



Hepatitis C— A Growing Threat for Baby Boomers

Baby Boomers may be young at heart—but they are also the group most at risk for hepatitis C.

Hepatitis C is the leading cause of liver cancer, liver transplants and death from liver disease. In fact, the Centers for Disease Control urges anyone born between 1945 and 1965 to ask their physician for a hepatitis C test. Hepatitis C-related deaths are on the rise, with 7,000 to 15,000 deaths attributed to the virus each year.

About 3 million people in the U.S. are living with the infection, according to the CDC. Most of them don't know how or when they contracted the virus, which is usually spread through contact with an infected person's blood. Intravenous drug use – even once – is a risk factor. So is receiving a blood transfusion before 1992 or undergoing frequent dialysis.

Even if you don't feel sick, you may still be infected. Some people experience symptoms such as fever, joint pain or dark-colored urine, but most hepatitis C cases are asymptomatic. Only a simple, one-time blood test can tell you for sure.

Quest Diagnostics, the world's leading provider of diagnostic testing, offers a comprehensive menu of tests that can pinpoint exactly what type of hepatitis virus you have. If you do test positive for the virus, help is available. Treatment usually lasts about 6 to 9 months and is effective at preventing further liver damage in the majority of patients.

For more information on Hepatitis C virus screening, visit [QuestDiagnostics.com/HepC](https://www.questdiagnostics.com/HepC).

To schedule an appointment for your test at your nearest Quest Diagnostics location, visit [QuestDiagnostics.com](https://www.questdiagnostics.com).



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