

# Easy B Facts

## What is AFP?

To find out if you have a liver tumor or cancer, a blood test will look for a protein in your blood called alpha fetoprotein (or AFP). If

you are infected with chronic HBV your doctor should test AFP levels every six to 12 months to find out if you are at risk for liver cancer.

*AFP is a protein that is found at high levels in the bloodstream when liver tumors are present. A normal AFP level is between 8 and 10 mg/ml. When cancer is present, AFP levels can reach 200 to 500 mg/ml.*

But the AFP test is not a perfect test for liver cancer. Only 60 percent of people (6 out of 10 people) with liver cancer have elevated or above normal AFP levels, so the other 40 percent (4 out of 10) of hepatitis B patients with liver cancer have normal AFP levels. That is why it is important that hepatitis B patients also get regular ultrasound examinations (a type of x-ray) of their liver, which can also find liver tumors.

## It Is Important to Remember:

- AFP and Ultrasound tests should be performed every six to 12 months—depending on the health of your liver and cancer/tumor risk—because liver cancer can grow rapidly.
- The higher your AFP level, the greater your risk of liver cancer.



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