

HIV & HCV Coinfection

Coinfection is a term used when a person has two or more diseases at the same time. Since someone can get HIV and hepatitis C (HCV or Hep C for short) in some of the same ways, as many as 2 to 3 people out of 10 with HIV are also infected with HCV.

Having both diseases can make it harder to manage your health than having just one disease. HIV seems to make HCV worse by damaging the liver at a faster rate than for someone with

just HCV alone. For this reason, it is important that your doctor understands how both HIV and HCV affect your health. Some people have a liver doctor and an HIV doctor who work together to keep you healthy.

The liver processes HIV medicines, so it is important that your doctor checks your liver regularly to make sure that the HIV medicines are not hurting the liver. If the tests show that your liver is not handling the HIV medicines very well, your doctor may switch you to different HIV medicines.

Remember.....

- ◆ Everyone with HIV should be tested for HCV.
- ◆ If you have HIV and HCV try not to worry too much – there are many things you and your doctor can do to keep you healthy with HIV and Hep C medicines.
- ◆ Make sure you get shots to protect you from getting Hep A and Hep B if you need them.

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