

What are the symptoms of hepatitis C?

Most people have no symptoms. During the acute phase, less than 10% of those infected show any symptoms. In some people, the only symptom is fatigue. Other symptoms may include nausea, vomiting, muscle and joint aches, abdominal pain and weight loss.

Hepatitis C may persist for many years without any symptoms, although it may be destroying liver cells at a low level. The reason why a person may not have symptoms is because the liver has a large reserve and it can function normally even when much of it has been destroyed.

Some of the signs related to cirrhosis and liver failure are:

- swelling of the abdomen, legs or ankles;
- bleeding caused by varicose veins breaking open in the esophagus or stomach;
- mental confusion due to toxins in the blood that the liver can't remove;
- jaundice (a person's skin and eyes turn yellow); and
- extreme fatigue .

These symptoms develop gradually. Occasionally, liver failure may happen suddenly and bleeding from the stomach or drowsiness may occur.