

HEPATITIS C, ACUTE (2007)

Clinical case definition

An acute illness with:

- 1) a discrete onset of any sign or symptom consistent with acute viral hepatitis (e.g., anorexia, abdominal discomfort, nausea, vomiting), **AND**
- 2) either a) jaundice, or b) serum alanine aminotransferase (ALT) levels >400 IU/L.

Laboratory criteria for diagnosis

One or more of the following criteria:

- 1) Antibodies to hepatitis C virus (anti-HCV) screening-test-positive with a signal to cut-off ratio predictive of a true positive as determined for the particular assay as defined by CDC. (URL for the signal to cut-off ratios: http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/hepatitis/c/sc_ratios.htm), **OR**
- 2) Hepatitis C Virus Recombinant Immunoblot Assay (HCV RIBA) positive, **OR**
- 3) Nucleic Acid Test (NAT) for HCV RNA positive

AND, meets the following two criteria:

- 1) IgM antibody to hepatitis A virus (IgM anti-HAV) negative, **AND**
- 2) IgM antibody to hepatitis B core antigen (IgM anti-HBc) negative

Case classification

Confirmed: a case that meets the clinical case definition, is laboratory confirmed, and is not known to have chronic hepatitis C.

HEPATITIS C, CHRONIC (also known as Hepatitis C Virus Infection, Past or Present) (2005)

Clinical description

Most HCV-infected persons are asymptomatic. However, many have chronic liver disease, which can range from mild to severe including cirrhosis and liver cancer.

Laboratory criteria for diagnosis

- 1) Anti-HCV positive (repeat reactive) by EIA, verified by an additional more specific assay (e.g. RIBA for anti-HCV or nucleic acid testing for HCV RNA), **OR**
- 2) HCV RIBA positive, **OR**
- 3) Nucleic acid test for HCV RNA positive, **OR**
- 4) Report of HCV genotype **OR**
- 5) Anti-HCV screening-test-positive with a signal to cut-off ratio predictive of a true positive as determined for the particular assay (e.g., ≥ 3.8 for the enzyme immunoassays) as determined and posted by CDC.

Case classification

Probable: a case that is anti-HCV positive (repeat reactive) by EIA and has alanine aminotransferase (ALT or SGPT) values above the upper limit of normal, but the anti-HCV EIA result has not been verified by an additional more specific assay or the signal to cutoff ratio is unknown.

Confirmed: a case that is laboratory confirmed and that does not meet the case definition for acute hepatitis C.