

HEPATITIS

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Hepatitis A

Virus - caused disease

1) Name of the pathogen

Common name: **Hepatitis A Virus (HAV)**

Scientific name: **Hepatitis A virus**

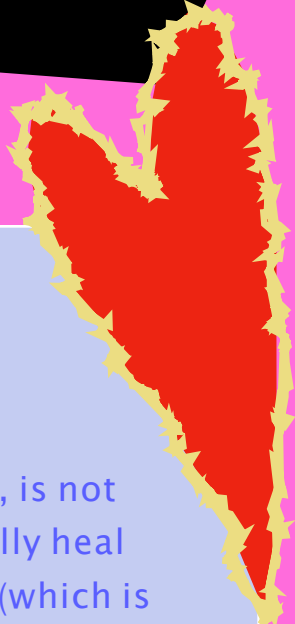

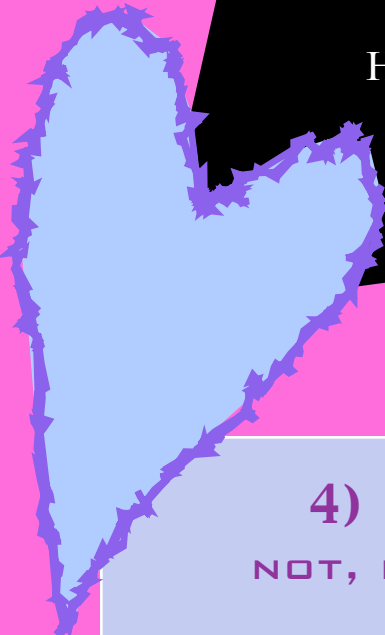


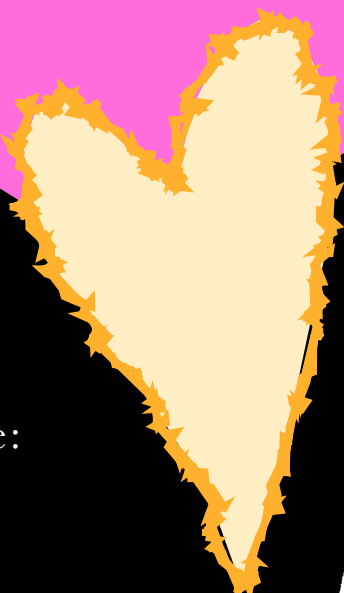
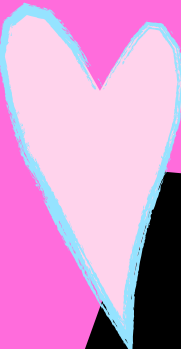
2) WHAT CAUSES IT? HOW IS IT TRANSMITTED?

Causes:

Hepatitis is caused by neither hepatitis A, B, C, D or E virus

Transmission (fecal-oral route):

- when someone consumes anything that has been contaminated with HAV infected stools
- in water, milk, drinks etc. that has been contaminated with HAV infected stools (because of indecent hygiene)
- ingesting raw shellfish = due to contamination through sewage



3) What are the symptoms? How long do they last? Is it deadly?

Some of the symptoms of HAV include:

- Fatigue
- Nausea
- Anorexia
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea (esp. in children)
- Fever
- Rash
- Jaundice = yellowing of skin and white of eyes
- Abdominal pain
- Dark brown urine

HAV is classified as a relatively mild infection but is immediately deadly when hepatitis B virus has infected the body. If not, HAV is easily handled.

4) CAN IT BE CURED? IF SO, HOW? IF NOT, IS THERE ANY WAY THAT WE CAN AT LEAST TREAT IT?

There is no specific medical treatment for the disease however, is not deadly if recognised at an early stage. Your body will eventually heal yourself but possible initial therapy includes decent bed rest (which is exceedingly crucial), avoid medications that may impair the function of the liver, avoiding alcohol, etc.

Bibliography (APA format):

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Videos

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