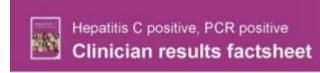
Wednesday, 03 November 2021

Health Protection



The enclosed report indicates that your patient is antibody positive, and polymerase chain reaction (PCR) positive, and therefore has hepatitis C infection. This indicates active virus replication and if it becomes chronic there is a risk of developing serious liver disease.

A further specimen of clotted blood has been requested for repeat antibody testing and genotyping of the virus. If you need additional explanation of the result, please phone the laboratory [see Further information on the back page].

What is hepatitis C?

- . A disease caused by the hepatitis C virus (HCV), which is a bloodborne virus spread mainly through blood-to-blood contact.
- . Only 20% of patients infected with HCV clear the virus spontaneously. ALT or unexplained jaundice; The remaining 80% have chronic HCV infection [PCR positive], which if not treated can lead to severe liver disease, with 20% of these developing cirrhosis after 20 years.
- . Those with cirrhosis are at risk of liver failure and hepatocellular carcinoma.
- . Symptoms can take years or decades to occur so the majority of those infected are probably unaware of it.

Who is at risk and should be tested?

Hepatitis C testing should be offered to anyone who:

- has unexplained abnormal liver function tests, for example, elevated
- . has injected drugs, including image and performance enhancing drugs like anabolic steroids, using shared equipment, however long ago and even if only once or twice;
- . had a blood transfusion in the UK before September 1991 or received any blood products in the UK before 1986;
- . has received medical or dental treatment in countries where infection control may have been
- . is the child of a mother with hepatitis C;

This factsheet provides information in the form of FAQs in relation to hepatitis C: the condition, risks, testing, treatment and management.

Details

Format 4 page A5 factsheet Target group Health professionals

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Hepatitis C - clinician results factsheet 1121 278.11 KB

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