



Children & Hepatitis B

How will being diagnosed with chronic hepatitis B affect my child?

I am planning to adopt a child, should I request that he or she be tested?

What if the child I'm planning to adopt tests positive for hepatitis B?

How can I protect other family members if my child tests positive for hepatitis B?

Is there treatment available for a child with chronic hepatitis B?

How will being diagnosed with chronic hepatitis B affect my child?

Hepatitis B does not usually affect a child's normal growth and development. Most children with chronic hepatitis B infections will enjoy long and healthy lives. Unlike other chronic medical conditions, hepatitis B does not usually cause any physical problems.

What if my child tests positive for hepatitis B?

Finding out that your child has hepatitis B can be upsetting, but you should know that most children will enjoy a long and healthy life. Hepatitis B does not usually affect a child's normal growth and development. It does not restrict their physical activity or their mental abilities.

How can I protect other family members if my child tests positive for hepatitis B?

All parents, siblings, and other household members should be vaccinated. Extended family members, childcare providers, family, friends, and others should consider vaccination if they have frequent and close contact with your child.

Is there treatment available for a child with hepatitis B?

There are currently two approved treatment options available in the United States for children with chronic hepatitis B: (1) Intron A (interferon alpha) and (2) Epivir-HBV (lamivudine).

However, not every child (or adult) with hepatitis B needs to be treated. You should see a pediatric liver specialist to determine if your child would benefit from one of these approved treatments. Whether you decide to start

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treatment or not, your child should see a liver specialist or doctor skilled in hepatitis B on a regular basis.

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