

Blood Borne Viruses

Patient information

You have been given this leaflet because you may have been exposed to a blood borne virus.

A blood borne virus (BBV) is an infection that can be transmitted from one person (the donor) to another through direct contact of bodily fluids, especially blood. This can be from a used needle, a bite injury to the skin, or transmission of bodily fluids including sexual intercourse.

The main viruses of concern are:

- Hepatitis B
- Hepatitis C
- Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)

Risk of transmission in a HIGH RISK patient:

- Hepatitis B 1 in 3
- Hepatitis C 1 in 30
- HIV 1 in 300

The risk of you contracting a virus depends on whether the donor is known, if not, treatment is given assuming there is a lower risk of you contracting an infection.

YOU HAVE BEEN ASSESSED AS A LOW RISK PATIENT

Immediate treatment given:

- You will have an initial vaccination today to reduce your risk of hepatitis B infection.
- You will have blood taken today which will be stored in the hospital laboratory. **THIS WILL NOT BE TESTED** unless you develop any concerning symptoms.
- If your injury was caused by a human bite – you will also need a course of antibiotic tablets to protect against bacterial skin infections.
- Because you are low risk, you do not need any further treatment today.

Emergency Department
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Further treatment required:

- 2 further hepatitis B vaccinations from your GP: in 1 month and 2 months.
- You need blood tests at your GP surgery in 3 months for hepatitis B/C and HIV.
- You should use condoms if you engage in any sexual activity until then.
- You should not donate blood for the next 6 months and only if you have tested negative for any BBV.
- You may need a 'booster' hepatitis B vaccine in 12 months.

IT IS UP TO YOU TO MAKE THESE APPOINTMENTS WITH YOUR GP

You should seek urgent medical advice if you develop a fever or if you become unwell in the next 3 months.

Hepatitis B vaccination schedule:

Date of first vaccination
today:

Second due 1 month from
today:

Third due 2 months from
today:

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Further Information

For further advice and information about your condition:

Please choose from the following:

- 'NHS Patient Choices' website: www.nhs.uk
- 'Making Lives Better' patient website: www.patient.info
- Telephone NHS 111
- Contact your General Practitioner

Contact details:

- The James Cook University Hospital: 01642 850850
Marton Road, Middlesbrough, TS4 3BW
 - The Friarage: 01609 779911
Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL6 1JG
- Redcar Primary Care Hospital: 01642 511000
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