

1 Silent

2 Damage

3 Control



Hepatitis B is doing no harm



Hepatitis B is damaging your liver



Hepatitis B is under control

What happens in this phase?

- Your liver is not being damaged.

What should you do?

- Your family doctor should monitor liver tests every 6 months.
- You do not need treatment at present.

What do your blood tests show?

- Liver Function Tests (ALT) are normal.
- Levels of virus are high (HBV DNA > 20,000 IU/ml).
- Hepatitis B SAg and eAg is positive.

Also known as:

Immune Tolerant Phase 1

What happens in this phase?

- The body is trying to clear the infection. The liver is being damaged in the fight.

What should you do?

- If abnormal liver tests persist for more than 3 months, review by a specialist may be required. Please discuss with your family doctor.
- You may need some treatment.

What do your blood tests show?

- Liver Function Tests (ALT) become abnormal.
- Levels of virus are high (HBV DNA > 20,000 IU/ml).
- Hepatitis B SAg and eAg is positive.

Also known as:

Immune Clearance Phase 2

What happens in this phase?

- Liver damage stops although there may be damage from previous phases.

What should you do?

- Monitor liver tests every 6-12 months.
- If you are over 40 review by a specialist may be required to assess if there is already liver damage from previous phases. Please discuss with your family doctor.
- Regular ultrasounds monitoring for liver cancer might be required.

What do your blood tests show?

- Liver Function Tests return to normal (ALT).
- Levels of virus come under control (HBV DNA < 2,000 IU/ml).
- Hepatitis B eAg is negative/eAb positive.

Also known as:

Immune Control Phase 3

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To learn more view the companion video "Understanding Hepatitis B: Stories about people like us" on YouTube.

4 Escape



Hepatitis B is attacking your liver again

What happens in this phase?

- Liver damage is occurring.

What should you do?

- Is there any other reason your liver tests are abnormal?
- You need review by a specialist to plan best action
- You might need some treatment.

What do your blood tests show?

- Liver Function Tests (ALT) become abnormal.
- Levels of virus rise again (HBV DNA > 2,000 IU/ml).
- Hepatitis B eAg is negative/eAb positive.

Also known as:

Immune Escape Phase 4

Control with Medication



Hepatitis B is under control while you take medication

What happens in this phase?

- Liver damage is not occurring while you are on treatment.
- The damage occurring in other phases settles down.

What should you do?

- Don't stop your medicines unless your specialist tells you, as you may become sick.
- The virus will come back if you stop.

What do your blood tests show?

- Liver Function Tests (ALT) are usually normal if the treatment is working, and there is no other liver problem.
- Levels of virus usually become undetectable in the blood though timing is variable (between 3 months to 2 years).

5 Clear



Hepatitis B is gone

What happens in this phase?

- The infection is gone, liver damage does not occur although there may be damage from previous phases.

What should you do?

- The infection is gone and should not return.
- You may still need regular ultrasound to screen for liver cancer if you are older or there is a lot of liver damage from previous phases.

What do your blood tests show?

- Liver Function Tests are normal.
- Hepatitis B eAg is negative/eAb positive.
- Hepatitis B SAg is negative/SAB positive.
- Virus is undetectable.

Also known as:

HBs Ag Seroconversion Phase 5