

# HEPATITIS C

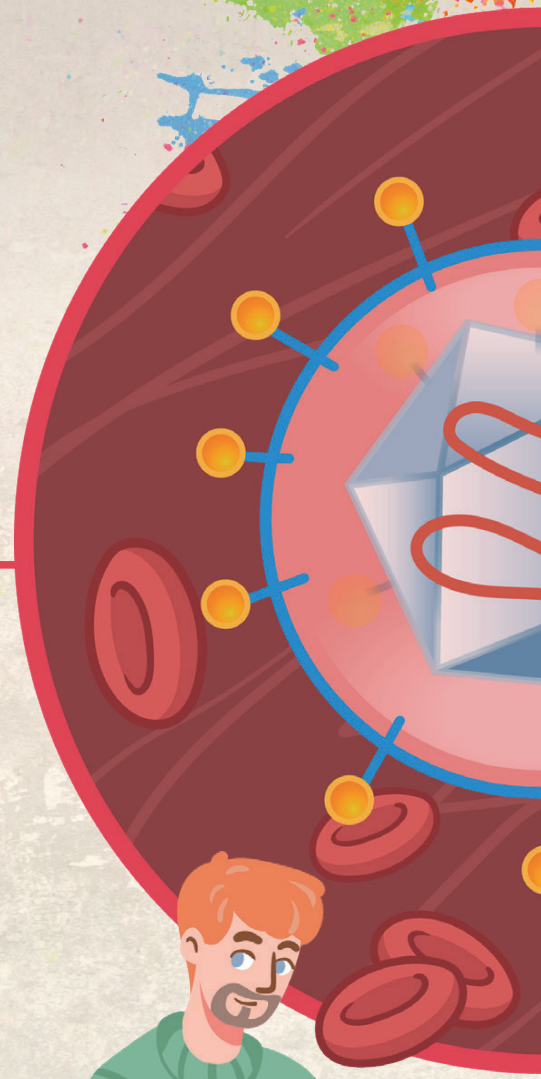
## Why seek treatment?



abbvie

# Routes of contamination

**Hepatitis C** is a virus transmitted via **blood**.



People have become infected<sup>1</sup>:



during **blood transfusions**;



from **dental treatments**;



after getting a **tattoo** or **piercing** with non-sterile contaminated equipment;



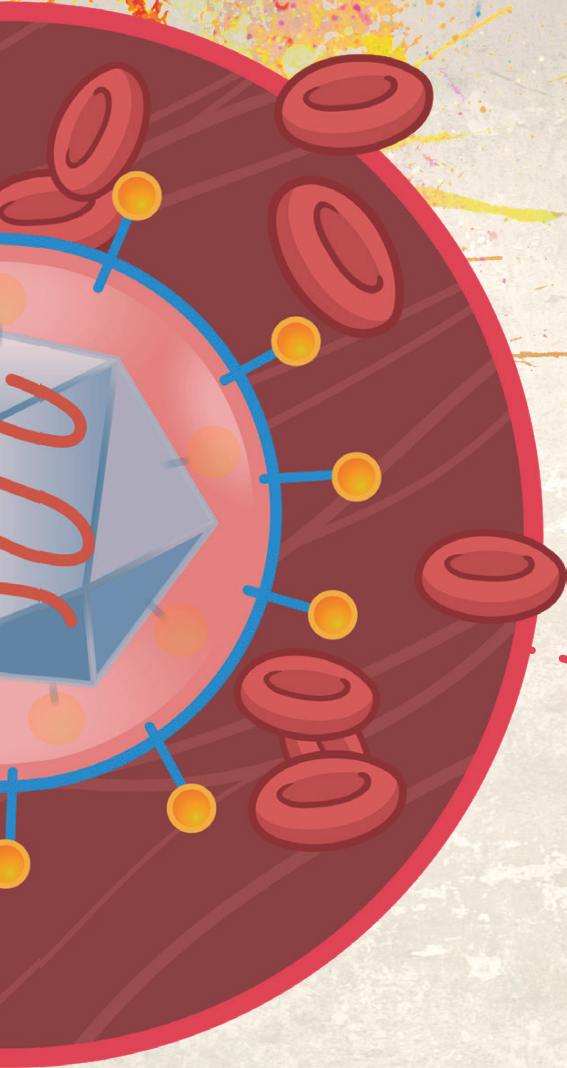
through the use of **syringes**;



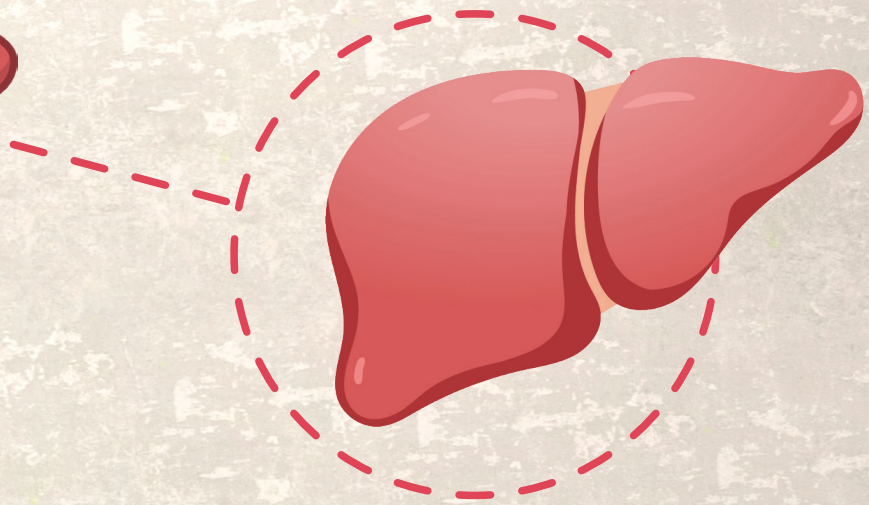
and even at **birth**, through mother-to-child transmission.



## Overview of the disease



The virus acts by attacking **liver cells**



This progressive attack, **especially when coupled with regular alcohol consumption**, causes inflammation of the liver<sup>2</sup>:



First we observe **fibrosis**,

then **cirrhosis**,

which, in severe cases, can lead to **liver cancer**.

## The effects of the disease

The attack is gradual, and occurs year after year, **often without the infected person experiencing any symptoms,**



apart from **fatigue**<sup>2</sup>

and sometimes **depression**<sup>3</sup>.

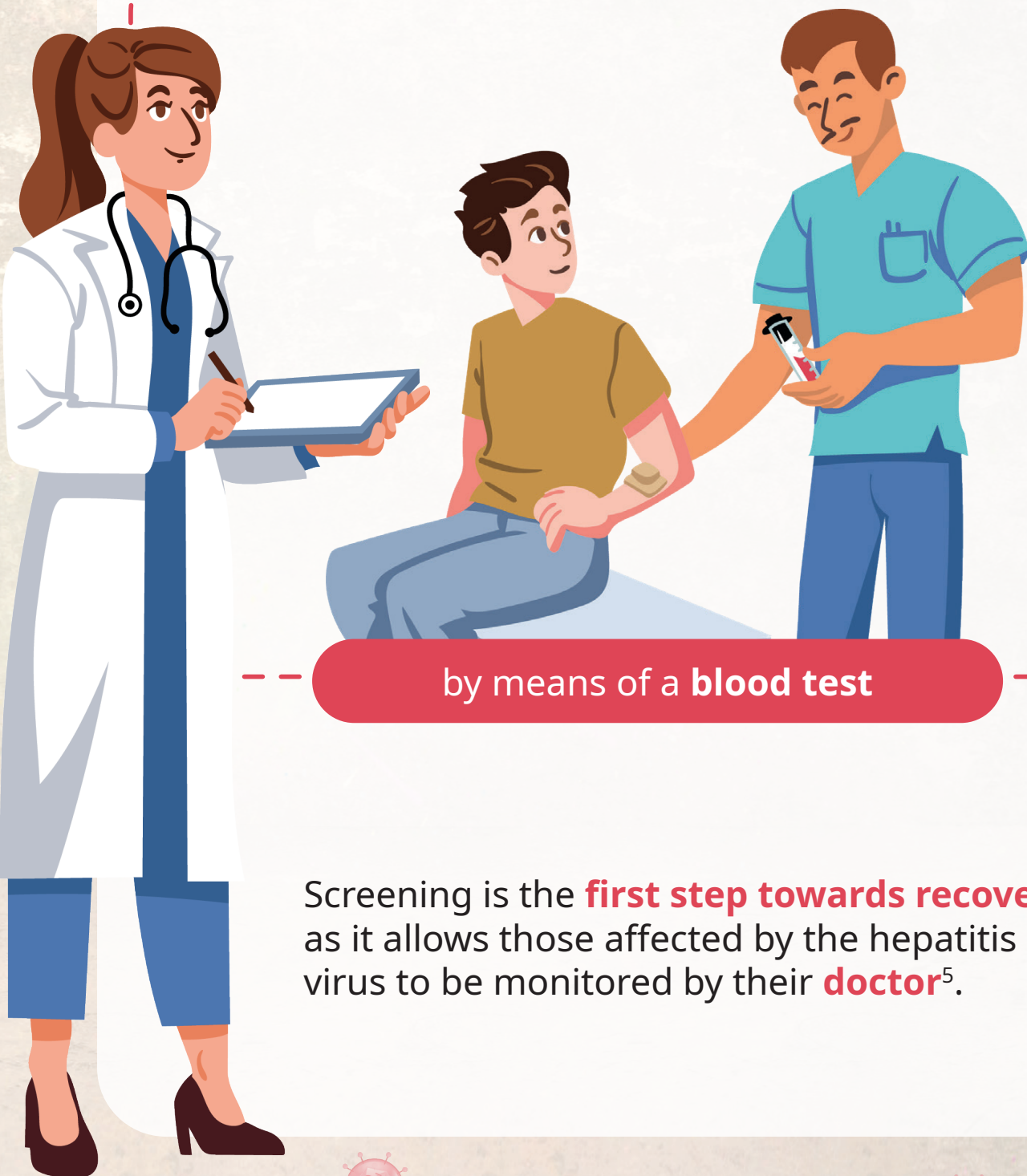


You can be totally unaware that you have the disease the entire time you are **infected**.

That's why we sometimes refer to it as a "silent" virus<sup>4</sup>.

## *The importance of testing*

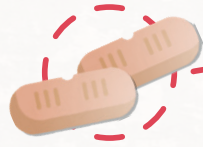
The only way to know if you're a carrier of the virus is to **be screened**,



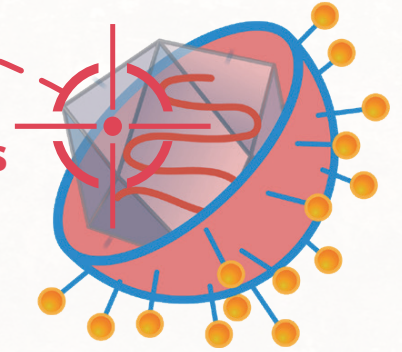
by means of a **blood test**

Screening is the **first step towards recovery**, as it allows those affected by the hepatitis C virus to be monitored by their **doctor**<sup>5</sup>.

## Treatment



Today, direct-acting **antiviral treatments** target **key viral replication proteins**<sup>6</sup>.



These treatments can be offered to all infected people, **no matter how far the disease has progressed**<sup>7</sup>.



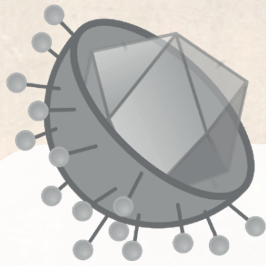
They are not only **effective but are also tolerated better** than older treatments<sup>8</sup>.



So there is no need to worry about the side effects that older treatments used to have.



This allows infected people to go about their **daily activities** while healing<sup>9</sup>. The treatment only needs to be taken **once a day for two to three months**, or four to six months in rarer cases<sup>8</sup>.



## Cure



Once the RNA of the virus has been destroyed, it can no longer multiply<sup>8</sup>: **not only does the liver stop deteriorating, but the harmful effects caused by the virus can start reversing**<sup>5</sup>.



**The disease is cured.**

In general, fatigue related to the virus disappears, so the patient regains their **energy**<sup>10</sup>.

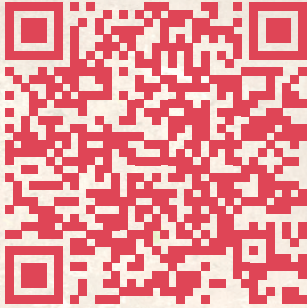
**They are no longer a carrier of the virus:** they can no longer transmit it<sup>8</sup>.



However, **they are not immune** and could potentially be contaminated again<sup>7</sup>.



# Get tested



## Hepatitis C can now be cured.

Make your test appointment now  
– it's the first step towards recovery.

### References

1. Ameli. *Understanding hepatitis C*. (<https://www.ameli.fr/assure/sante/themes/hepatite-c/comprendre-hepatite>).
2. INPES. *Hepatitis C. From detection to treatment. Questions and answers*, 2001.
3. Rolland B et al. *Hepatitis C in psychiatric environments: a forgotten milieu?* L'Encéphale. 2020;S0013-7006(20)30082-8.
4. Ganne-Carrié, N. et al. *Is it a viable target to envisage the eradication of chronic viral hepatitis by 2030?* BEH. 2020;(31-32):602-3. ([http://beh.santepubliquefrance.fr/beh/2020/31-32/2020\\_31-32\\_0.html](http://beh.santepubliquefrance.fr/beh/2020/31-32/2020_31-32_0.html)).
5. HAS. *Taking control of your disease: chronic hepatitis C. Living with chronic hepatitis C*. ALD Guide, April 2007.
6. La Lettre du Pharmacologue. *Mechanisms of action of DAAs for the treatment of hepatitis C*. January-June 2016.
7. Dhumeaux D. *Therapeutic management and monitoring of all persons infected with hepatitis C. Report of Recommendations*, 2016.
8. GRVS. *Hepatitis C. Updating of strategies in CAARUDs and CSAPAs*, May 2018.
9. INPES. *Hepatitis C. From detection to treatment. Questions and answers for patients*. 2007.
10. Hahn D. et al. *Antidepressant effects of direct-acting antivirals against hepatitis C virus*. Wiley 2018; 0.1111/eci.13024.