

What Is a Subtype?

The hepatitis C virus (Hep C or HCV for short) has different strains called genotypes. There are 7 different genotypes numbered 1 through 7. Every genotype has different kinds called subtypes listed as letters. For example, genotype 1 has subtypes such as 1a and 1b, genotype 2 has subtypes such as 2a, 2b, and 2c, genotype 3 has subtypes such as 3a and 3b, and so on.

Subtype information is necessary because the new drugs to treat hepatitis C work better with some subtypes than with other subtypes.

The test to find out your subtype is a blood test – the test is taken at the same time as the genotype test.

Remember.....

- ◆ The genotype and subtype test is only taken once unless a person becomes re-infected with another genotype or subtype.
- ◆ Genotype and subtype information may be needed to decide:
 - ◆ What drug to take.
 - ◆ How much to take.
 - ◆ How long to take it.

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Reviewed June 2018