

What is Hepatitis E?

Hepatitis E (HEV) is a liver disease caused by the hepatitis E virus (HEV). Hepatitis E, however, does not occur often in the United States.

Who is at risk for Hepatitis E?

Mostly people who travel to developing countries that have inadequate environmental sanitation.

How do you get Hepatitis E?

HEV is transmitted primarily by the fecal-oral route. Fecally contaminated drinking water is the most commonly documented method of transmission.

How long can an infected person spread the virus?

Not known. It is believed to be up to 2 weeks.

What are the symptoms of Hepatitis E?

Typical symptoms of acute hepatitis E include abdominal pain, anorexia, dark urine, fever, enlarged liver, jaundice, tiredness, nausea, and vomiting.

How soon do the symptoms appear?

Symptoms can appear between 15 – 64 days after infection.

How is hepatitis E diagnosed?

Specific blood tests are needed to diagnosis hepatitis E.

Can a person get hepatitis E again?

This is unknown at this time.

What is the treatment for hepatitis E?

Supportive care only. The person usually gets well without treatment.

Is there a vaccine to prevent hepatitis E?

No

How can Hepatitis E be prevented?

Travelers to areas where HEV is found should drink only bottled or boiled water or carbonated (bubbly) drinks in cans or bottles. Avoid tap water, fountain drinks, and ice cubes if water purity is unknown. Also avoid uncooked shellfish, and uncooked fruit/vegetables not peeled or prepared by traveler.