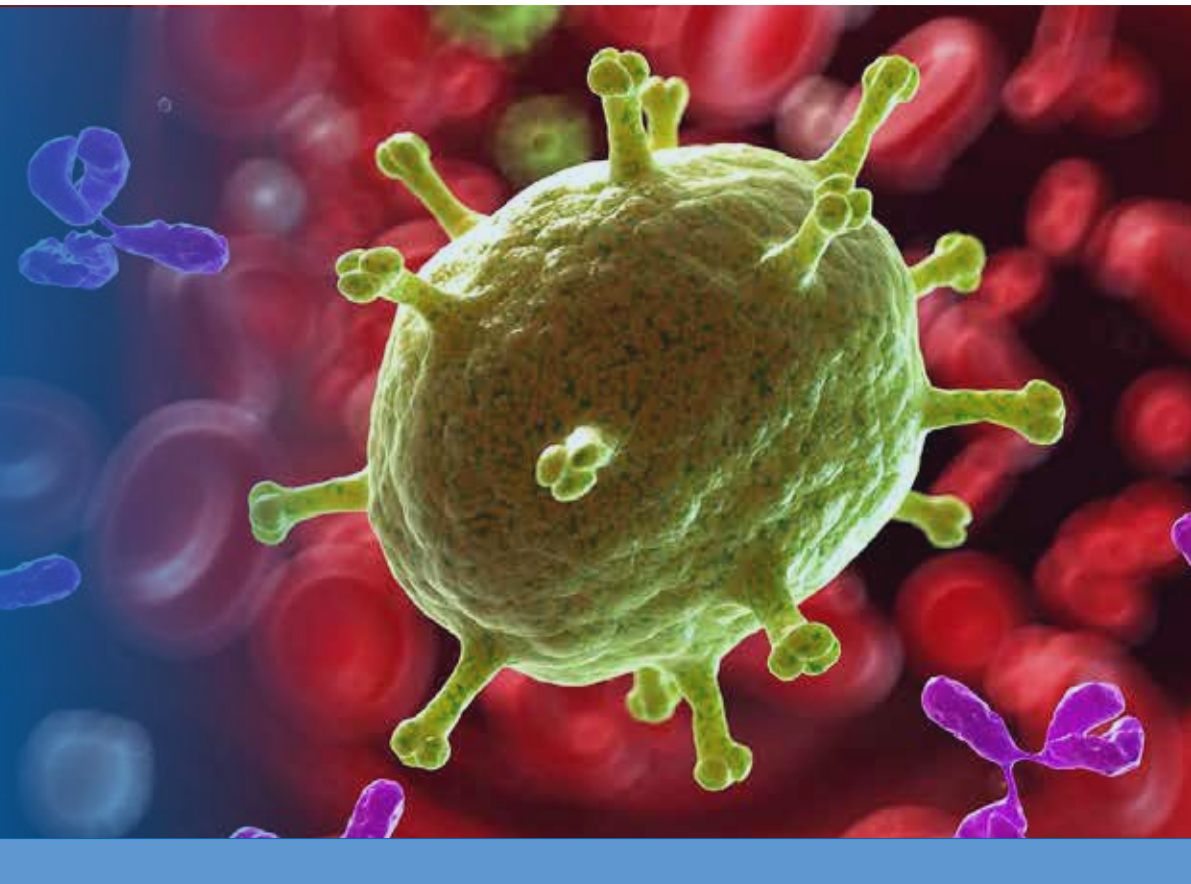
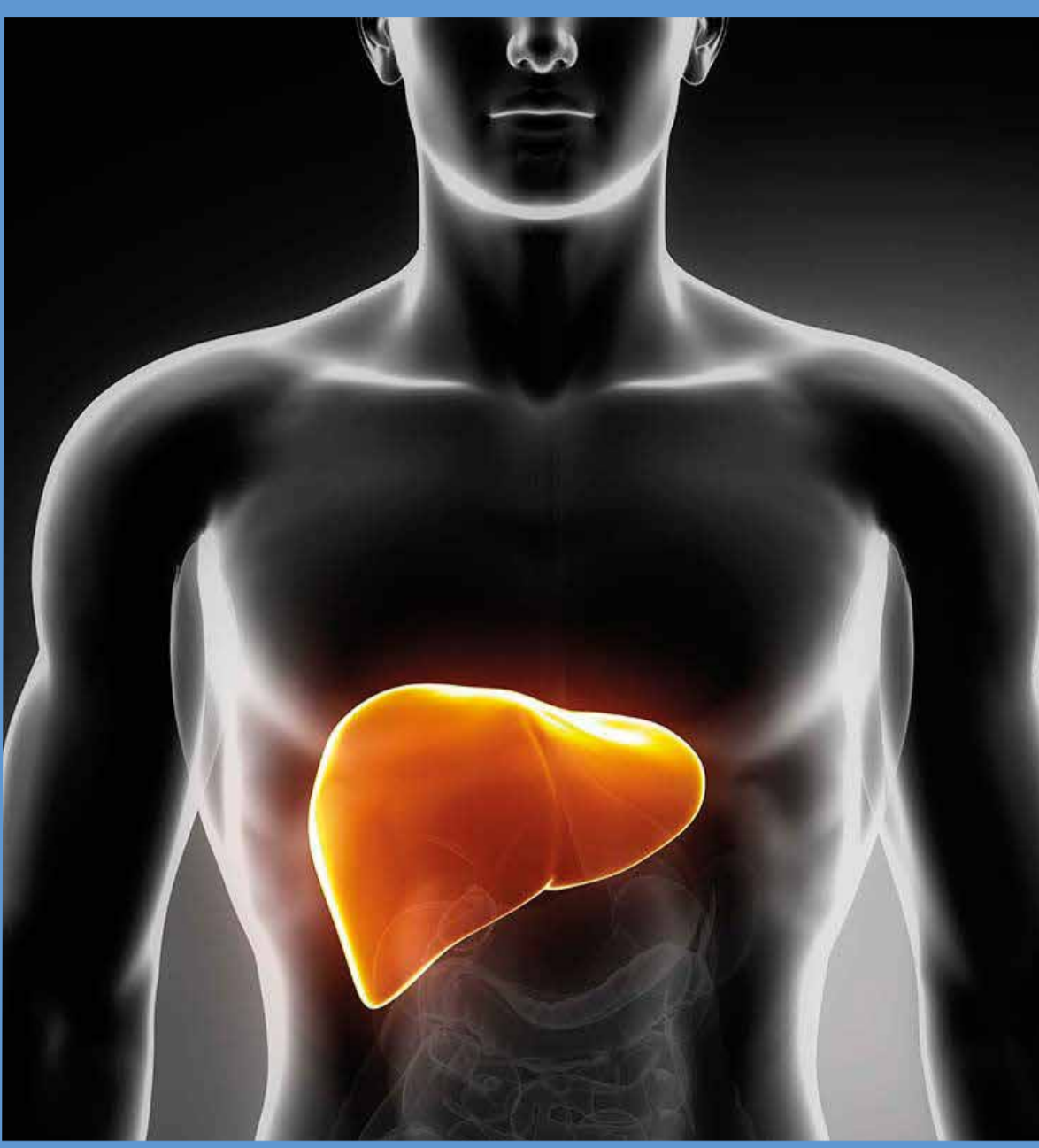


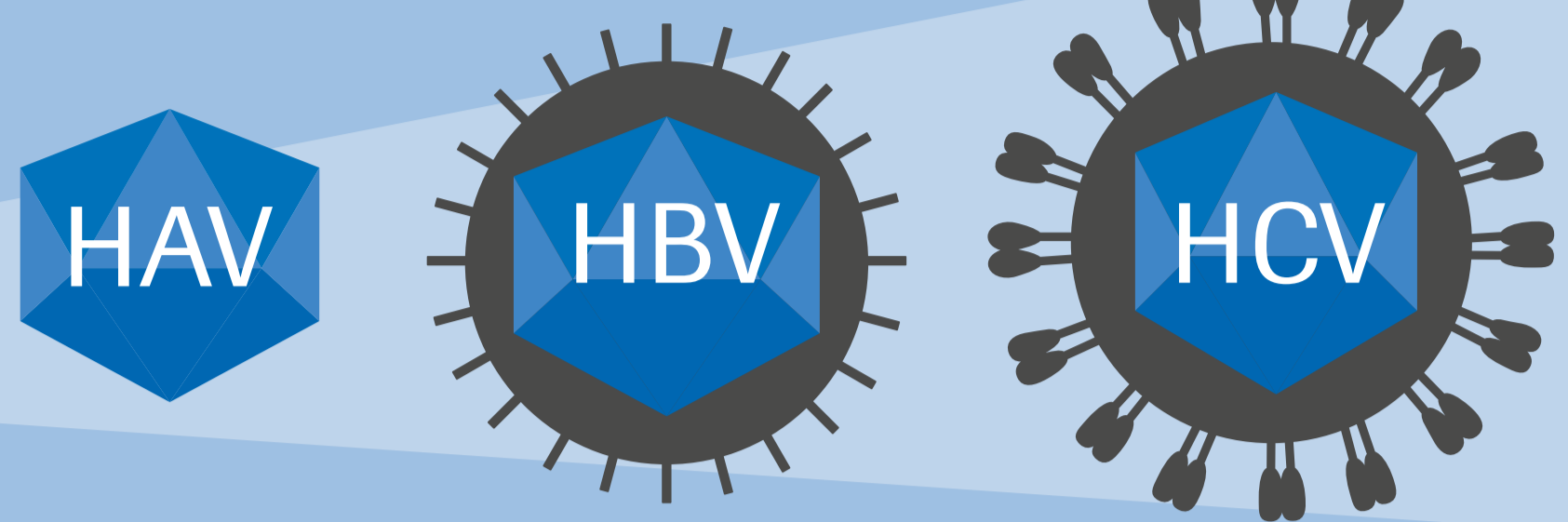
# Diagnosing and monitoring Hepatitis C



Hepatitis means inflammation of the liver and is often caused by a virus.



THESE ARE  
**3 common types**  
of viral hepatitis

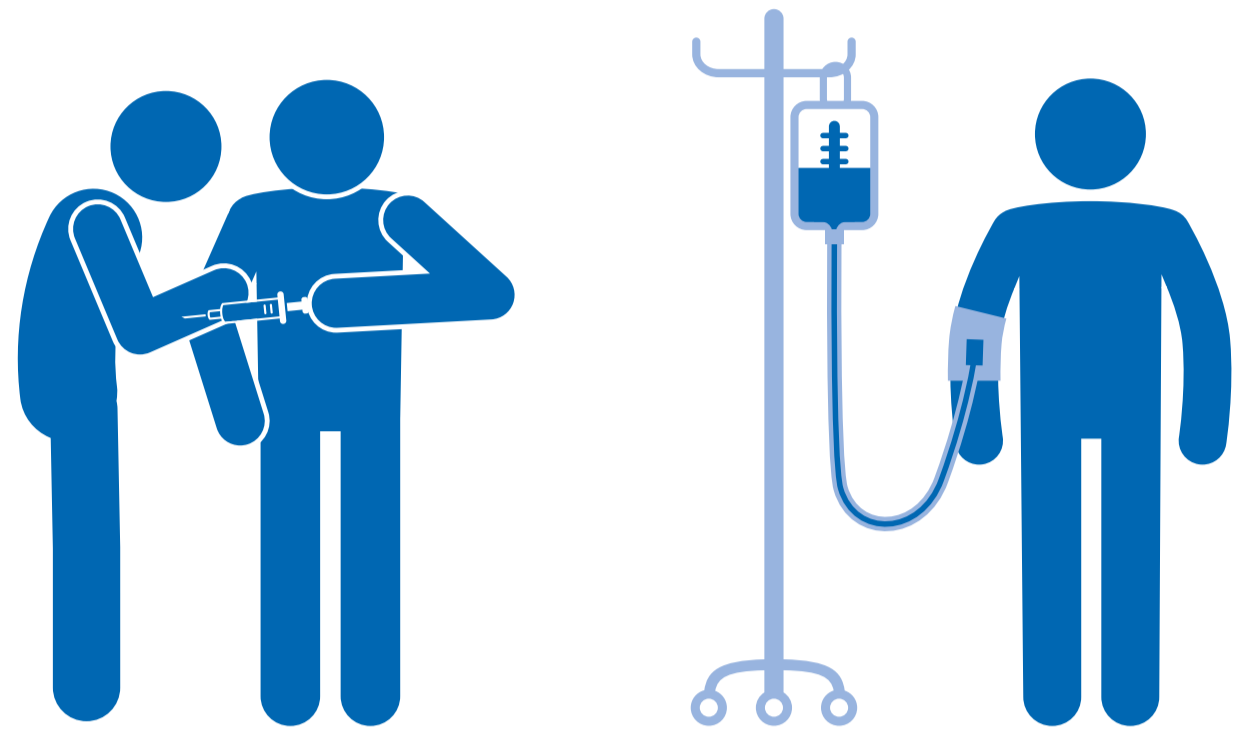


\*There are vaccines for HAV and HBV

## Diagnosing: first step to manage hepatitis C

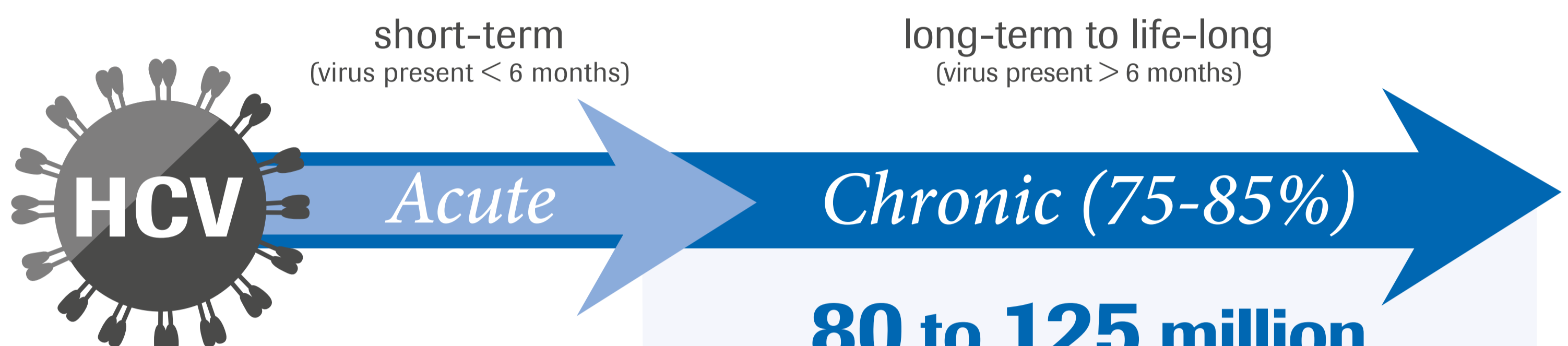
*HCV is transmitted primarily through blood-to-blood contact:*

- injection drug use
- needle stick injury
- blood transfusion
- unsanitary tattooing or piercing
- high risk sexual contacts



WORLDWIDE

**3 to 4 million**  
NEW INFECTIONS  
EACH YEAR



MORE THAN  
**350,000**  
deaths from  
HCV-related  
liver diseases  
each year

**CHRONIC HEPATITIS C:**  
20-30% of people infected  
develop **liver cirrhosis**  
and annually 3-5%  
progress to **liver cancer**

**80 to 125 million**  
people are chronically  
infected with HCV  
(the virus is present in the blood)

HCV  
is the underlying  
cause of

**31 %**  
of

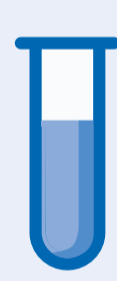
**LIVER CANCERS\***

## Diagnosis



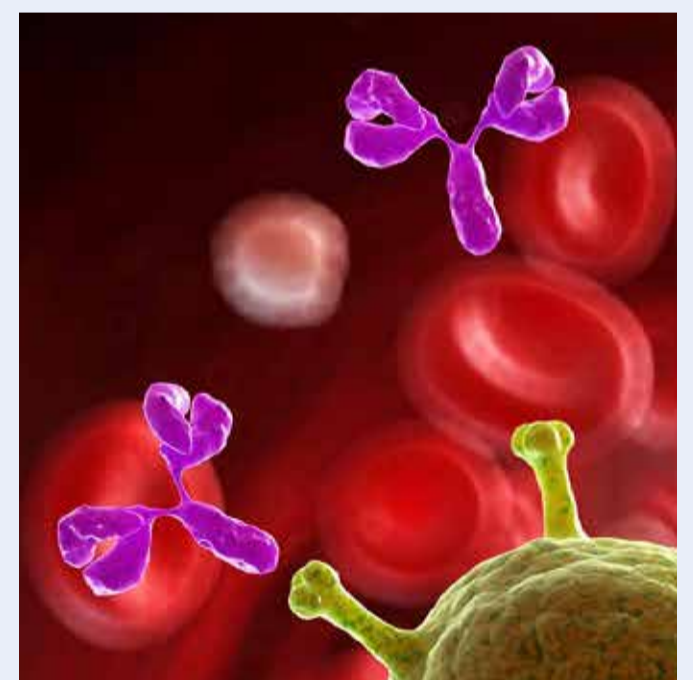
80% of people with HCV do not know that they are infected because they do not have obvious symptoms. However, mild symptoms may include:

- Fever
- Fatigue
- Loss of appetite
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Abdominal pain
- Dark urine
- Joint pain
- Jaundice (yellow color in the skin or the eyes)



**Blood is tested for HCV antibodies**

(Y-shaped proteins recruited by the immune system to identify and neutralize foreign objects like bacteria and viruses).



**If positive:**

Blood is tested for presence of HCV genetic material (RNA) to confirm a current infection.



If virus is present, the HCV genotype is determined through a blood test. There are 6 main HCV genotypes which influence treatment options.



Before start of antiviral treatment, the amount of virus in the blood (viral load) is determined by measuring HCV RNA.

## Monitoring and treatment



**The goal of treatment is to eradicate the virus from the body**

Effectiveness of treatment is determined by monitoring HCV viral load during and after treatment at several time points.

**HCV can be cured with the right treatment plan**

If HCV viral load becomes undetectable, chronic hepatitis C has successfully been cured.

A new class of anti-HCV drugs, direct-acting antiviral agents (DAAs), has revolutionised treatment for chronic hepatitis C, with cure rates of >90% in 8-12 weeks.

Roche introduced the first test to monitor HCV viral load in a person's blood in 1993, which changed the approach to HCV disease management worldwide.

**SOURCES:**

\* Llovet JM et al. (2012) Journal of Hepatology (2012); 56: 908-943  
<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs164/en/>

<http://i-base.info/guides/hepc/monitoring>  
<http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hbv/bfaq.htm> Last accessed July 2016