

Easy B Facts

Acute HBV

Hepatitis B is caused by a virus called the hepatitis B virus (HBV for short). When you first get HBV it is called acute — which is a short-term infection that usually lasts for 6 months or less. There can be many symptoms of acute hepatitis B such

as yellowing of the skin and eyes, feeling very tired, stomach aches, coca-cola colored pee and clay colored stools (poop). But it is important to know that many people, especially children, may never have any symptoms.

Can't remember getting sick from hepatitis B? You're not alone: 70% of people who had acute hepatitis B never felt sick or experienced any symptoms.

Most people will get over hepatitis B and not have any problems for the rest of their lives. However, if 100 mothers have chronic HBV infection – 90 out of 100 of their babies will develop chronic hepatitis B – that is unless the baby is immediately given the infant HBV vaccine and immune globulin HBIG. These shots fight infection and protect most babies from chronic hepatitis B.

In adults, only about 5 or 6 adults out of 100 who get acute hepatitis B will develop chronic HBV.

To learn about chronic hepatitis B and ways that HBV is transmitted see our Easy B fact sheets: *Chronic HBV* and *HBV Transmission & Prevention*.



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**Hepatitis C
Support Project**

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