

SYMPTOMS OF CHRONIC HEPATITIS C

Clinical symptoms from hepatitis C often do not appear until 10 years or more after infection. In some cases, there are no symptoms until the latest stages of liver disease. Symptoms can often be non-specific and can easily go unnoticed or be attributed to other disorders or life circumstance. Many studies have documented that people with chronic hepatitis C experience impairment of quality of life. Listed below are the most commonly reported symptoms of chronic hepatitis C:

- Fatigue, sometimes debilitating
- Difficulty concentrating
- Anxiety and depression
- Malaise
- RUQ pain
- Nausea and other gastrointestinal symptoms such as indigestion and diarrhoea
- Anorexia
- Night sweats
- Itchy skin
- Xerostomia (dry mouth which can lead to dental caries)

Extrahepatic manifestations of chronic hepatitis C include:

- Porphyria cutanea tarda (PCT)
- Lichen planus
- Pruritus
- Cryoglobulinaemia
- Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (B-cell)
- Glomerulonephritis
- And the immune mediated problems such as
 - Diabetes mellitus
 - Immune thrombocytopenia
 - Autoimmune thyroid disease
 - Lymphadenopathy
 - Joint pain

Information taken from G.C. Farrell (2002) *Hepatitis C other liver disorders and liver health*, Maclennan + Petty: Sydney.