

What is Hepatitis B?

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(Part I)

Hepatitis B is an inflammation of the liver caused by a virus. A virus is a very small crystal-like body only capable of living and multiplying within another living cell. The liver is the detox center or cleaning station of the body. When the liver becomes inflamed with the Hepatitis B virus it becomes sore and cannot work as cleaning station well.

Results: in mild cases, loss of appetite, upset stomach and in bad cases yellow skin, a yellow tinge to the whites of the eyes, the urine may turn dark and the anak light, and a feeling of being tired. These symptoms may slowly disap-

pear over a period of a week or so.

The virus can stay in a patient and make him a chronic carrier capable of giving the virus to healthy people. Chronic Hepatitis B carriers have much more liver cancer than other people.

Prevention is the best treatment. The North Slope Borough Health and Social Services department has begun the screening for Hepatitis B. High risk patients are screened first re: health care personnel, EMT and VD patients. Small children 0-5 years of age are screened whenever possible at visits to the hospital. Mass screenings will be announced.

"So be happy you don't have Hepatitis B."

