

Progetto ESP

Eradication on Special Population

Con il contributo incondizionato di



What is ESP Project?

ESP is a Hepatitis C prevention information and education project completely dedicated to the prison community.

It was designed to inform and sensitize the prison population about the prevention and screening of Hepatitis C, in order to correctly manage the disease by informing them of the appropriate clinical path.

It was conceived to educate and sensitize the prison population on the pathology through information materials on the related risks and on the behaviors to be adopted to avoid contagion.

A hepatitis C screening campaign with rapid capillary tests is planned and adequate information will be provided on the correct management of the pathology and on any clinical path.

In addition to the use of rapid tests, the screening phase will also consist of staging the disease with a non-invasive instrument called Fibroscan which is able to reveal the degree of fibrosis affecting the liver (cirrhosis)

What is Hepatitis C?

Hepatitis C is a liver disease caused by the HCV virus. The way of transmission is that of direct contact with the blood of someone already infected with the virus.

The most common cause of transmission is the promiscuous use of infected needles and syringes that, correctly, would be disposable. Other less common causes of transmission are:

- sharing razors, toothbrushes or nail scissors with infected people;
- accidental contact with infected blood, a situation that mostly affects health workers;
- the execution of tattoos and piercings with non-sterile materials;
- practicing unprotected anal sex with infected partners;
- practicing sexual activity between people with high promiscuity (multiple partners): this increases the risk of contracting various types of venereal diseases, whose mucosal lesions may represent a risk factor for the transmission of hepatitis C. In fact, in the context of monogamous couples stable there is no indication for the use of condoms.

Hepatitis C is not transmitted with:

It is important to know that hepatitis C is not transmitted with:

- Physical contacts such as hugs and handshakes
- Coughing or sneezing
- Sharing toilets, swimming pools and saunas
- sharing the same plate, the same cutlery or the same glass
- The exchange of clothes or with the common washing
- paternal fertilization
- Feeding time

How does c disease develop?

Contrary to other hepatitis, in which the disease hardly becomes chronic, hepatitis C causes with a single acute event in the minority of cases. In fact, only about 30% of people infected with HCV are able to eliminate the virus through the work of their immune system, and this happens in about six months.

The remaining 70% of patients who have contracted the virus do not get rid of the virus itself and develop long-term or chronic HCV infection

What are the symptoms?

Most people with acute and chronic hepatitis C are asymptomatic, that is, they have no obvious symptoms. For this reason, hepatitis C may even take decades before giving clinically relevant manifestations and therefore being diagnosed.

Symptoms include weakness, joint pain, itchy skin, muscle pain, stomach pain and jaundice (the appearance of a yellowish coloration of the skin and ocular sclera).

Who is at risk of contracting Hepatitis C?

Anyone who has been exposed to the blood of infected people is at risk. So a medical consultation should be performed to perform the HCV test:

- if you have also occasionally used disposable syringes or cocaine (cocaine itself does not cause hepatitis but pushes towards risky behavior) in a promiscuous way;
- if you have been subjected to transfusions or organ transplants performed before 1992 or treated with blood-coagulation factors before 1987;
- if you do long-term hemodialysis therapy;
- if you notice a persistent abnormality of liver transaminase ALT levels;
- if you were born of an infected mother;
- if you habitually have unprotected sex with partners at risk or with a history of sexually transmitted diseases;
- if you have had tattoos or piercings with non-sterile needles;
- if you use razors, toothbrushes or other personal items with people infected with HCV.

Have you ever tested for Hepatitis C?

If you've never done it, don't wait any longer!

Today, testing for Hepatitis C is simple and painless, and in just over an hour you will have the result; in addition, the test is performed in total anonymity and confidentiality.

Only you and the doctor will know the result!

Why take the Hepatitis C test?

Because it is a sign of respect for the community and for your family members.

Because today hepatitis C is a disease that can be cured in all cases. To treat hepatitis, specific therapies are available on the market that allow to eradicate the virus and limit the complications of the disease. After a careful evaluation, the specialist will indicate the most appropriate therapy.

How is the test performed?



Clean your finger.

Let it air dry.

Prick your finger with a sterile needle.



Remove the first drop of blood with a sterile gauze tablet.

Fill the collection loop.

After The Test?

After performing the test, if HCV positivity is found, don't worry!

You will enter a diagnostic and therapeutic path dedicated to the ESP project, which involves performing a specific examination called Fibroscan and which is used to assess the degree of fibrosis of the liver (cirrhosis).