

Number One Health



Hepatitis C Testing at Number One Health

Give yourself greater peace of mind

Some facts about Hep C

- It is a blood-borne virus that predominantly infects the cells of the liver.
- It causes inflammation and significant damage to the liver, inhibiting it from performing its essential functions.
- It was only discovered in the 1980s and a screening process was developed in 1991 that made it possible to detect it in blood samples:
- It is therefore a relatively newly identified disease and there are still many aspects of it that are little or poorly understood.
- There are an estimated 200 million people worldwide infected with hepatitis C.
- Hep C is known as the silent epidemic because of the common absence of symptoms, meaning many people are unaware that they are infected.
- Approximately 20% of those with chronic hepatitis C will develop cirrhosis (extensive scarring) of the liver over the course of 20 years, of which some may develop liver cancer.

“I want to blow the whistle on the fact that Hep C must be taken seriously as a public health challenge and must get the attention and resources that it needs.” Dame Anita Roddick, diagnosed with Hep C in 2005, over 30 years after she contracted it through a blood Transfusion.

What is Hep C?

Hepatitis C is a blood-borne virus that predominantly infects the cells of the liver, impairing the liver's essential functions. It may lead to scarring of the liver and sometimes liver cancer. Because Hep C invades the immune system, about 80% of sufferers will develop a chronic condition.

Could I have Hep C?

The symptoms of Hep C often go undetected for years, because the symptoms even during its acute phase are very vague and non specific like low grade fever, fatigue, appetite loss and nausea. This means that without knowing it, you could be at risk of having the disease. Hep C is most efficiently transmitted through blood, so blood transfusions, sharing needles and snorting equipment, unclean hair dressers' tools like clippers and scissors, tattoos and piercings, and even sharing household objects like razors and toothbrushes could cause you to contract the disease without you knowing about it.



How can I get tested?

The process of diagnosis involves a first-stage blood test for the Hepatitis C Antibody. We counsel you about the sensitivities involved in this sort of test. A positive result needs a further test for the actual virus. A positive result also has an impact on your life, your partners, your insurance and many other areas.

Number One Health can offer a 30 minute consultation with expert advice on Hepatitis C during which the blood test will be carried out. The Antibody test and consultation is £155, results within 48 hours. The Viral test is £200 inclusive of a consultation, results within 2 weeks.

For more information on Hepatitis C please visit the Hepatitis C Trust website: <http://www.hepctrust.org.uk>

Contact Number One Health for more information on Hepatitis C testing. Please call Kristina Evangelou on 02072910947 kristina@numberonehealth.co.uk