

Re: should I worry about hepatitis c?

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*Source:* <http://sci.tech--archive.net/Archive/sci.med.diseases.hepatitis/2007-08/msg00010.html>

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- *From:* Paul <[dontspamme@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:dontspamme@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Sun, 05 Aug 2007 17:17:14 GMT
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On Sun, 05 Aug 2007 08:42:03 -0700, daconverter <[seagate1556@xxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:seagate1556@xxxxxxxxxxxx)>, in message ID <1186328523.968874.129970@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>, in the newsgroup sci.med.diseases.hepatitis wrote:

On Aug 4, 9:19 pm, greyhackles <[greyhack...@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:greyhack...@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote:

So, you have two issues you're worried about, yes? Obviously, whether you managed to infect yourself is the big one; but there's also your concern about how this episode reflects on you in the eyes of the administration, if you report what happened (and particularly, that you grabbed a suture needle without using forceps).

Occupational exposures are always accidental mishandling, and I'm not concerned about how I'll be seen by the admin.

But what you think is the likelihood I've been affected with hep c ? I know that the risk for HIV is even lower but should I worry also about HIV?

Like I said, I was suturing up a wound without hemostats and manually touched the sharp end of the suturing needle and passed it from one part of the wound to another. The wound was bloody at the time and the patient had elevated liver enzymes. I checked closely for any tears on my gloves and injuries on my fingers. I didn't find any and I didn't bleed. But I'm worried that the sharp end of the needle could have punctured my gloves and pierced the skin of a finger and caused a little bleeding to the extent where these are not visible to the human eye.

I was also breathed on alot by the patient.

How much should I worry? And suppose that a healthcare worker actually

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does contract HIV or hep c. Would this really put his job on the line ? ( I don't imagine how it could be since it's difficult for a patient to get infected from a provider )

by any chance, were you also ever injured on the job?

Well I reckon that infection sounds very unlikely but worrying is a waste of energy when a blood test will give you the answers you need.