

HEPATITIS C - SYMPTOMS, TREATMENT

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Abstract:

Hepatitis C is inflammation of the liver caused by the hepatitis C virus. The word hepatitis is derived from the Greek words "hepar" - liver and "itis" - inflammation. Drugs, toxins, poison, alcohol, allergic reactions, autoimmune diseases can cause only hepatitis itself, but viral hepatitis is caused by the following viruses:

Two types of the course of the disease are distinguished: acute and chronic. The development of acute hepatitis C begins after infection with the virus. At this time, most patients do not have any symptoms. In about 50-80% of infected people, the disease later turns into chronic hepatitis C. The chronic stage develops over decades, and it can pass without any symptoms. If the disease is not treated, the patient will eventually develop liver diseases and become a carrier of the disease.

There are several genotypic types of hepatitis C. They are divided into 1a, 1b, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. The difference between these genotypes plays an important role in the treatment of the disease (type of medicine, doses and duration of treatment).

Hepatitis C symptoms

Certain symptoms are felt at different stages of the disease.

Signs and symptoms of acute hepatitis C

In the acute stage, 65% of people do not have clear symptoms. As the disease progresses, the symptoms begin to appear more clearly (after 2-26 weeks) and last 2-12 weeks. They are:

Pain in the upper part of the abdomen, especially on the right side;

Dark color of urine;

Colorless stool (fluid);

Jaundice (yellowing of the skin and eyes);

Nausea and intestinal disorders;

Fatigue;

Slight fever and chills;

Pain in the muscles;



Loss of appetite;

Rapid mood swings;

Pain in the joints.

In the chronic stage, patients usually live for years without obvious symptoms. This is sometimes called "inactive" or "latent" hepatitis C. As a result, active chronic hepatitis develops along with inflammation and scarring (cirrhosis of the liver). If the disease is not treated, it can lead to liver cirrhosis, liver failure and liver cancer (hepatocellular cancer) and even death. Symptoms of chronic hepatitis C:

Weakness and fatigue;

Nausea;

Loss of appetite;

Pain in muscles and joints;

Lose weight.

Since chronic hepatitis C leads to liver failure (liver decompensation), additional symptoms are observed:

Dark color of urine;

Jaundice (yellowing of the skin and eyes);

Itching;

Abdominal swelling caused by fluid accumulation;

Leg swelling due to fluid accumulation;

Vomiting of blood;

General abdominal pain.

Hepatitis C is spread from person to person with the virus. The virus is not transmitted by animals or insects.

The hepatitis C virus is present mainly in the blood and in small amounts in other bodily fluids of the infected person. The virus is now most commonly transmitted by sharing needles used for injections. Until 1990, the virus was usually transmitted through blood transfusions. Currently, there is almost no risk of transmission through blood transfusion, donor blood is first analyzed.

Hepatitis C transmission sometimes occurs in hospitals, clinics, and healthcare facilities where infection control protocols are not followed. At this time, medical personnel can use non-sterile instruments or transmit the virus to a healthy person through a needle.



Another way of transmission of the virus is when an infected donor organ is transplanted into another person. Transplantation of damaged organs is currently considered as the last and last resort.

References:

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