

Hepatitis C Caring Ambassadors Program: Exploring Choices in Care. *Session 7*
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Laboratory Tests in Hepatitis C: What Do You Really Need and What Do They Mean?

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Tests: What do I really need?

| LIVER Panel | Normal Limits | Problem if |
|---|----------------------|-------------------|
| Alanine Aminotransferase (ALT) (SGPT) | →25-30 | ↑ |
| Aspartate Aminotransferase (AST) (SGOT) | →25-30 | ↑ |
| Bilirubin (mg/dL) | 1.2 | ↑ |
| Albumin (g/dL) | 3.5-5.0 | ↓ |
| Alkaline Phosphatase | 120 | ↑ |
| Alphafetoprotein | 6.5 | ↑ |
| Prothrombin time (INR) | 0.8-1.2 | ↑ |
| Platelets | 150-400 | ↓ |
| Creatinine | 1.2 | ↑ |

Tests: What do I really need?



| Hep Viral Serology | Status | Interpretation |
|---------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|
| HCV Antibody | + | Probable contact at some time |
| | - | No contact or Pre-seroconversion |
| HCV RIBA | + | Confirms + Ab = HCV contact |
| | - | False Positive HCV Antibody |
| HCV RNA | + | Confirms HCV infection |
| HCV Genotype | | Predictor of Rx response |
| HCV Viral Load | | Predictor of Rx Response (G1) |

Tests: What do I really need?

| Hep Viral Serology | Status | Interpretation |
|---------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| HAV Total Antibody | + | Protected |
| HAV Total Antibody | - | HAV naïve |
| | | |

Vaccination if HAV Antibody negative

Tests: What do I really need?

| Hep Viral Serology | Status | Interpretation |
|--------------------|--------|--------------------------|
| HBV sAg | + | Carrier |
| | - | Not a carrier |
| HBV sAb | + | Protected |
| | - | Not protected |
| HBV cAb | + | HBV encountered sometime |
| | - | HBV naïve |
| | | |

HBV Vaccination if all negative

Radiological Imaging Tests

- USS
 - Size of Liver and Spleen
 - Smoothness of Surface Contour of Liver
 - Hepatic texture: ? Mass lesions
 - Portal Vein Diameter and Portal blood flow.
- Abdo CT (High resolution venous and arterial phase)
 - As above
 - Increased sensitivity for liver mass lesions
- MRI
 - If contrast undesirable eg. due to kidney disease

Liver Biopsy

- If HCV+ and history, clinical examination and lab tests reveal no evidence of cirrhosis -- even if ALT is normal.