

Chinese Australians are at greater risk of liver cancer from hepatitis B.

If you were born in China and are now living in Australia, you are up to 30 times more likely to get hepatitis B-related liver cancer than other Australians

Here in Australia, there are over 210,000 people living with chronic hepatitis B.

- Hepatitis B is a virus that can lead to liver damage and liver cancer
- In Australia, 70-80% of liver cancers caused by hepatitis B infection are in Asian people

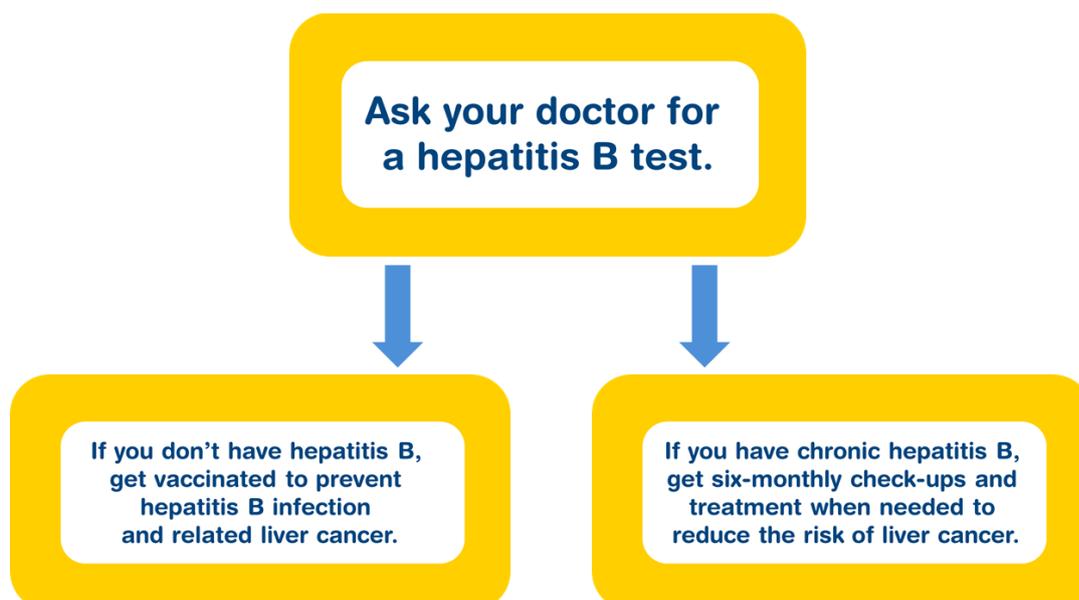
There are easy steps to take to protect you and your family against liver cancer

Quick facts

- Hepatitis B is not transmitted by sharing food or cutlery
- Prevention is the best approach – Vaccination can prevent hepatitis B infection, and hepatitis B related liver cancer
- Most people with chronic hepatitis B do not have any symptoms, yet serious liver damage can still occur
- People with chronic hepatitis B can lead healthy lives. With regular tests every 6 months and treatment when needed, liver cancer can be prevented in the long run

Look after your liver: It's important for you and your family to ask your doctor for a hepatitis B test

Even if you have lived in Australia for many years, it is important for Chinese Australians to:



Hepatitis B is widespread in China and other parts of Asia ([click for Mandarin map](#) / [click for Cantonese map](#) / [click for English map](#)). Over the years hepatitis B infection has been passed silently from generation to generation. This is because hepatitis B is commonly passed on from mother to baby at birth in countries without effective vaccination programs and high rates of hepatitis B. Many Chinese Australians and their children (who may have been born in Australia) also have chronic hepatitis B. It doesn't matter how long you have lived in Australia, it is important to ask your doctor for a hepatitis B test.

Doctors do not include the hepatitis B test in their yearly health check-ups for you.

If you think you have been tested or vaccinated in the past, we still recommend you ask your doctor for a test.

A simple blood test can tell you:

- if you need vaccination
- if you have been vaccinated and are protected
- or if you have chronic hepatitis B and need further care.

Australia has had a free infant vaccination program since 2000. For adults, the hepatitis B vaccine is 3 doses given over 6 months and can protect you for life. Family and people in close contact with someone who has hepatitis B can be vaccinated for free. But vaccination won't protect you if you already have chronic hepatitis B. This is why testing before vaccination is essential.

Read this fact sheet to learn more hepatitis b and liver cancer

[1. Traditional Simplified](#)

[2. Simplified Chinese](#)

[3. English](#)

Where can I get more information?

- Talk to your doctor
- To learn more about liver cancer – [you can read this information \(only in English\)](#) or you can talk to a nurse at Cancer Council Victoria in your preferred language. For an interpreter call 13 14 50 first, and ask the interpreter to contact the Cancer Council Victoria Helpline on 13 11 20.
- For information and support on hepatitis B visit www.hepvic.org.au or call the Hepatitis Infoline on 1800 703 003. For an interpreter call 13 14 50 first.
- For information, support and referral on hepatitis B call the Multicultural Health and Support Service on 03 9418 9929.

Cancer Council Victoria would like to thank the Melbourne Chinese community for participating in focus groups to assist us in the development of content for this website.

Cancer Council Victoria would like to thank the Multicultural Health Support Service for sharing their hepatitis B community service announcements.