

INITIAL DIAGNOSIS OF HEPATITIS C

Scenario for the Resident:

Setting: Initial visit to PCP.

Patient Profile: 40 year old man/woman who is new to the area is coming in for evaluation of "POSITIVE hepatitis C test". Patient for the first time in his/her life decided to donate blood and was recently notified by blood bank that routine screening revealed hepatitis C. Your partner ordered a confirmatory test for HCV and also ordered liver function tests. The test confirmed the diagnosis of Hepatitis C. The LFT's were normal.

- Your task is to interview and manage this visit. Start by setting an agenda for the visit with this patient.
- What do you think the patient is going to need to know?
- Be prepared PRIOR to this encounter to discuss all pertinent information with patient. Use any source of information you think is best.

Information for the Standardized Patient:

You have no history of hepatitis C risk factors: high risk sexual contacts, IV drug use, or transfusions; although you have had a few sexual partners before marriage. You were shocked that the test was positive “because you have never had any weight loss or any other signs of problems. You are on no medications. You drink 1-2 drinks per night with no history of alcohol abuse.

Patient Concerns: In order of pt's willingness to volunteer

1. Feels overwhelmed/disbelief, as “Thought I was healthy...why me? How did I get this”.
2. Anxious about diagnosis “Can I give this to my spouse?”
3. Fear of long-term outcomes and chronicity.” Will I end up with cirrhosis... Is this curable?”