

Hepatitis C, virus infection, acute

2007 Case Definition

Clinical case definition

An acute illness with a discrete onset of any sign or symptom consistent with acute viral hepatitis (e.g., anorexia, abdominal discomfort, nausea, vomiting), and either a) jaundice, or b) serum alanine aminotransferase (ALT) levels >400 IU/L.

Laboratory criteria for diagnosis

One or more of the following three criteria:

1. Antibodies to hepatitis C virus (anti-HCV) screening-test-positive with a signal to cut-off ratio predictive of a true positive as determined for the particular assay as defined by CDC. (URL for the signal to cut-off ratios: http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/hepatitis/c/sc_ratios.htm), **OR**
2. Hepatitis C Virus Recombinant Immunoblot Assay (HCV RIBA) positive, **OR**
3. Nucleic Acid Test (NAT) for HCV RNA positive

AND, meets the following two criteria:

1. IgM antibody to hepatitis A virus (IgM anti-HAV) negative, **AND**
2. IgM antibody to hepatitis B core antigen (IgM anti-HBc) negative

Case classification:

Confirmed: a case that meets the clinical case definition, is laboratory confirmed, and is not known to have chronic hepatitis C.

Reference:

Division of Viral Hepatitis. Guidelines for Viral Hepatitis Surveillance and Case Management. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. January 2005.

See also:

- 2004 Acute Hepatitis C virus infection