



Hepatitis C

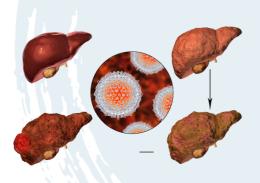
Compiled by: Dr. Mesfin Nigussie, Chief Medical Officer at International Clinical Laboratories / Cerba Lancet Africa.

Hepatitis C virus (HCV) causes both acute and chronic infection. Acute HCV infection is usually asymptomatic and is only very rarely associated with life-threatening disease. About 15-45% of infected persons spontaneously clear the virus without any treatment. The remaining 55-85% of persons will develop chronic HCV infection. Of those with chronic HCV infection, the risk of Cirrhosis of the liver is 15-30% within 20 years.



TRANSMISSION

- By sharing injection equipment or inadequate use of medical equipment.
- Via transfusion of unscreened blood products.
- · Sexual or mother to child transmission.
- HCV is NOT spread through breast milk, food, water, kissing, sharing food or drink with an infected person.





VIRAL LOAD & GENOTYPING

- Because of increasing demand for high-quality and affordable HCV diagnostics. We implemented HCV genotype and viral load analyses.
- The HCV Genotype assay detects genotypes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, and subtypes 1a and 1b in 0.5 mL of human serum and plasma with a lower limit of detection of 500 III/ml
- For the HCV RNA load assay, 900 µl plasma from EDTA blood is used to accurately quantify HCV within a range of 12 to 100 million IU/ml. Above and below this range, HCV can be detected.
- The lower limit of detection has been determined by the manufacturer with a 95% probability between 4.4 to 11.0 IU/mL. Therefore, a "NOT DETECTED" test result does not mean that HCV is absent in the patient.



SCREENING AND DIAGNOSIS

HCV infection is diagnosed in several steps:

- Screening for anti-HCV antibodies will identify people that have been exposed to HCV.
- Sero-positive persons with a chronic infection are confirmed by detecting HCV RNA.
- Assessment of degree of liver damage
- Genotyping HCV to guide treatment decisions and management of the disease.
- The viral load can be measured to monitor the treatment.



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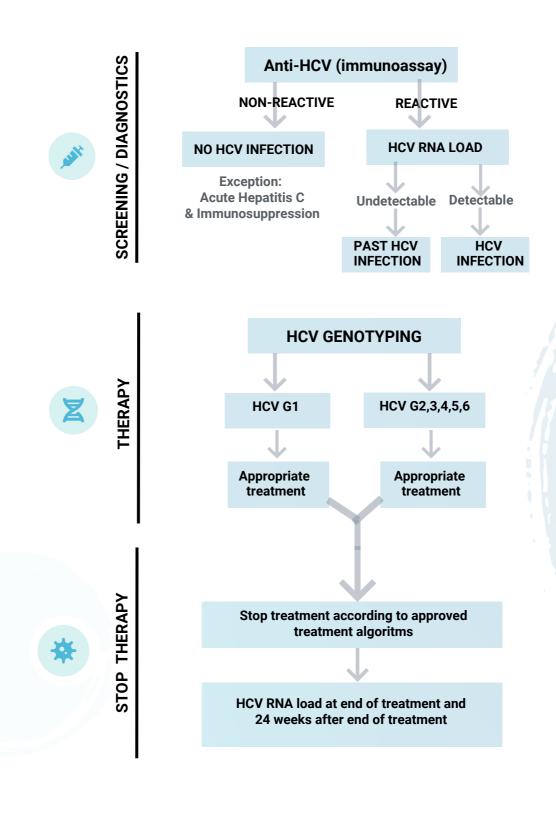
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Anti-HCV (immunoassay)

NON-REACTIVE

REACTIVE

NO HCV INFECTION

& Immunosuppression

Exception:
Acute Hepatitis C Und

HCV RNA LOAD

Undetectable Detectable

PAST HCV INFECTION HCV INFECTION





THERAPY

STOP THERAPY



HCV G1

HCV G2,3,4,5,6

Appropriate treatment

Appropriate treatment





Stop treatment according to approved treatment algoritms

HCV RNA load at end of treatment and 24 weeks after end of treatment





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