

Hepatitis A ~ Quick Facts

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Causative agent	Positive-strand RNA virus in Picornaviridae family
Signs and symptoms	Fever, headache, fatigue, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, dark urine, grey-colored stools, joint pain, jaundice
Symptom duration	Usually less than two months, sometimes up to six months
Transmission	Predominantly fecal-oral
Infectious Period (time from exposure to symptoms)	Two weeks before symptom onset to one week after jaundice onset
Incubation period (time from exposure to symptoms)	15–50 days
Laboratory Diagnosis	IgM antibodies to HAV are usually detectable 5–10 days before onset of symptoms
Screening	Anyone showing signs or symptoms of acute hepatitis (see above) and known contacts of HAV+ persons.
Prevention	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Safe and effective vaccines are available. Protection begins 14–21 days after a single dose. 2) Immunoglobulin can be provided for individuals who do not typically respond to vaccine: infants <12 months, individuals with immunocompromising conditions or chronic liver disease, and individuals ≥40 years of age 3) Proper sanitation and personal hygiene. See §5.5 Sanitation and Hygiene below.
Treatment	Primarily supportive care. There is no effective antiviral medication for HAV.