Choices have Consequences

Education is Power, One Women's Story

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Introduction

The disease I chose was Hepatitis C. I myself had this disease and wanted to share my experiences. I received this disease because of my lifestyle. You can also get it from blood transfusions, you can check out the web sites to view more about the disease. I am personally interested about the disease friends have died and some are experiencing horrible symptoms. Fear is associated with the lack of knowledge and the reality of death is a possibility.

Cause

My drug use began in 1960's-1970's. Heroin was choice of drug administered intravenously. Many people are in denial that they even have the disease. I myself was tested and came back positive.

Symptoms

I began when I was in the beginning of my recovery from my addiction. I had tenderness where the liver is located. My legs began swelling with redness and were very painful.

Remedies

For myself, my remedy was to become drug free and to begin a healthier life style. I have seen my liver doctor Dr. Tabaa on a regular basis for exam and blood work. I had a biopsy that showed I was a candidate for treatment. I began the interferon for one year and a half.

Cure

Although at this time a cure does not exist I believe knowledge is the excellent cure. I have blood work done every year that shows negative. No active virus. Staying drug and alcohol free has helped me continue a healthier lifestyle. Questions are welcome.
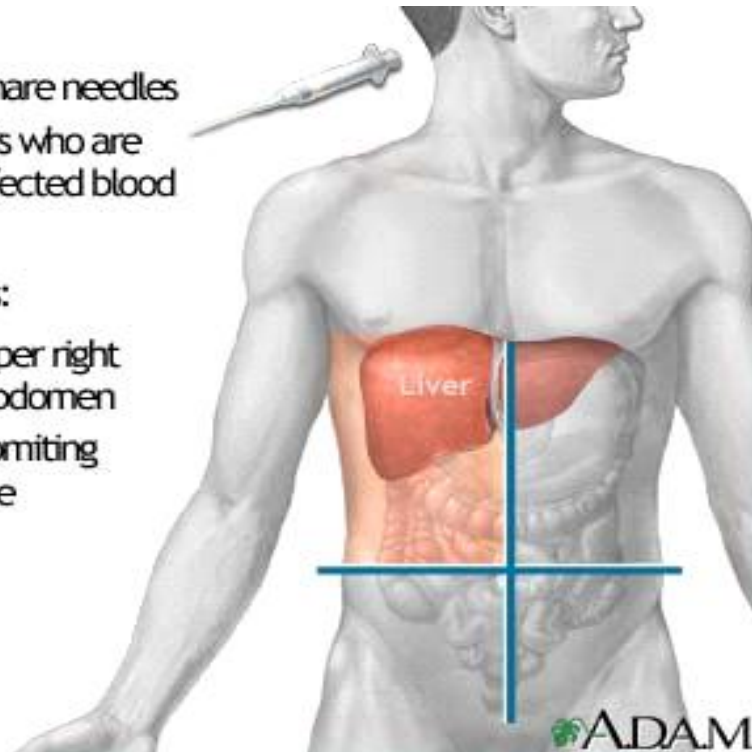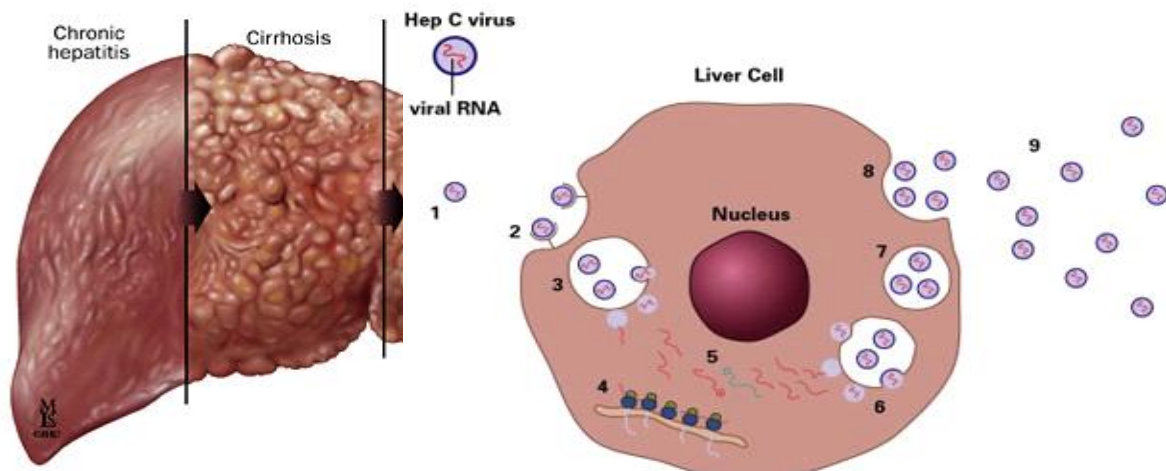
Poster

Hep C

Risk factors:
- people who share needles
- health workers who are exposed to infected blood

Possible symptoms:
- pain in the upper right quadrant of abdomen
- nausea and vomiting
- loss of appetite
- jaundice
- fatigue
- itching

Bibliography

http://www.hepatitis.va.gov/patient/treat/single-page.asp

http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmedhealth/PMH0001329/