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How is hepatitis B virus transmitted?

Hepatitis B virus is spread when blood from an infected person enters the body of a person who is not infected.

HBV is spread through having sex with an infected person without using a condom, by sharing drugs, needles, or "works", through needle sticks or sharps exposure on the job, or from an infected mother to her baby during birth.

Casual contact, as in the usual office, factory, or school setting, does not spread the virus.

Hepatitis B



How can you prevent Hepatitis B?



Risk Groups

- **Persons with multiple sex partners or the diagnosis of a sexually transmitted disease.**
- **Men who have sex with men.**
- **Sex contacts of infected persons.**
- **Injection drug users**
- **Household contacts of chronically infected persons.**



Prevention

- The **Hepatitis B vaccine** is the best protection.
- Use latex condoms correctly and every time you have sex.
- Do not share personal care items such as razors, toothbrushes, nail clippers.
- Do not share needles, drugs, syringes water or "works". Consider the risks when getting tattoos or body piercings.

What are the Symptoms?



Symptoms

About 30% of persons have **no signs or symptoms**. Signs and symptoms are less common in children than adults.

- **Jaundice (yellowing of skin and eyes)**
- **Fatigue**
- **Abdominal pain**
- **Loss of appetite**
- **Nausea, vomiting**
- **Joint pain.**