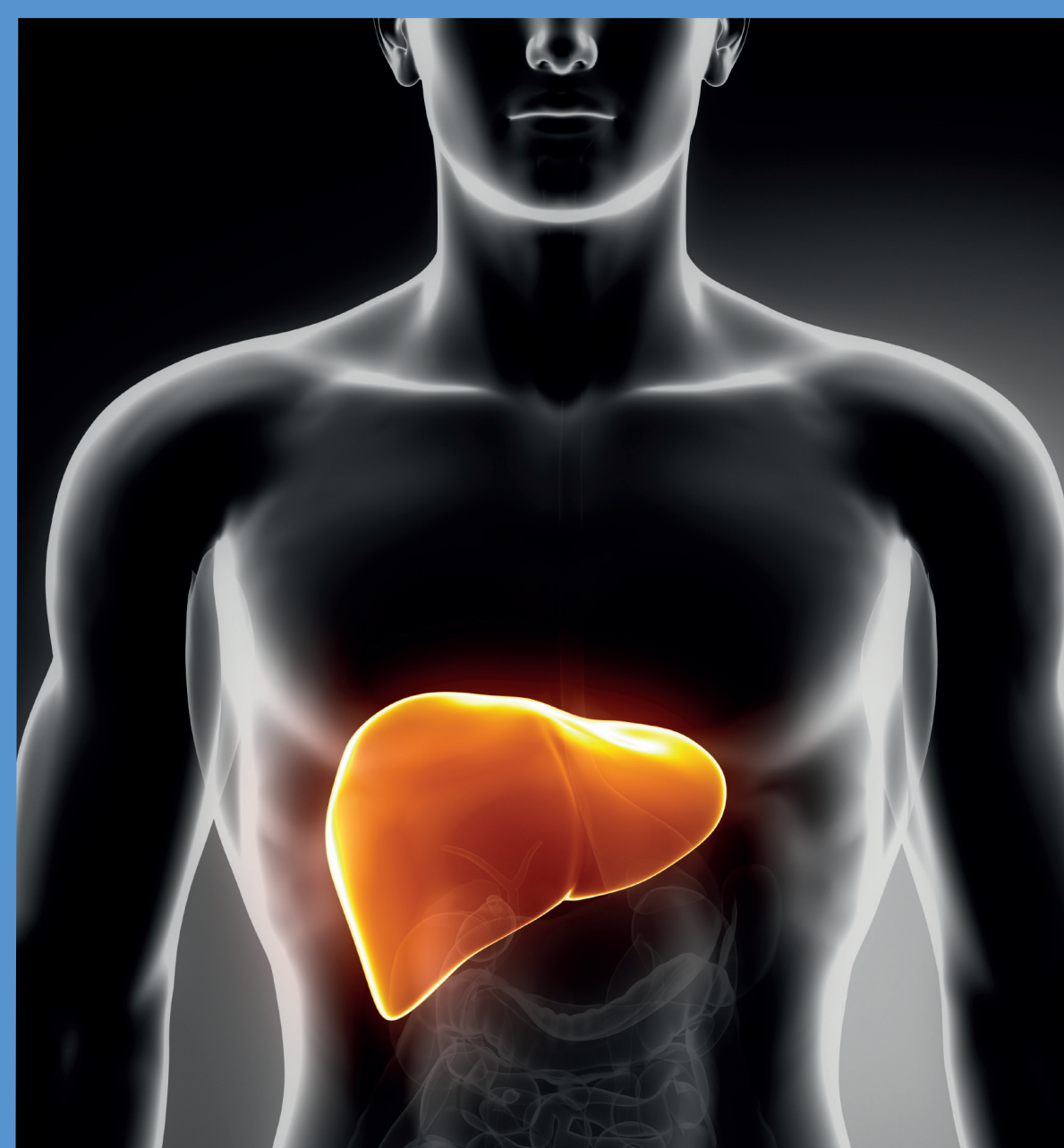
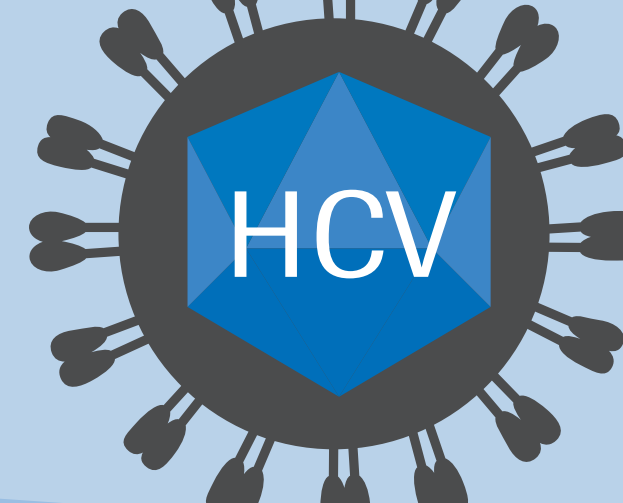
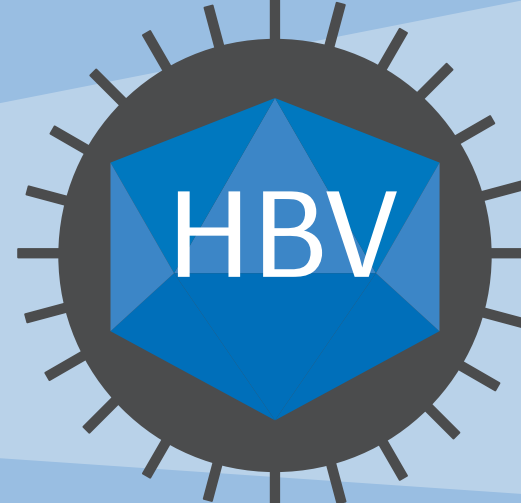


Diagnosing and monitoring Hepatitis C

Hepatitis means inflammation of the liver and is often caused by a virus.



THESE ARE
3 common types
of viral hepatitis

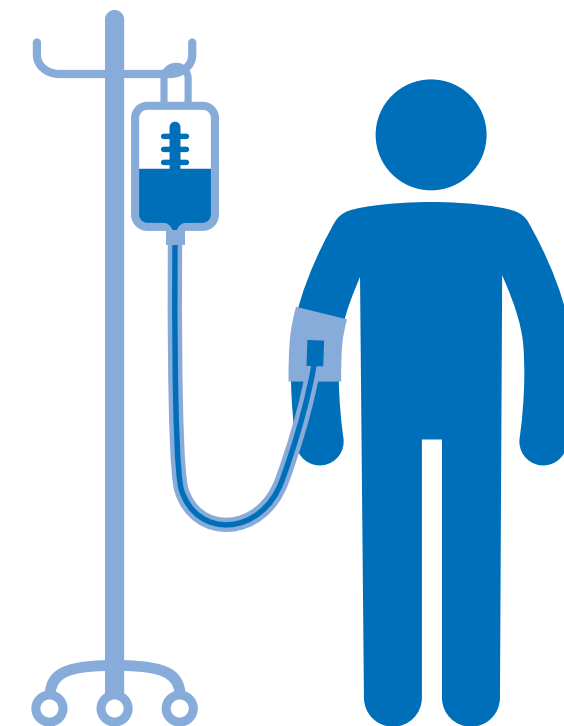


*There are vaccines for HAV and HBV

Diagnosing: first step to manage hepatitis C

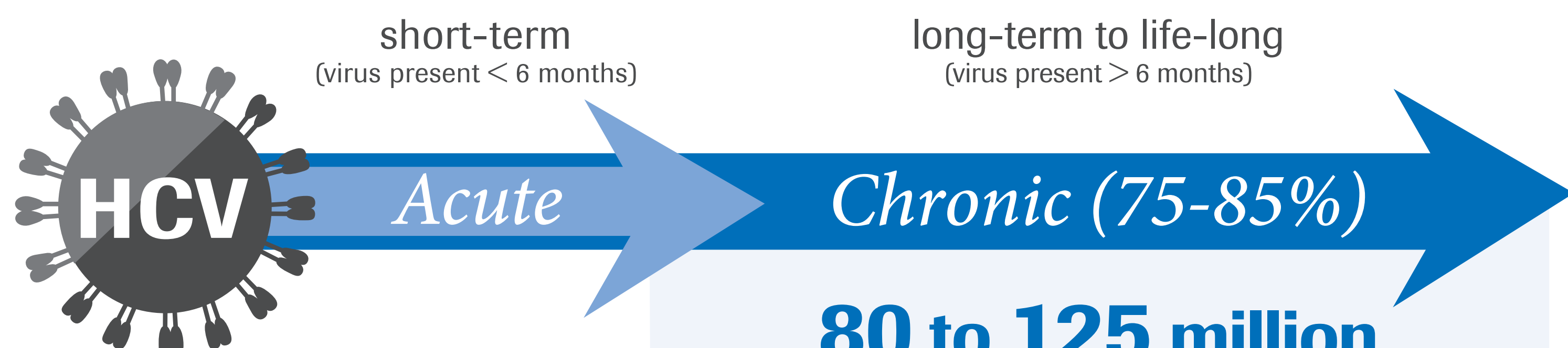
HCV is transmitted primarily through blood-to-blood contact:

- injection drug use
- needle stick injury
- blood transfusion
- unsanitary tattooing or piercing
- high risk sexual contacts



WORLDWIDE

3 to 4 million
NEW INFECTIONS
EACH YEAR



MORE THAN
350,000
deaths from
HCV-related
liver diseases
each year

CHRONIC HEPATITIS C:

20-30% of people infected develop **liver cirrhosis** and annually 3-5% progress to **liver cancer**

80 to 125 million
people are chronically
infected with HCV
(the virus is present in the blood)

HCV
is the underlying
cause of

31 %
of
LIVER CANCERS*

Diagnosis



80% of people with HCV do not know that they are infected because they do not have obvious symptoms. However, mild symptoms may include:

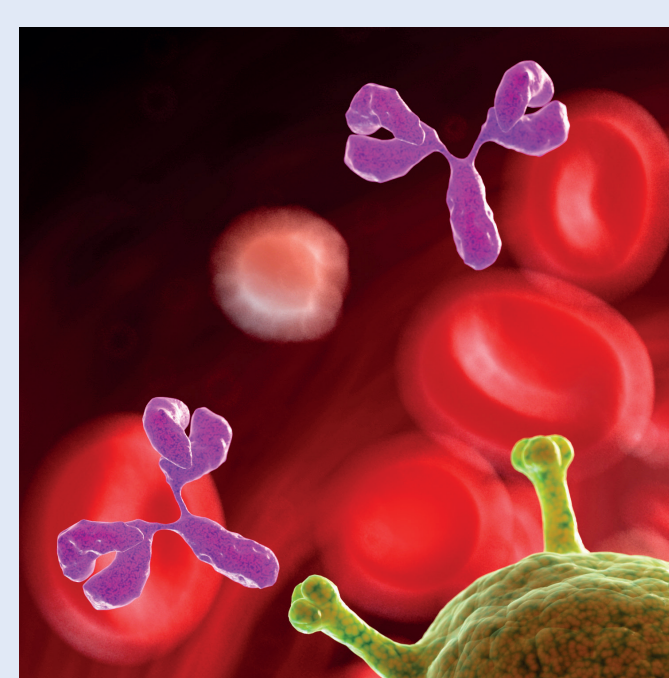
- Fever
- Fatigue
- Loss of appetite
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Abdominal pain
- Dark urine
- Joint pain
- Jaundice

(yellow color in the skin or the eyes)



Blood is tested for HCV antibodies

(Y-shaped proteins recruited by the immune system to identify and neutralize foreign objects like bacteria and viruses).



If positive:

Blood is tested for presence of HCV genetic material (RNA) to confirm a current infection.

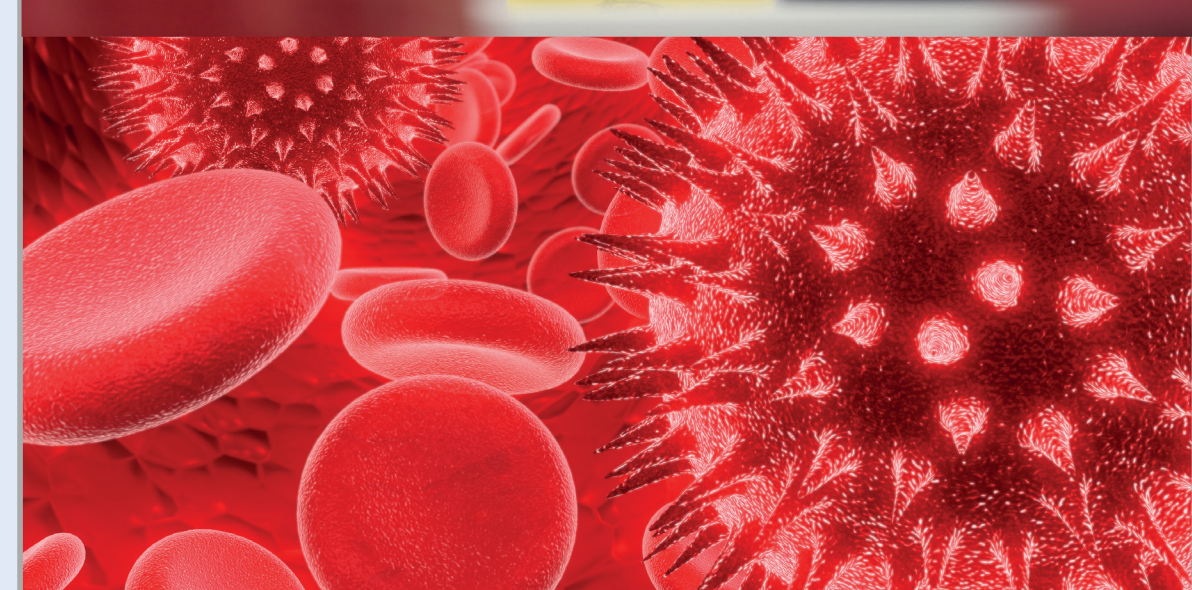
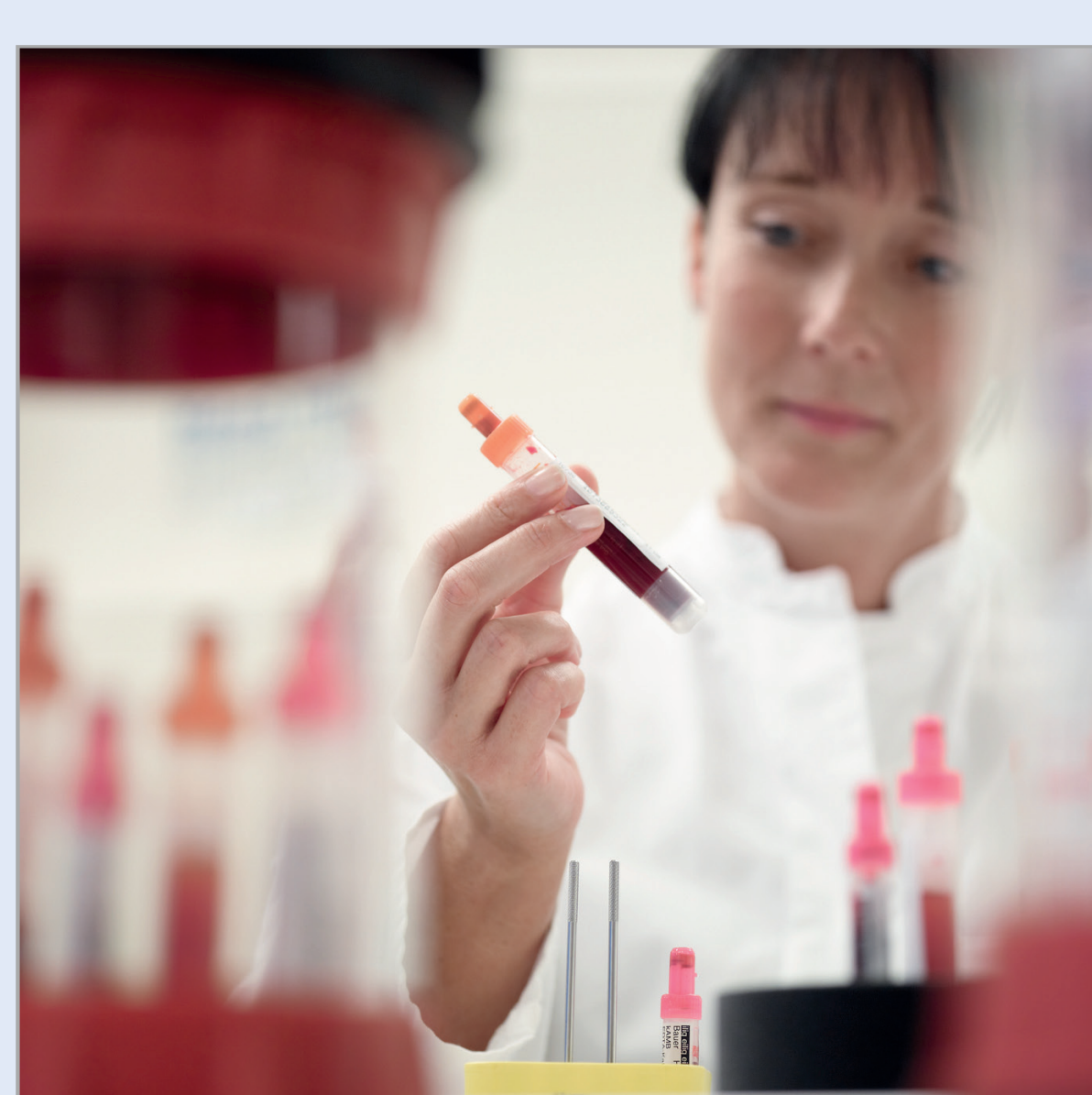


If virus is present, the HCV genotype is determined through a blood test. There are 6 main HCV genotypes which influence treatment options.



Before start of antiviral treatment, the amount of virus in the blood (viral load) is determined by measuring HCV RNA.

Monitoring and treatment



The goal of treatment is to eradicate the virus from the body

Effectiveness of treatment is determined by monitoring HCV viral load during and after treatment at several time points.

HCV can be cured with the right treatment plan

If HCV viral load becomes undetectable, chronic hepatitis C has successfully been cured.

A new class of anti-HCV drugs, direct-acting antiviral agents (DAAs), has revolutionised treatment for chronic hepatitis C, with cure rates of >90% in 8-12 weeks.

Roche introduced the first test to monitor HCV viral load in a person's blood in 1993, which changed the approach to HCV disease management worldwide.

SOURCES:

* Llovet JM et al. (2012) Journal of Hepatology (2012); 56: 908-943
<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs164/en/>

<http://i-base.info/guides/hepc/monitoring>

<http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hbv/bfaq.htm> Last accessed July 2016