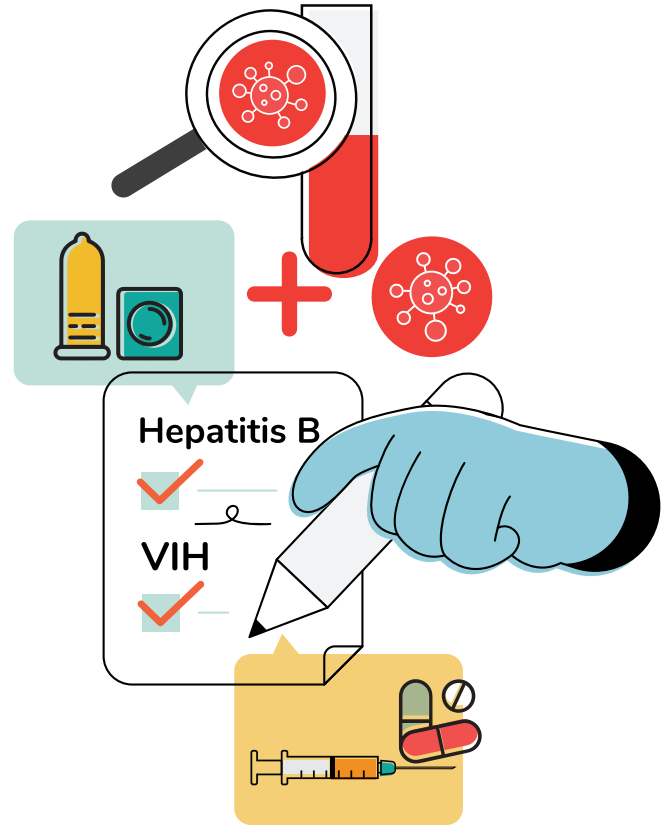


## Hepatitis B and HIV

**Hepatitis B is an inflammation of the liver caused by the hepatitis B virus (HBV). HBV shares several transmission channels with HIV. A significant proportion of people with HIV are therefore also co-infected with HBV. Although HIV speeds up the progress of hepatitis B, there is no evidence that hepatitis B affects the course of HIV infection.**



### Transmission

It is not possible to get hepatitis B through everyday activities, but rather it spreads through contact with the blood, semen or vaginal fluids of a person who has the virus. Sometimes people can spontaneously clear HBV from their bodies. If it is not cleared, the infection becomes chronic. Without proper treatment and care, hepatitis B can eventually cause significant damage to the liver and to people's health.

People with HIV are less likely to clear the virus spontaneously and may also experience quicker onset of liver disease. **It is therefore important for all people with HIV to be tested for HBV.**

**In addition, everyone with HIV who is not co-infected with HBV should be vaccinated against hepatitis B** (see HIV Info: Vaccination recommendations for people with HIV).

### Prevention

**The best way to prevent hepatitis B infection is through vaccination.** If you already have HBV, your partner should vaccinate against HBV.

Other measures to reduce the risk of HBV infection are:

- Use of condoms
- Not sharing gear for injecting drugs
- Not sharing personal items that may contain blood (razors, toothbrushes, etc.)
- Ensuring that tattooing or piercing materials are sterile

### Treatment

Hepatitis B may be treated with some drugs that help to reduce the HBV viral load and minimise liver damage. **People co-infected with HIV/HBV should be treated for both diseases.** The choice of drugs, however, depends on the individual. In some cases, antiretrovirals that also counteract HBV may be taken, while in others an HBV antiviral should be taken in addition to the regular HIV treatment.

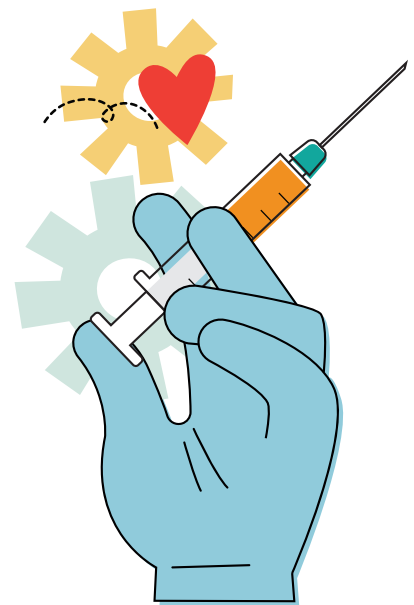
## Main points:

Although hepatitis B can be cleared spontaneously, once it becomes chronic there is no cure.

A significant number of people with HIV have hepatitis B. People with HIV should therefore be checked for co-infection.

Everyone with HIV is advised to vaccinate against hepatitis B.

It is important for people with HIV to manage (and treat if necessary) hepatitis B.



Source: National Institute of Health (NIH)

**gt** grupo de trabajo sobre tratamientos del VIH  
ENTIDAD DECLARADA DE UTILIDAD PÚBLICA  
ONG DE DESARROLLO



¿TIENES DUDAS SOBRE EL TEMA?  
PREGÚNTANOS

Tel. 93 458 26 41

### Descargo de responsabilidad

La información contenida en esta ficha no pretende sustituir la recibida por el médico. Las decisiones referentes a la salud siempre deberían tomarse tras consultar con los profesionales sanitarios. La información médica puede quedar desactualizada con rapidez.

Si te surge alguna pregunta tras leer esta ficha, te aconsejamos hablar con tu médico o enfermera o llamar a gTt-VIH, al 93 458 26 41, para comprobar si existe alguna novedad relevante al respecto.

[www.gtt-vih.org](http://www.gtt-vih.org)

SI TE HA PARECIDO ÚTIL Y INTERESANTE EL CONTENIDO, COMPÁRTELO.

### SUBVENCIONA



POR SOLIDARIDAD  
OTROS FINES DE INTERÉS SOCIAL



SECRETARÍA DE ESTADO DE SANIDAD  
DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE SALUD PÚBLICA  
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Generalitat de Catalunya

Salut / Agència de Salut Pública de Catalunya



Diputació de Barcelona

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