Hepatitis C: An Overview

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Key points:

- Introduction
- Causes and Effects
- Symptoms and Diagnosis
- Prevention and Control

Introduction

Hepatitis C is a liver infection caused by the bloodborne Hepatitis C virus HCV. It ranges from mild acute illness to lifelong chronic infection, often causing liver cancer if untreated. While generally asymptomatic initially, it is curable with antivirals, though no vaccine exists.[1]

Causes and Effects

It is caused by HCV virus. It can cause liver problems including cirrhosis, liver failure, liver cancer, severe hypertension, chronic fatigue, Jaundice, Abdominal Pain, Easy Bruising or Bleeding,
Brain Fog etc.[2]

Symptoms

Following are the symptoms of Hepatitis C:

- Fatigue
- Jaundice
- Abdominal Pain
- Digestive Issues
- Skin Issues
- Flu-like Symptoms
- Cognitive Changes [3]

Prevention and Control

Hepatitis C (HCV) is primarily prevented by avoiding contact with infected blood, having safe sex, Personal Hygiene Items, Medical Safety and proper use of Injection Drug Equipment.[1]

Treatment

Hepatitis C treatment involves highly effective, once-daily directacting antiviral (DAA) pills, curing over 95% of patients. Typically lasting 8 to 12 weeks, these therapies are safe, with few side effects.[5]

References

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