

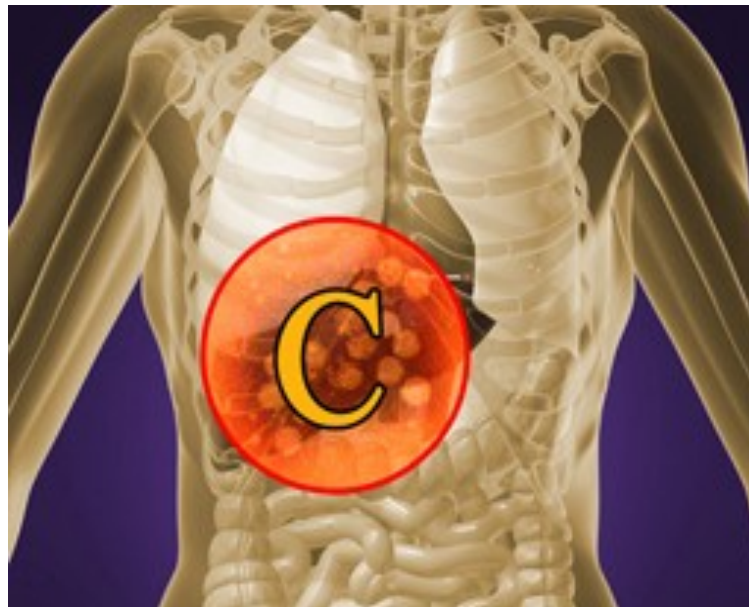


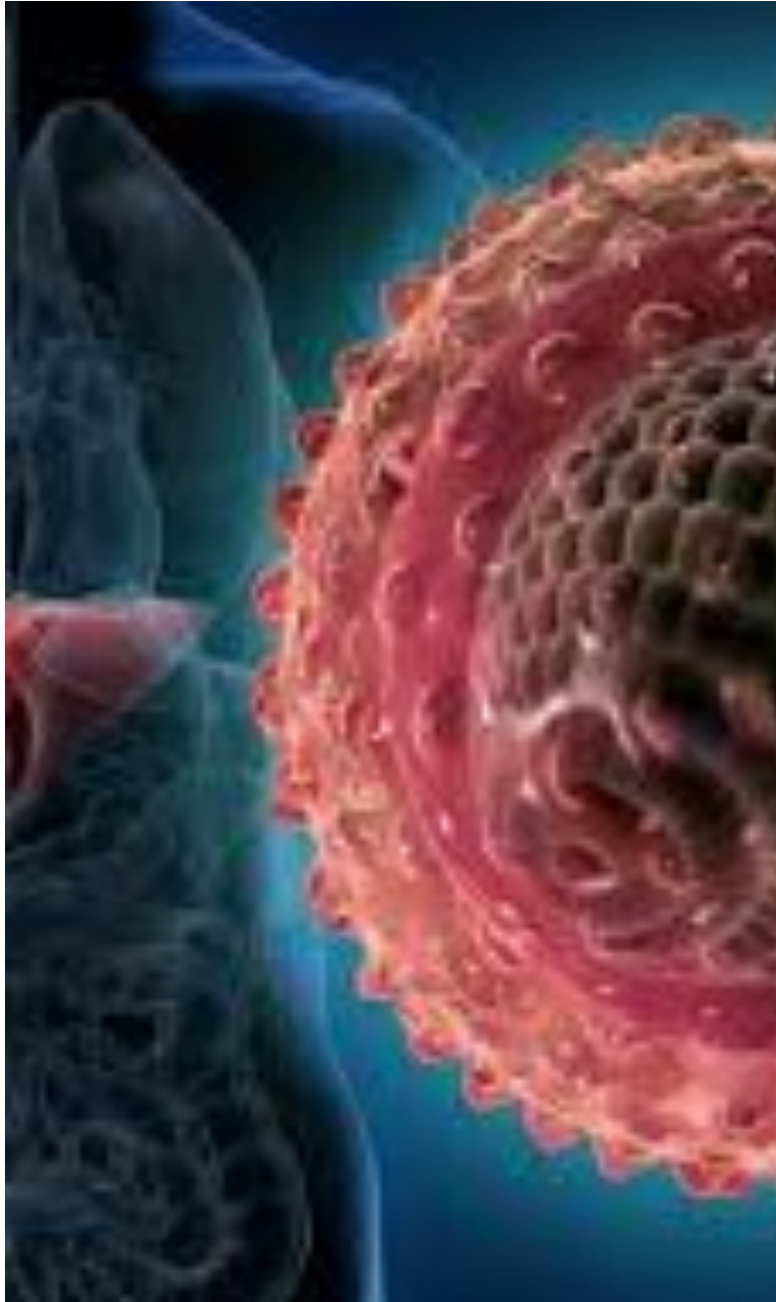
# Hepatitis C: An Emerging Health Crisis Among Our Seniors

As presented at *2014 Healthy Churches 2020 Conference*  
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# Objectives

- ∞ Fundamental facts
- ∞ Increase awareness of Hepatitis C
- ∞ Decrease disease burden, improve outcomes





## Fundamental Fact: What is Hepatitis C?

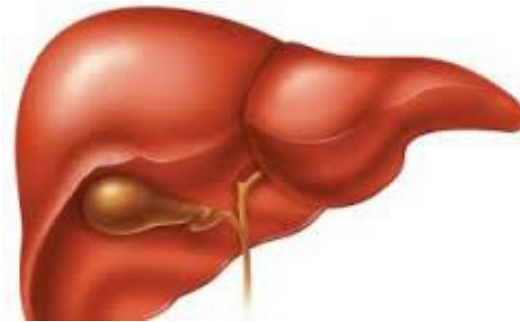
Bloodborne Virus

Infects the liver

Not preventable by  
vaccine

## Fundamental Fact: What does the liver do?

- ∞ Liver is necessary for digestion
- ∞ Liver functions as a filter
- ∞ Liver stores sugar in the form of glycogen



# Hepatitis C Virus: The Problem

- ∞ Acute infection usually does not have symptoms
- ∞ Hepatitis C virus (HCV) can cause chronic liver disease, can take 20-30 years
- ∞ Usually diagnosed late in the disease process
- ∞ The group most at risk does not recall their risk

# Hepatitis C Virus: The Problem

## ∞ UNDERDIAGNOSED

- ∞ Estimated 3.2 million people infected
- ∞ 50% undiagnosed

## ∞ UNDERTREATED

- ∞ 50% diagnosed
- ∞ Only about 6% are treated
- ∞ Most common cause of chronic liver disease
- ∞ Most common reason for liver transplant



## Undiagnosed = at Risk

- ∞ HCV has slow disease progression
- ∞ Results in complications
  - ∞ 75-85% develop chronic infection
  - ∞ 60-70% develop chronic liver disease
  - ∞ 5-20 develop cirrhosis
  - ∞ Liver Cancer

# Liver Complications

**Fibrosis**

**Cirrhosis**

**Hepatocellular  
Carcinoma (with  
cirrhosis)**

**Fibrosis<sup>1</sup>**  
Chronic HCV  
infection can  
lead to the  
development of  
fibrous scar  
tissue within  
the liver

**HCC<sup>3</sup>**  
Cancer of the liver  
can develop after  
years of chronic  
HCV infection

**Cirrhosis<sup>1,2</sup>**  
Over time, fibrosis can  
progress, causing severe  
scarring of the liver,  
restricted blood flow,  
impaired liver function,  
and eventually liver failure

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# Liver Complications



## ∞ Ascites

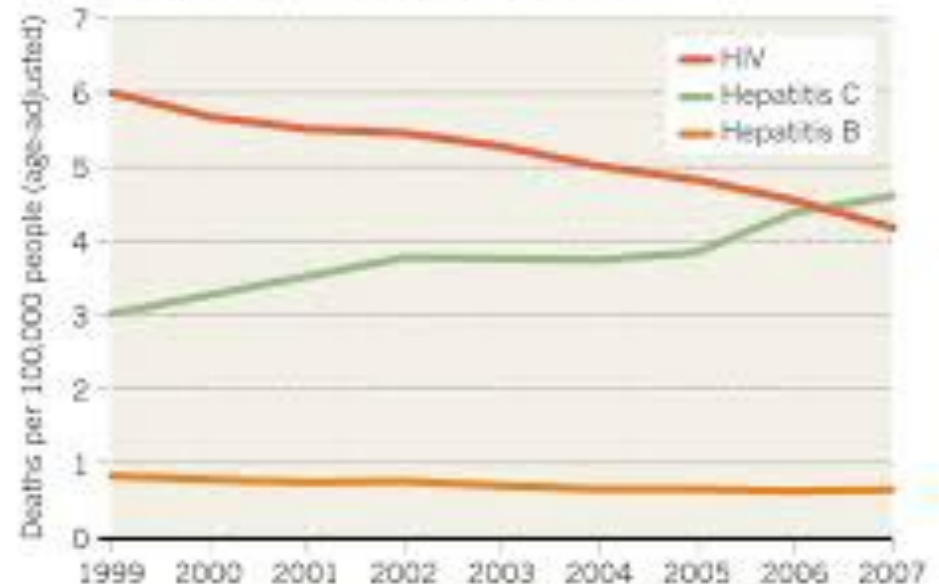
∞ Fluid build up in the abdominal cavity

## Morbidity/Mortality

- ∞ In 2007, HCV mortality exceeded that of HIV
- ∞ It continues to rise
- ∞ Quality of life

### RIISING DEATHS FROM HEPATITIS C

By 2007, hepatitis C infection had surpassed HIV as a cause of death in the United States, a new analysis reveals.



# Hepatitis C Virus:

## Screening Efforts

- ∞ 3.2 million infected

- ∞ 1.6 million unaware

- ∞ Move from risk based to age based

- ∞ Educate physicians

- ∞ Start/continue community conversation

- ∞ Change policy

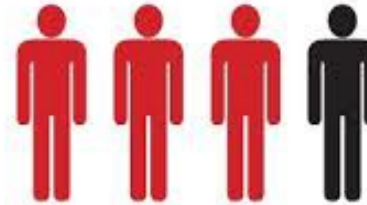
# Changing the Outcome

- ∞ Raising awareness
- ∞ New screening guidelines
- ∞ Ensuring access to screening
- ∞ Confirmation of diagnosis
- ∞ Certain referral for treatment

## Testing of Baby Boomers

- ∞ Born 1945-1965
- ∞ At least once in lifetime
- ∞ CDC, USPSTF, AASLD

More than 75 percent of American adults with hepatitis C are baby boomers



# Testing of other identified risk groups



Blood Transfusions      Sharing of needles & other drug taking equipment      Mother to baby transmission

## Causes of Hepatitis C



Body piercing      Tattooing      Unprotected sex with multiple partners

- ∞ IVDA
- ∞ HIV patients
- ∞ Tattoos at unregulated facilities
- ∞ Certain medical problems
- ∞ Transfusions or transplants before 1992

# Hepatitis C Virus: Changing the Outcome

- ⌘ Positive screening tests must be confirmed
  - ⌘ Second blood test
- ⌘ Confirmed tests must be referred for treatment
  - ⌘ Fewer than half of those referred receive care



## HCV Treatment: New Answers

- ∞ Previously, lengthy, with numerous very difficult side effects
- ∞ Since 2011, shorter and more tolerable



**NEW TREATMENT  
FOR  
HEPATITIS C**

Expensive, difficult to access  
Some plans choosing not to cover





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**Thank you!**