More than half of persons living with hepatitis do not know that they have the virus. Thus, they are at risk for life threatening liver disease and cancer and unknowingly transmitting the virus to others.
  - 67% of persons living with hepatitis B infection do not know they have the virus.
  - 51% of persons living with hepatitis C infection do not know they have the virus.

## Symptoms

If you have infectious forms of hepatitis that are chronic, like hepatitis B and C, you may not have symptoms in the beginning. Symptoms may not occur until the damage affects liver function. Chronic hepatitis develops slowly, so these signs and symptoms may be too subtle to notice.

Signs and symptoms of acute hepatitis appear quickly. They include:

- fatigue.
- flu-like symptoms.
- dark urine and/or pale stool.
- abdominal pain and loss of appetite.
- unexplained weight loss.
- yellow skin and eyes.