



National rapid response for HIV management  
and bloodborne pathogen exposures.

# Hepatitis C Virus: An Overview

IHS/CCUIH Hepatitis C Warmline

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# The Challenge: Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) in 2016

3.5 million infected

New treatments which  
are safe and curative

Opportunity to end the  
epidemic





CLINICIAN CONSULTATION CENTER  
National rapid response for HIV management and bloodborne pathogen exposures.

# We Are: The Clinician Consultation Center

The Clinician Consultation Center (CCC) at the University of California at San Francisco provides immediate, state-of-the-art HIV/AIDS clinical consultation to health care providers (physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, pharmacists and other health care professionals) across the country through four telephone and online consultation services:

HIV/AIDS Management Consultation Service: 6:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. PST

Perinatal HIV Consultation and Referral Service: 24/7

Post-Exposure Prophylaxis Consultation Service(PEpline): 6:00 am – 11:00 pm PST

Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis Consultation Service (PrEpline): 6:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. PST

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) HIV/AIDS Bureau  
AIDS Education and Training Centers (AETCs)  
and  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

# Indian Health Services Hepatitis C Consultation Service

9 am – 8 pm EST, Monday - Friday

Hepatitis C Mono- and Co-infection Consultation: 844-437-4636

The Clinician Consultation Center (CCC) provides IHS clinicians of all experience levels free, confidential, and timely expert consultation by physicians and clinical pharmacists with expertise in HIV and HCV care.

Advice is based on Federal treatment guidelines, VHA guidelines, current medical literature, and clinical best practices.

Our team includes: Betty Dong , Joanna Eveland, Rena Fox , Alex Monto, Marion Peters



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# Objectives

Understand HCV..

Natural history


Epidemiology

Screening

Staging of liver disease







# SEX, DRUGS, ROCK 'N ROLL

ROCK 'N' ROLL MIGHT BE DEAD,  
BUT SOME THINGS LIVE ON.

**HEPATITIS C**  
IS ONE OF THEM.

If you have injected drugs—even once—  
you are at risk for Hepatitis C.

**TALK TO YOUR DOCTOR  
ABOUT GETTING TESTED.  
THEN, ROCK ON.**



[www.cdc.gov/hepatitis](http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis)



## HCV Has a Broad Reach

1.0% US prevalence  
~3.5 million Americans

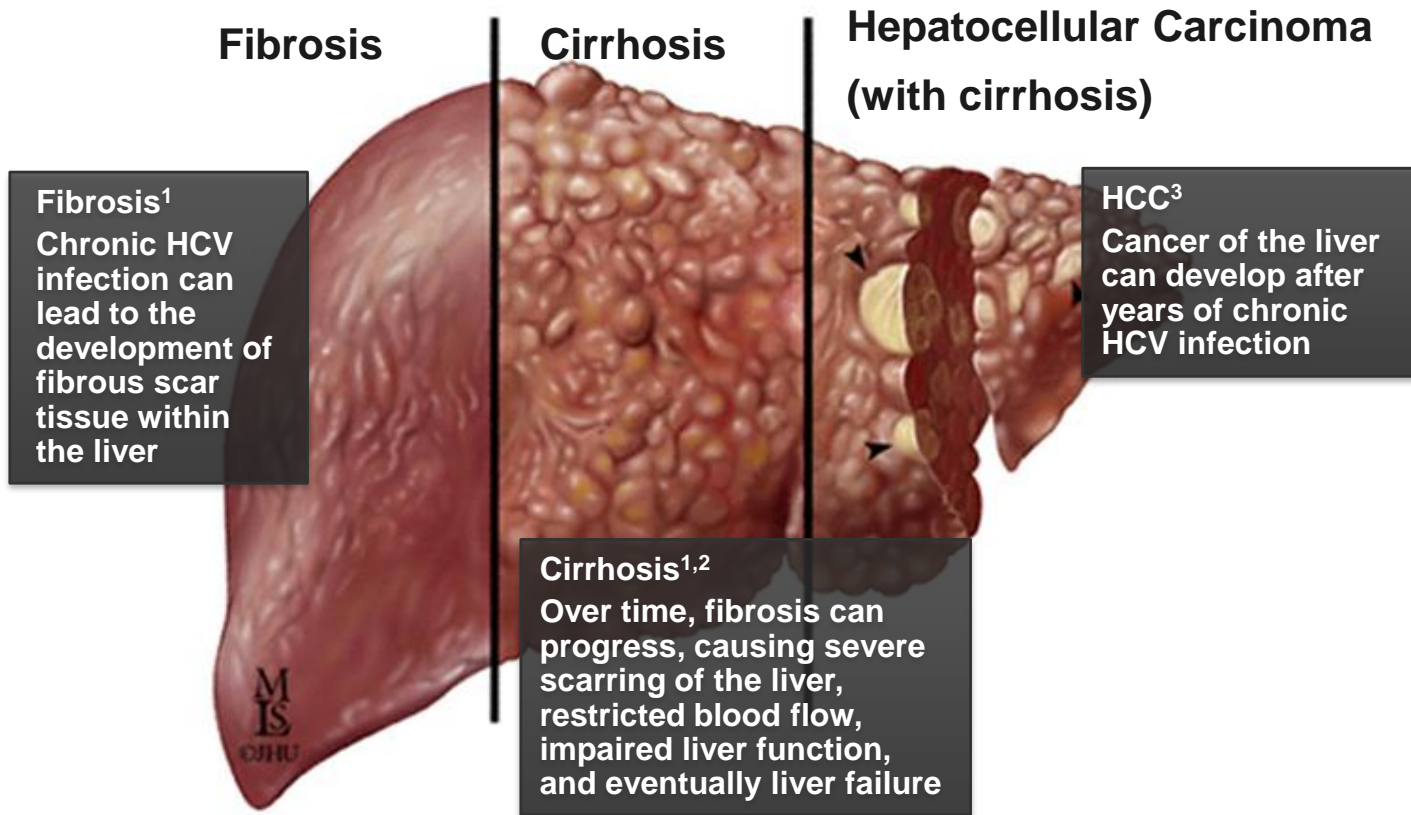
11.5-36% in IHS Clinics

22-52% in Health Care for the  
Homeless programs

12-35% in incarcerated  
populations

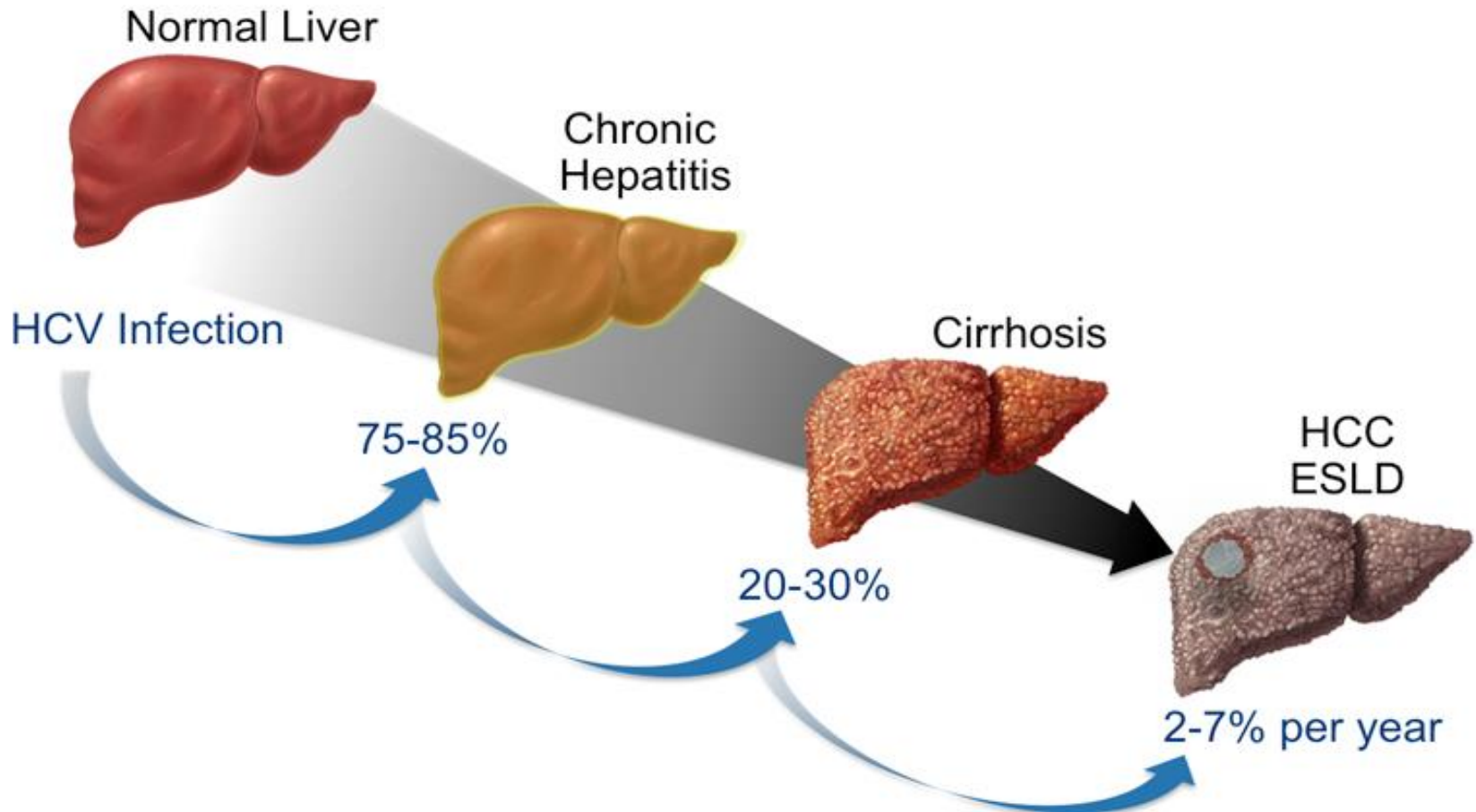


# Chronic HCV Infection May Lead to Chronic Liver Disease and Liver Cancer





# Natural History of HCV





## HCV Warmline Case

65 year old man recently co-infected with HIV (now well controlled) and HCV. Drinks 6-12 beers on weekends. No evidence of cirrhosis on labs or ultrasound. Patient is requesting HCV treatment but caller not sure if it's indicated as patient has no liver disease.

# Risk Factors for HCV Progression

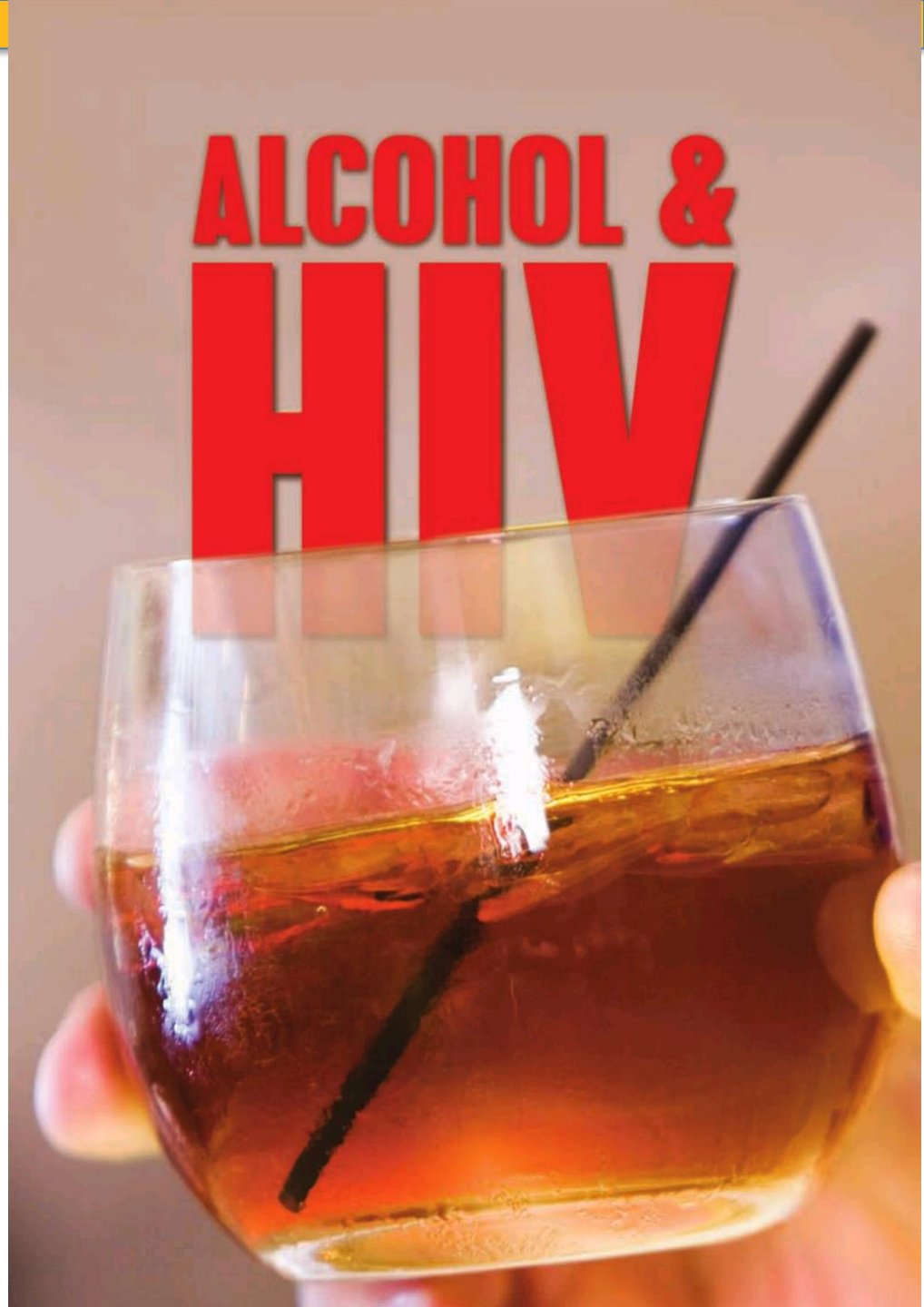
HIV or other co-infection

Alcohol use

Older age at infection

Male gender

Insulin resistance



# Hepatitis C and Opioid Epidemics Intersect

30-90% of IDUs infected with HCV

Opportunities for harm reduction, substance use disorder treatment

HCV testing and treatment of active drug users prevents new infections

Using Prescription Painkillers or Heroin?

**REDUCE  
YOUR RISK**  
OF OVERDOSE, HEP C & HIV **NYC**



**SUBSTANCE USE WARMLINE**

**1-855-300-3595**

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## Post-exposure Hotline Case

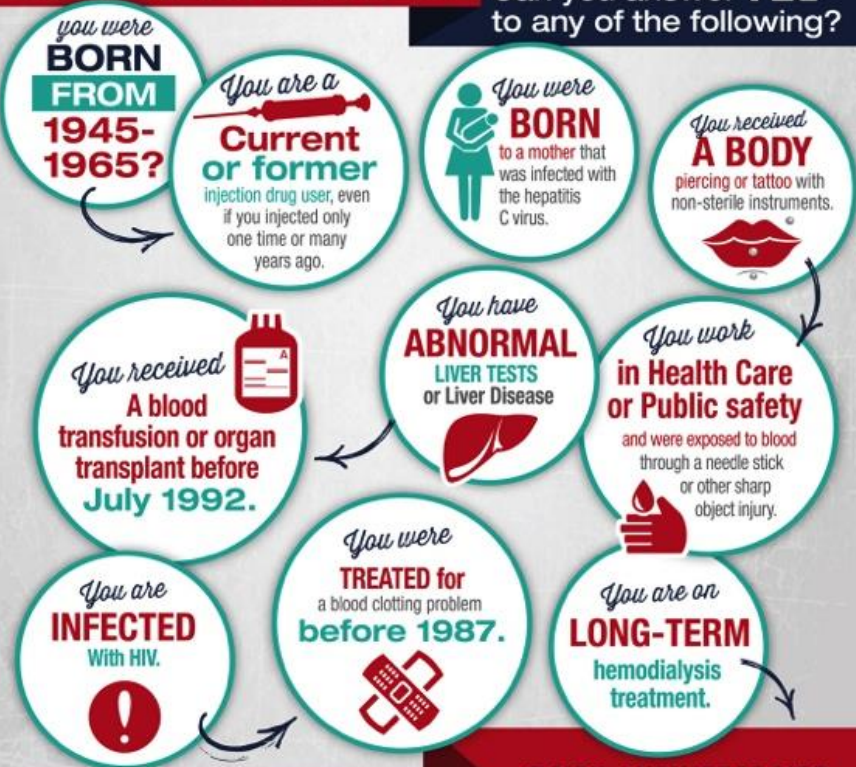
Prison guard stuck with homemade tattoo needle recently used by 55 year old inmate with history of injection drug use. Inmate is HIV negative but should they worry about HCV?



# HEPATITIS C: SHOULD I GET *Tested?*

## KNOW THE RISK FACTORS

Can you answer **YES**  
to any of the following?



## IF YOU ANSWERED YES

Know that you are not alone. Contact your doctor.  
Complete tests ordered by doctor.

## IF I'M AT RISK, HOW DO I GET TESTED FOR HEPATITIS C?

Call your doctor. They'll refer you to the proper physician to order the necessary blood tests.  
After completing and reviewing all the tests, doctors may recommend treatment.

The USPSTF  
recommends...

Screening for HCV  
infection in persons at  
high risk

1-time screening for  
HCV infection to adults  
born 1945-1965



## PATIENT SCREENING FOR HCV

### Birth Cohort Screening

#### Persons Born Between 1945 and 1965<sup>1,2</sup>

- The 1945-1965 birth cohort was selected on the basis of HCV prevalence and disease burden
- One-time screening for HCV infection in the birth cohort may identify infected patients at earlier stages of disease

### Risk Factor–Based Screening

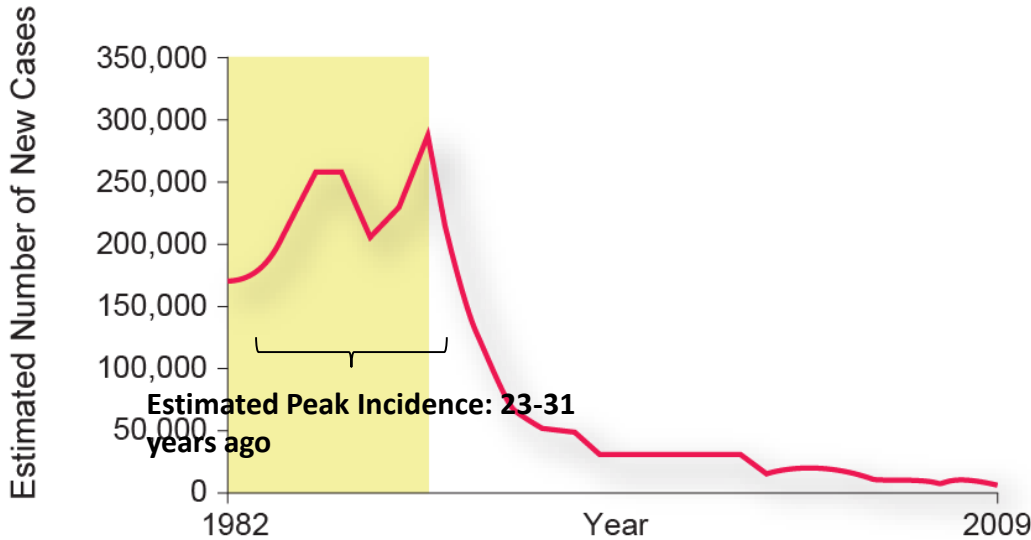
#### Important Risk Factors<sup>1,2</sup>

- Past or current injection drug use
- Receiving a blood transfusion before 1992
- Long-term hemodialysis
- Being born to an HCV-infected mother
- Incarceration
- Intranasal drug use
- Getting an unregulated tattoo
- Other percutaneous exposures

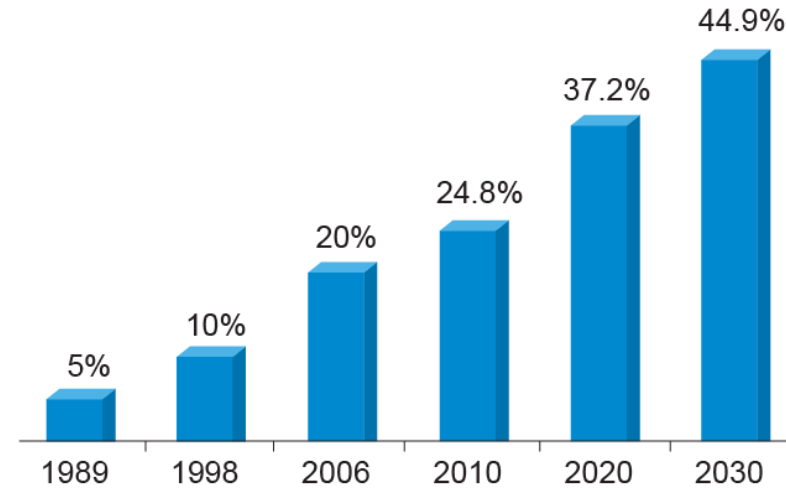


# While HCV Incidence Has Peaked, Cirrhosis Is Projected to Peak in the Coming Decades

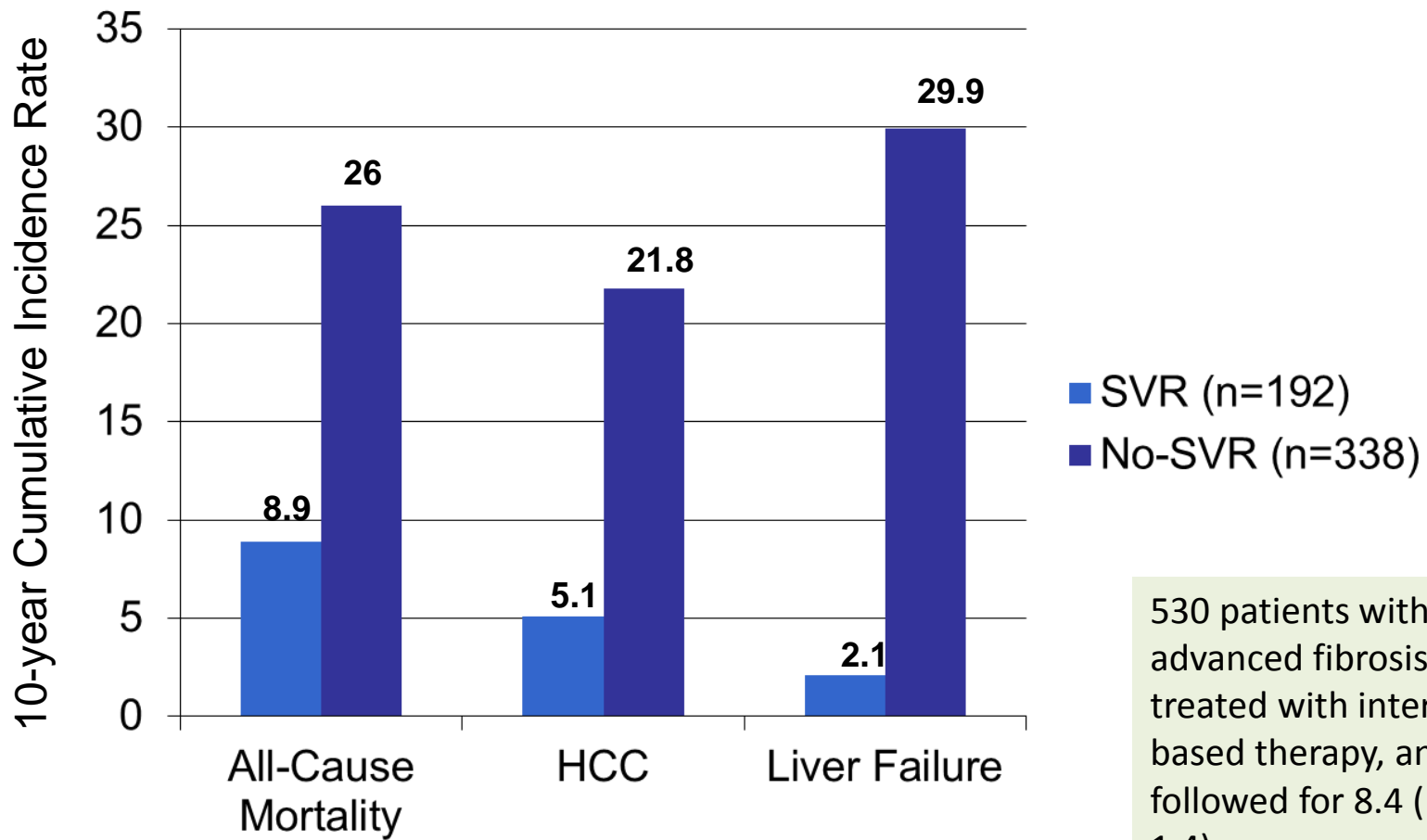
**Incidence of Hepatitis C by Year  
United States, 1982-2009<sup>1</sup>**



**Historical and Projected % Prevalence  
of Cirrhosis Among HCV Patients<sup>2</sup>**



# HCV Cure Associated with Decreased All-Cause Mortality

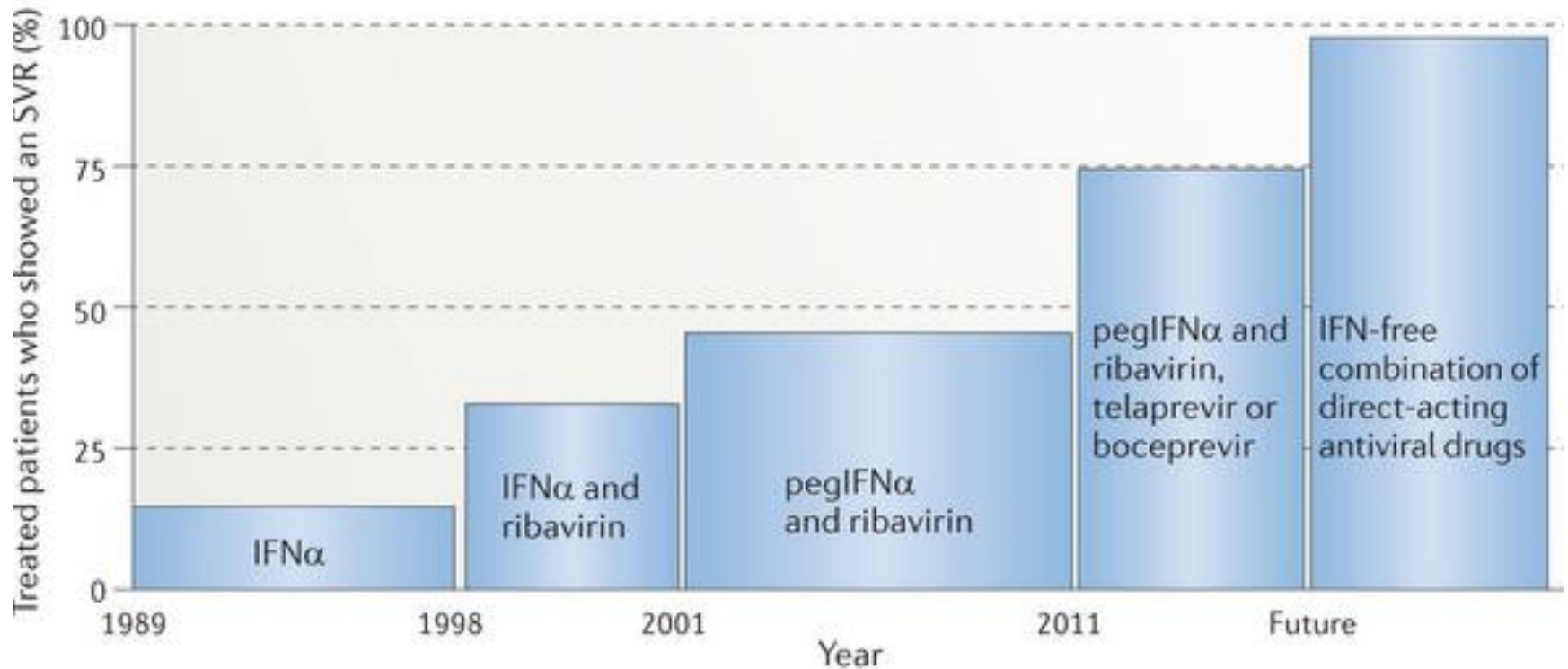




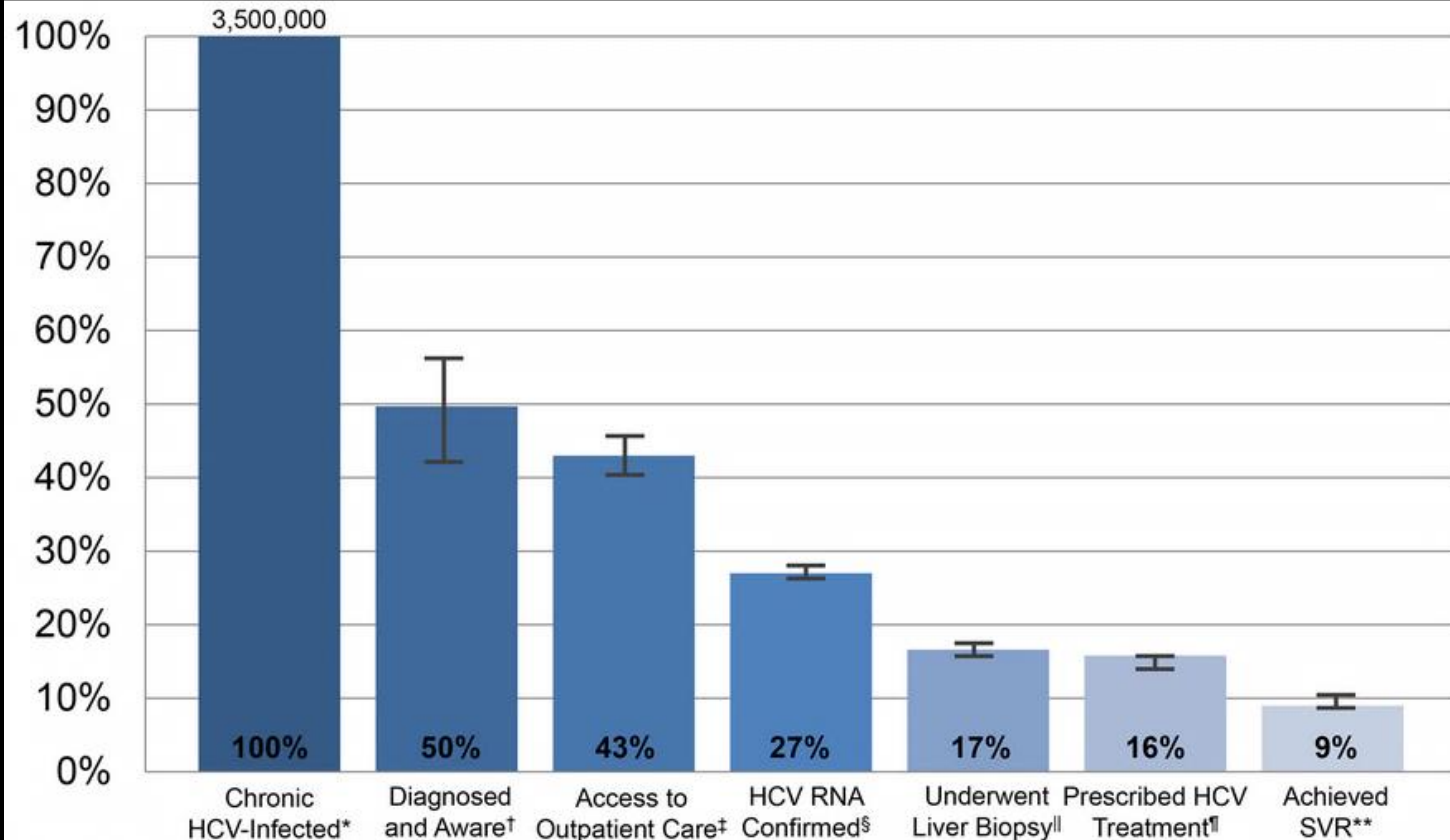


# History of HCV Treatment: In a New Era

Recombinant type I IFN-based therapy in chronic hepatitis C



# The National HCV Treatment Cascade



\* Chronic HCV-Infected; N=3,500,000.

† Calculated as estimated number chronic HCV-infected (3,500,000) x estimated percentage diagnosed and aware of their infection (49.8%); n=1,743,000.

‡ Calculated as estimated number diagnosed and aware (1,743,000) x estimated percentage with access to outpatient care (86.9%); n=1,514,667.

§ Calculated as estimated number with access to outpatient care (1,514,667) x estimated percentage HCV RNA confirmed (62.9%); n=952,726.

|| Calculated as estimated number with access to outpatient care (1,514,667) x estimated percentage who underwent liver biopsy (38.4%); n=581,632.

¶ Calculated as estimated number with access to outpatient care (1,514,667) x estimated percentage prescribed HCV treatment (36.7%); n=555,883.

\*\* Calculated as estimated number prescribed HCV treatment (555,883) x estimated percentage who achieved SVR (58.8%); n=326,859.

Note: Only non-VA studies are included in the above HCV treatment cascade.



# Types of HCV Tests

Test	Comments
HCV Antibody	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Screening test</li><li>• Positive in past or current infection</li></ul>
HCV Viral load	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• RNA PCR test</li><li>• Does not correlate with degree of liver disease</li><li>• Only recheck if treating</li><li>• Quant&gt;Qual</li></ul>
HCV Genotype	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• “Strain” of HCV</li><li>• 1-6</li><li>• NOT like HIV genotype</li></ul>

# HCV Genotypes: Common in US

Genotype	Notes
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Most common in US (75%) and worldwide (45%)</li><li>• Used to be hardest to treat with Interferon (IFN)</li><li>• Includes subtypes 1a + 1b</li></ul>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 13-15% of US Infxns</li><li>• Used to be “the good one” (easier tx with IFN)</li></ul>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 10% of US Infxns</li><li>• Used to be grouped w/ geno 2</li><li>• May progress faster</li><li>• Now the hardest to treat</li></ul>

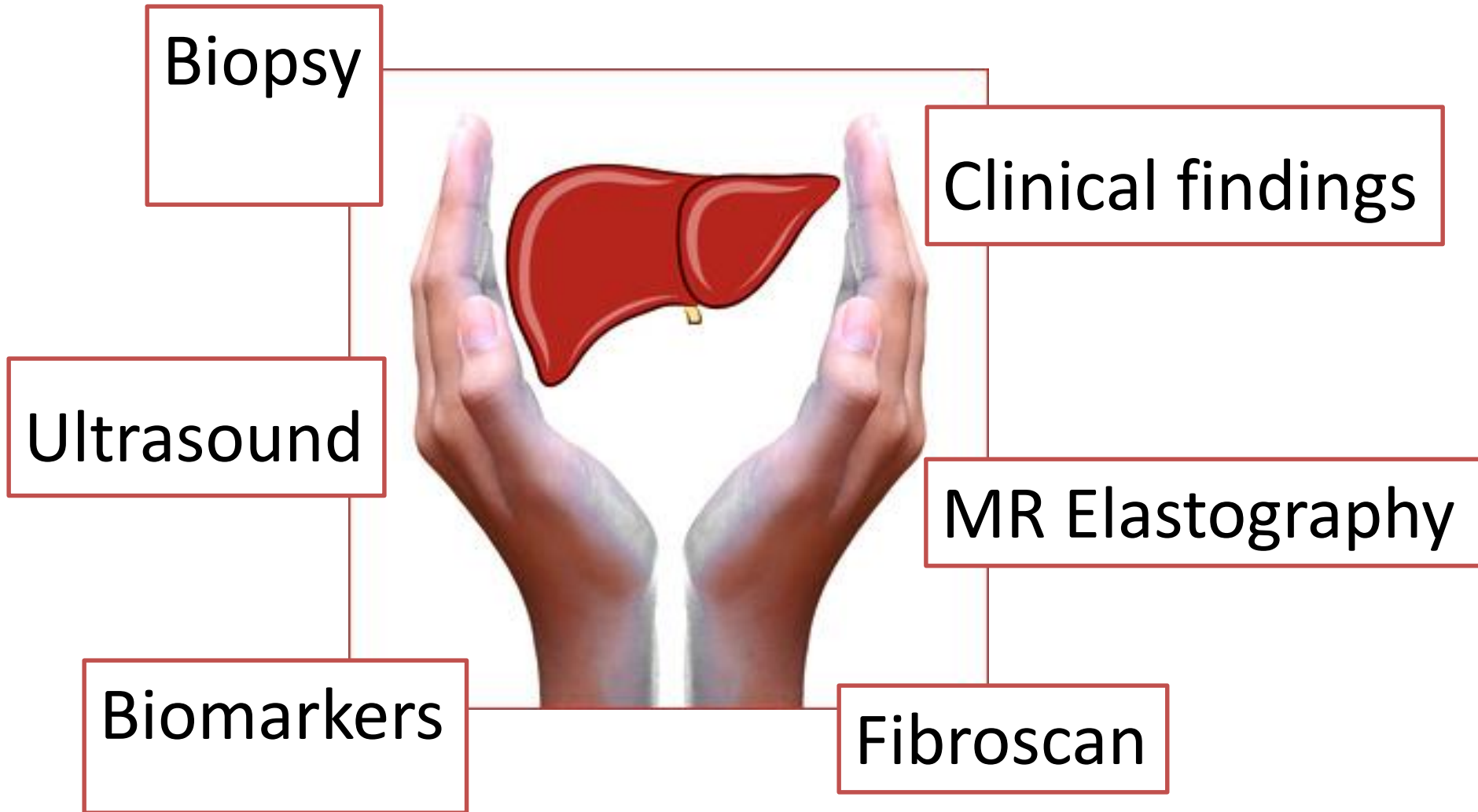




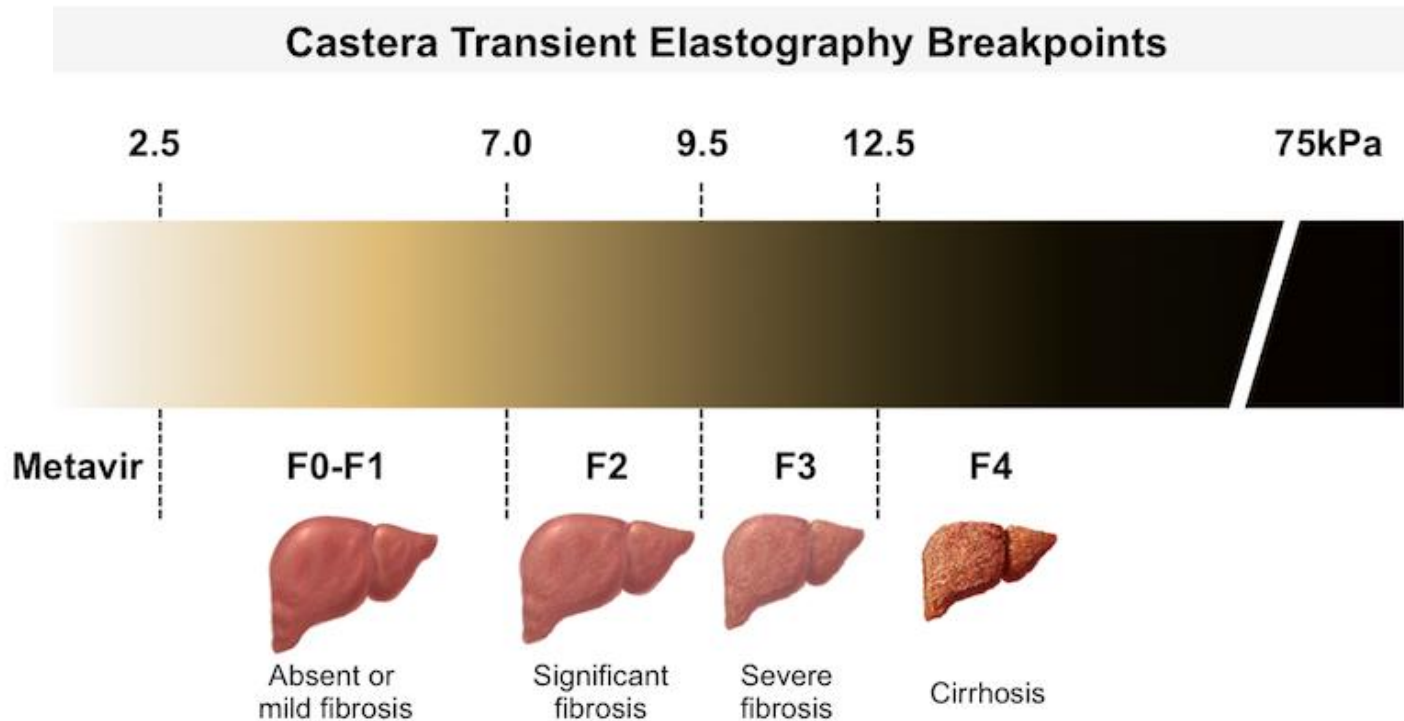
## HCV Genotypes: Rare in US

Genotype	Notes
4	Predominant in Egypt, Middle East, Central Africa
5	Predominant in South Africa
6	Predominant in Asia

# Liver Disease Staging Modalities



# Fibroscan



# Staging with Serum Biomarkers

Serum Markers of Fibrosis/Cirrhosis	Comments
APRI	APRI >1= advanced fibrosis APRI >2 = cirrhosis (sensitivity 76%, specificity 72%)
FIB-4	FIB-4 >3.25 =advanced fibrosis/cirrhosis (specificity 98%) FIB-4 <1.4= no significant fibrosis (sensitivity 74%, specificity 80% )
Fibrosure Fibrotest Fibrospect	Combos of biomarkers Proprietary

Adapted from VA HCV Guidance



## FIB-4: Fibrosis 4

$$\mathbf{FIB-4} = \frac{\text{Age (years)} \times \text{AST (U/L)}}{\text{Platelet Count (10}^9\text{/L)} \times \sqrt{\text{ALT (U/L)}}$$

## HCV Warmline Case

28 year old man infected with HCV 2 years ago. History of heavy EtOH use and recent UGIB due to esophageal varices by verbal report.

Ultrasound is WNL, FIB-4 score 0.6, Fibroscan not available.

Should HCV be treated as if this patient has cirrhosis?





## HCV Warmline Case

40 year old woman with history of IDU recently tested HCV+ at local ED, now presenting to begin primary care. What to do next?



# Primary Care for HCV Patients

Education to prevent  
transmission and  
progression

Assess EtOH

Vaccinate for HAV/HBV

Treat comorbidities

HCC screening if cirrhotic



# Conclusions

SCREEN	Implement age cohort and risk based screening
STAGE	Stage liver disease for HCV+ patients and prioritize treatment
PROVIDE PRIMARY CARE	Educate, assess EtOH use, offer vaccinations, treat comorbidities, screen for HCC
TREAT	Build capacity for treatment or enhanced referrals



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Thank you!