

Methadone and HCV

Many people who take methadone also have hepatitis C (HCV or Hep C for short). In fact it may be that as many as 9 out of 10 people who take methadone also have HCV. The good news is that methadone is safe for the liver unless the liver is so damaged that it can not handle methadone very well. If this happens, the liver is checked by a doctor or nurse to make sure that the methadone dose or amount is safe.

If you have HCV and take methadone there are many things you can do to stay healthy. One of the best things you can do is to stop drinking alcohol or cut down on the amount of alcohol you drink.

People who have HCV and take methadone can be treated with HCV medicines even while taking methadone. Talk to your doctor or nurse to find out if you need to be treated for HCV.

Remember.....

- ◆ If you take methadone you should be tested for HCV.
- ◆ Make sure that you have regular medical check-ups.
- ◆ Ask about whether HCV treatment is right for you.
- ◆ Stay healthy by eating a healthy diet, getting a good amount of exercise (such as walking), drinking water and resting when you are tired.
- ◆ Get shots to protect you from getting Hep A and Hep B, if needed.
- ◆ Make sure your doctor knows all the medications you are taking, such as prescription drugs, over-the-counter drugs, herbs and vitamins.
- ◆ Join a support group to learn more about Hep C and get much needed support.

www.hcvadvocate.org

