

Mistakes in hepatitis C and how to avoid them

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Mistakes In Articles

Hepatobiliary

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Hepatitis C virus infection affects approximately 50 million people globally, and while direct-acting antivirals achieve over 97% cure rates, significant barriers in diagnosis, treatment access, and disease awareness persist.

KEY POINTS

- HCV causes around 1 million new infections and 242,000 deaths annually, with 55–85% of acute infections progressing to chronic disease that often remains silent until advanced liver damage occurs.
- Untreated chronic HCV can lead to liver cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma, with transmission occurring primarily through percutaneous blood exposure, and less commonly through vertical or sexual routes.
- Oral direct-acting antivirals demonstrate remarkable safety and effectiveness, achieving sustained virological response in over 97% of patients regardless of genotype or disease stage.
- Despite highly effective treatments, significant barriers remain in diagnosis, treatment access, and disease awareness that limit HCV management.

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