

HEPATITIS



Approximately **1 in 12 persons** worldwide, are living with chronic viral hepatitis.



WHAT IS HEPATITIS?



Hepatitis is an inflammation of the liver, most commonly caused by a viral infection.

There are five hepatitis viruses defined by types
– type A, B, C, D and E

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?



Acute infection may occur with limited or no symptoms, or may include symptoms such as

jaundice (yellowing of the skin and eyes)

dark urine

extreme fatigue

nausea and vomiting

abdominal pain

HOW IS IT TRANSMITTED?



INFECTED BODILY FLUIDS

Types B, C and D are contracted through the blood of an infected person (e.g. unsafe injections or unsafe blood transfusions, mother to baby at birth) and in the case of hepatitis B and C, also through unprotected sex.

CONTAMINATED FOOD & WATER

Types A and E are typically transmitted via contaminated water or food and closely associated with poor sanitation and poor personal hygiene.

WHY SHOULD I BE CONCERNED?



Approximately **1 in 12 persons** worldwide, or some 500 million people, are living with chronic viral hepatitis. Types B and C account for **almost 80% of all liver cancer** cases.

About **600 000 people die every year** due to the consequences of hepatitis B.

Infected people may not experience symptoms at the early stage and only become aware of their infection when they are chronically ill.

Hepatitis A can cause **acute liver failure**.

WHAT SHOULD I DO?



Safe sex, safe injections, screened blood transfusions

Wash hands, eat hygienically prepared food, avoid uncooked food, drink safe water and maintain good personal hygiene

Educating society will go a long way in preventing Hepatitis.

Vaccines have been developed for all the virus types except Hepatitis C virus.