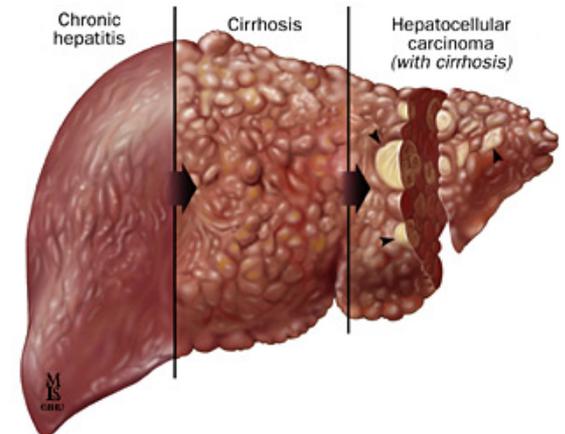


Screening for HCV in Baby Boomers of Harney County

Anna Olson, MS4
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Why HCV Screening?

- 2012 CDC recommendation
- Now also recommended by USPSTF (grade B)
- Chronic infection can be asymptomatic for decades while still causing damage
- #1 cause of hepatocellular carcinoma and #1 indication for liver transplant
- Potential to reduce morbidity and mortality



Epidemiology

- Estimated 2.7 – 3.9 million people with HCV in US
- 2.4 million Baby Boomers (73% of cases, 3.25% prevalence)
- Estimate 2380 Baby Boomers in Harney County
 - 77 have HCV?
- 75-85% of acute infections lead to chronic infection
- Up to 85% of HCV cases undiagnosed
- 45% of people diagnosed had no known exposure

Transmission

- Percutaneous
 - Injection drug use (60%)
 - Needle stick
 - Transfusion (prior to 1992)
 - Hemodialysis
- Vertical (primary route in developing nations)
- Sexual (risk about 1% per year in monogamous couples)

CDC Recommendation for Screening

- All Americans born between 1945 and 1965
 - cost-effective screening
 - NNS: 607
- One-time screening
 - HCV antibody test
 - if positive, confirm with HCV nucleic acid test
- Greater availability of testing
 - point-of-care tests
- Advances in treatment
 - telaprevir and boceprevir approved in 2011
 - currently several phase III trials of protease inhibitors

Identifying the Patients

- “Reports” tool in clinic EMR
- Set various criteria
 - date of birth
 - not yet tested for HCV
 - patient of the clinic
 - seen within the past year and a half
- 1375 patients identified

The Letter

Last year the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended that all Americans born between 1945 and 1965 have a one-time screening test for hepatitis C, a virus that affects the liver.

What is Hepatitis C?

Hepatitis C is a virus that can damage the liver. It is spread most often through blood (blood transfusions, sharing needles), but also through sexual contact. Some people who get hepatitis C are able to get rid of the virus, but about 85% become chronic carriers. This means that they may not look or feel sick, but the virus is still present and causing damage. It is also possible to pass on the virus to others. Over time the hepatitis C virus causes damage to the liver that can lead to cirrhosis and sometimes even liver cancer. There is currently no vaccine against hepatitis C, but there are treatments.

Why get tested?

There are 3 important reasons to get tested:

- 1) If you have hepatitis C there are things you can do to avoid passing on the virus to others.
- 2) There are ways to lower your risk of cirrhosis and liver cancer even if you have the virus, such as getting vaccinated against hepatitis A and B, and avoiding alcohol and certain medications. It is also important to have blood tests done regularly so that complications can be found early.
- 3) There are new treatments for hepatitis C being developed that might be able to help your body get rid of the virus.

How is testing done?

The test for hepatitis C requires a simple blood draw to look for antibodies to the virus. The blood is sent to an outside lab, so it takes a few days for the results to come back. The hospital has a standing order for anyone born between 1945 and 1965 to have a screening test for hepatitis C, so you can go in and have your blood drawn when it is convenient for you. There is no need to fast for this test. If you are concerned about the cost of the test, please call your insurance company to find out if it is covered.

What happens if the test comes back positive?

If the antibody test for hepatitis C comes back positive, a second test is done that looks for the virus itself. If the second test comes back positive as well, your provider will have you come in for an appointment to talk about treatment options and any concerns you may have.



Lab Orders

- Insurance companies require lab order to be signed *before* blood is drawn
- Difficulty of entering, printing and signing 1375 lab slips
- Standing order agreement with lab, a few signed orders always on hand



Community Health Fair

- June 15th in high school cafeteria
- 55 people came to HCV booth
- 29 people asked questions
- 10 took a copy of the letter



Results so far...

- All 1375 letters were sent out in July 2013
- 16 patients have been screened as of September 30
- No positive results as of yet

Resources

- Getchell, *et al*, “Testing for HCV infection: an update of guidance for clinicians and laboratories,” *MMWR* 2013; 62: 362-5.
- Ghany, *et al*, “An Update on Treatment of Genotype 1 Chronic Hepatitis C Virus Infection: 2011,” *AASLD Practice Guidelines*, 2011.
- Andrew Tai, MD, PhD and Raymond Chung, MD, “Investigational therapies for hepatitis C virus infection,” *Up To Date*, updated Sept 9, 2013.
- US Census Bureau
- My preceptor, Dr. Kevin Johnston
- Clinic and hospital staff
- The clinic’s EMR

