

EASY C FACTS

Hepatitis C Antibody Test

When the hepatitis C virus (HCV or Hep C for short) enters your body, your immune system releases chemicals into your bloodstream to help fight off the Hep C virus. These are called antibodies.

If you have HCV antibodies it means that you have been infected with HCV, but it does not mean that you are currently infected with HCV.

For some people (2 to 4 out of 10) the body's natural defenses can get rid of the virus, but for the other 6 to 8 people the body cannot kill off the virus.

The most common antibody test used is the Elisa or EIA test.

The HCV Rapid Antibody Test is another test that will detect HCV antibodies.

In order to find out if the hepatitis C virus is in your body you will need to have another blood test. This is a viral load test, also called an HCV RNA test.

Remember.....

- ◆ Even if you have been infected with hepatitis C, your body may have been able to get rid of the virus all on its own. That's why it's so important to have a viral load test.
- ◆ You will always have antibodies even if you are cured of HCV.

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