



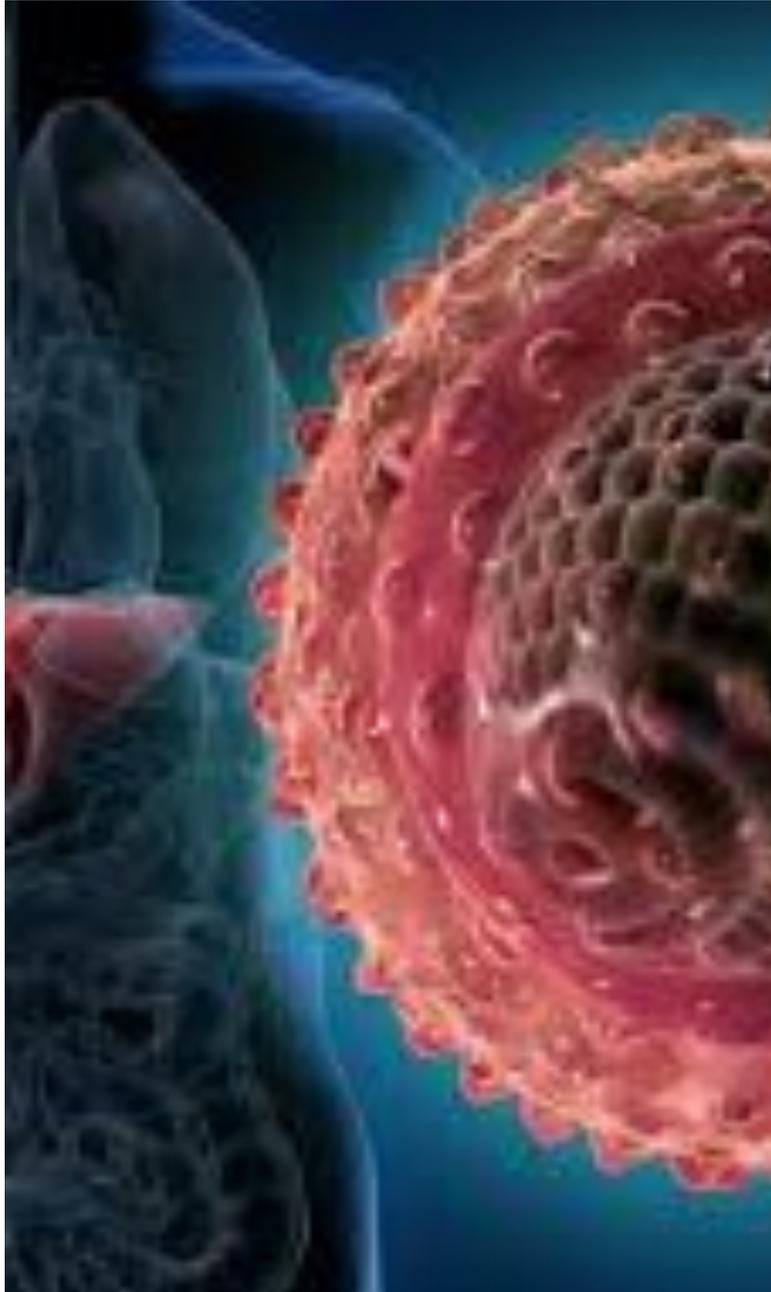
Hepatitis C: An Emerging Health Crisis Among Our Seniors

As presented at *2014 Healthy Churches 2020 Conference*
By Kelli Wells, M.D Family Physician
Diplomate, American Board of Family Medicine

Objectives

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





Fundamental Fact: What is Hepatitis C?

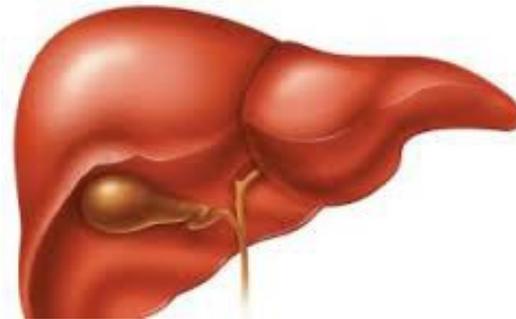
Bloodborne Virus

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)

Fibrosis¹
Chronic HCV infection can lead to the development of fibrous scar tissue within the liver

HCC³
Cancer of the liver can develop after years of chronic HCV infection

Cirrhosis^{1,2}
Over time, fibrosis can progress, causing severe scarring of the liver, restricted blood flow, impaired liver function, and eventually liver failure

M
IS
OHU

Liver Complications



∞ Ascites

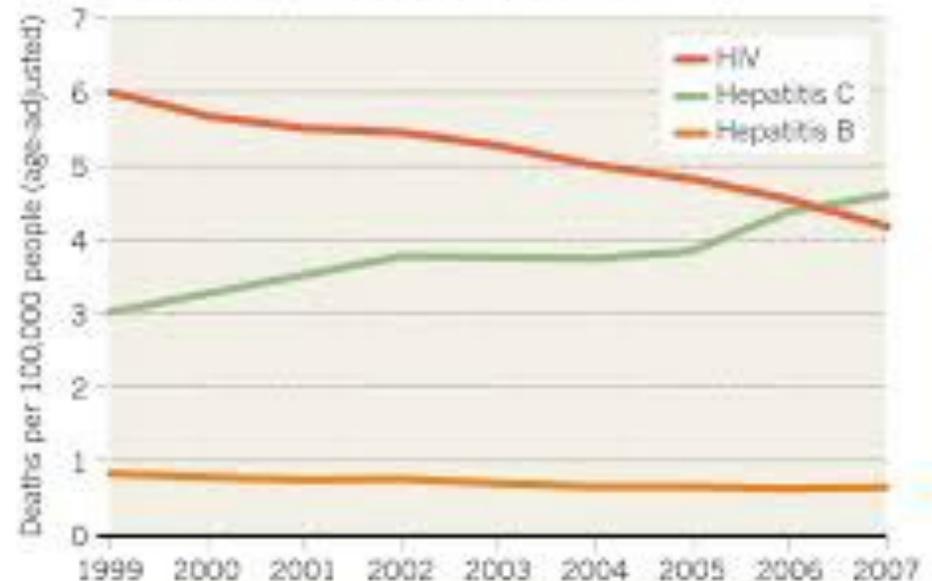
∞ Fluid build up in the abdominal cavity

Morbidity/Mortality

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

RISING 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

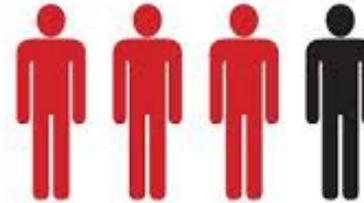
Changing the Outcome

- ∞ 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



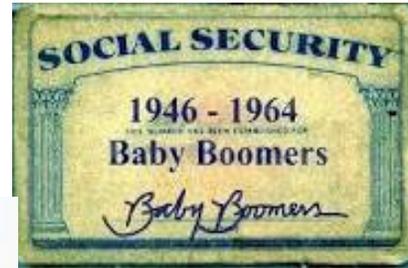
**NEW TREATMENT
FOR
HEPATITIS C**

Expensive, difficult to access
Some plans choosing not to cover



Healthy Churches 2020

BALM
GILEAD
INC.



©2014 The Balm In Gilead, Inc.



Healthy Churches 2020



Thank you!