

HEPATITIS C

1. By convention acute hepatitis C infection refers to the first six months of infection following presumed exposure.
Which of the following statements are true:
 - a) Most patients who are infected are asymptomatic and goes undetected.
 - b) In those that are symptomatic the acute illness usually lasts for 2 to 12 weeks.
 - c) Symptoms of acute infection include jaundice (dark urine and white stools), nausea and abdominal pain (usually upper right quadrant).
 - d) Fulminant hepatic failure is common
 - e) Aminotransferase levels are constantly markedly raised in acute and chronic hepatitis C infection.

2. The distinction between acute infection and newly discovered chronic infection in the absence of a negative test in the prior 6 months is not straight forward.
Choose the correct statement:
 - a) A nonreactive (negative) Hep C RNA PCR indicates that an acute infection is unlikely.
 - b) In a patient who presents for the first time with acute hepatitis, a Hep C PCR and anti-Hep C antibody test should be done.
 - c) A nonreactive (negative) Hep C PCR test with a reactive (positive) anti-Hep C antibody test might indicate a prior cleared infection and should be repeated after 12 weeks.
 - d) A positive Hep C PCR and a negative anti-Hep C antibody test indicate a likely acute infection and can be repeated after 12 weeks.
 - e) A positive Hep C PCR and positive anti-Hep C antibody test clearly distinguish between an acute and chronic hepatitis C infection.

3. Hepatitis C infection can lead to cirrhosis and end-stage liver disease, resulting in death.
Which of the following recommendations are true:
 - a) One-time screening for hepatitis C infection in all adults ≥ 18 years of age should be done rather than selective screening.
 - b) The diagnosis of chronic hepatitis C infection is made by a positive hepatitis C PCR and positive anti-hepatitis C antibody test, but can also indicate an acute infection in some.

- c) A negative hepatitis C antibody test in most patients will reflect an unlikely diagnosis of chronic hepatitis C infection and testing can be stopped.
 - d) A positive hepatitis C antibody test should be followed by a PCR test to confirm or exclude chronic hepatitis C infection
 - e) None of the above.
4. Which of the following can accelerate liver disease in patients who are infected with hepatitis C:
- a) Alcohol use.
 - b) Marijuana use.
 - c) Obesity.
 - d) Insulin resistance.
 - e) None of the above.
5. Antiviral therapy is the cornerstone of treating chronic hepatitis C infection.
Choose the correct statements and recommendations:
- a) All patients with a detectable hepatitis C viral level over a 6 month period should be considered for antiviral treatment.
 - b) The goal is to achieve eradication of hepatitis C RNA and thus cure.
 - c) Hepatitis C viral RNA is typically checked after 1 week of therapy.
 - d) Sustained virologic response (SVR) is defined as undetectable viral RNA levels at 12 weeks following cessation of therapy.
 - e) Patients with cirrhosis or fibrosis need continuous monitoring for SVR due to the risk of developing hepatocellular carcinoma.