

BABY BOOMERS AND HEPATITIS C

What You Need to Know

Baby Boomers – people born from 1945-1965 – are 5 times more likely to have hepatitis C, or hep C, than other adults. 80% of all people living with hep C aren't aware they have the disease. What is hepatitis C and can it be treated? Let's learn more from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC):

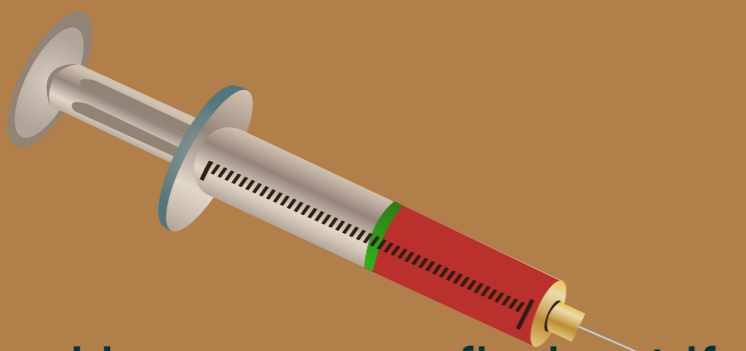
What is Hepatitis C?

Hepatitis C is a liver disease caused by the bloodborne hep C virus. Hep C can lead to liver damage, cirrhosis, and even liver cancer, and is a leading cause of liver transplants.



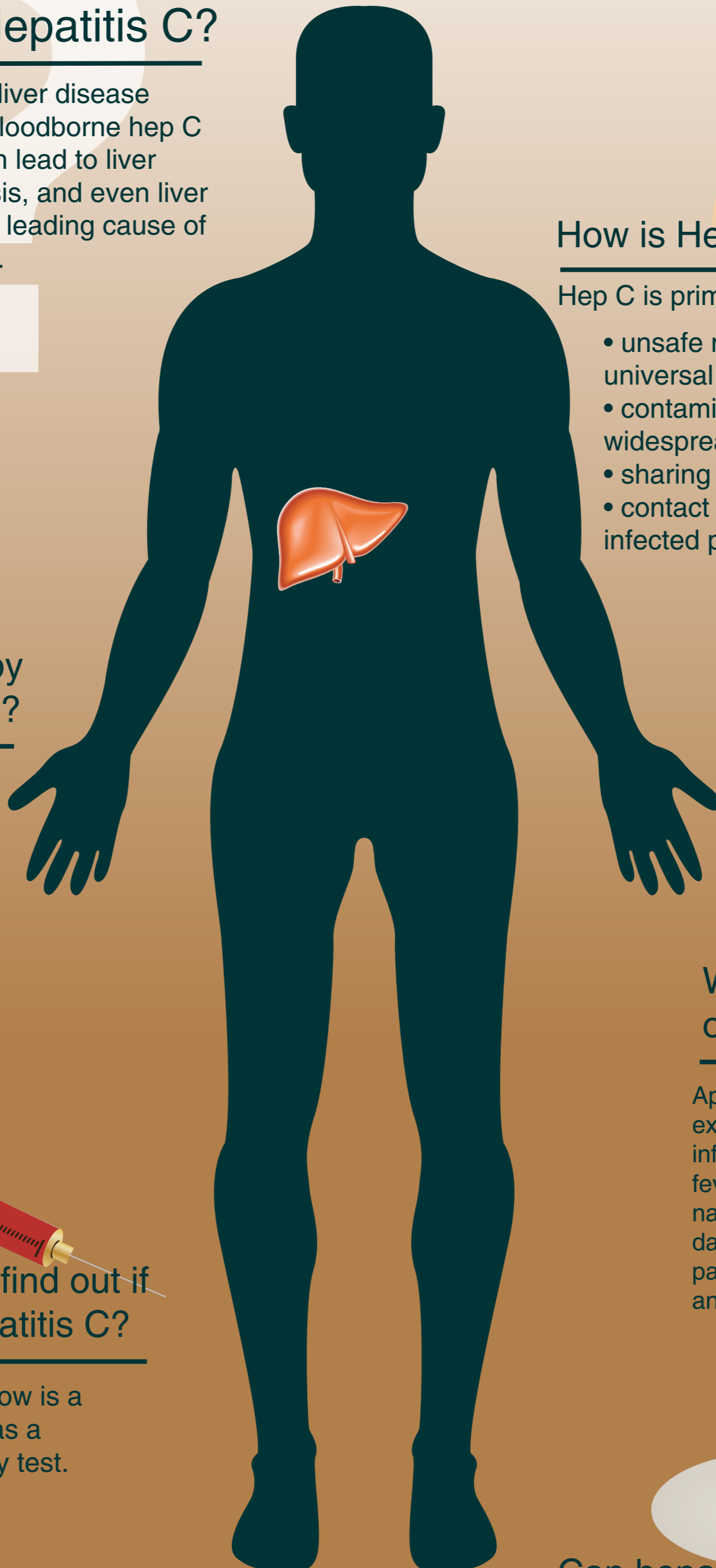
Why Do So Many Baby Boomers Have Hep C?

Past unsafe medical procedures are the most common reasons for the disease's prevalence in the Boomer generation. Hep C was not easily identified and tested for at that time.



How can you find out if you have hepatitis C?

The only way to know is a blood test, known as a hepatitis C antibody test.



How is Hepatitis C Contracted?

Hep C is primarily spread from:

- unsafe medical procedures before universal precautions were adopted
- contaminated blood before widespread screening began in 1992
- sharing needles used to inject drugs
- contact with blood or fluids from an infected person



What are the symptoms of hepatitis C?

Approximately 80% of people do not exhibit any symptoms after initial infection. Symptoms may include fever, fatigue, decreased appetite, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, dark urine, grey-colored feces, joint pain and jaundice (yellowing of skin and whites of eyes).



Can hepatitis C be treated?

Yes, medications are now available that can cure hep C.

The CDC recommends that Baby Boomers get tested for hepatitis C as it is contagious and, as a chronic illness, can result in fatal liver disease. Talk to your doctor today.