

# HCV & Hepatitis B Coinfection

**EASY  
C  
FACTS**

Coinfection means that a person has two or more diseases at the same time. Since you can get hepatitis B (HBV for short) in some of the same ways you can get hepatitis C (HCV), there may be as many as 10 to 15% (that's 10 to 15 people out of 100) with HCV who are also infected with hepatitis B.

As you can imagine, having both diseases can

make it harder to manage your health than having just one disease. For instance, having both diseases seems to cause more damage to the liver than just having HCV or just hepatitis B. The good news is that both hepatitis viruses can be treated successfully with medications. For these reasons, it is important to work closely with a medical person to find out how to take care of your health and talk about treatment.

## *Remember.....*

- ◆ Make sure you get shots to protect you from getting hepatitis A if you need them.
- ◆ Visit your doctor regularly so you can be carefully monitored.
- ◆ Get AFP levels checked – these are chemicals that may (or may not) be high due to liver cancer.
- ◆ Get ultrasounds (picture of the liver) to check for liver tumors.
- ◆ Try not to worry too much because both hepatitis B and HCV can be managed and treated.

[www.hcvadvocate.org](http://www.hcvadvocate.org)