

# Recent Developments in the Story of Hepatitis

## The Disease

A hepatitis (HBV) outbreak linked to tattoo parlors causes New York City to ban these establishments; prohibition is in effect until 1997

The American Liver Foundation is founded by the American Association for the Study of Liver Disease

According to the U.S. CDC, 200,000–300,000 persons become infected with HBV each year in the U.S.

Estimated total number of new HBV cases peaks at 287,000

Estimated total number of new hepatitis C (HCV) cases peaks at 291,000

Singer Naomi Judd is infected with HCV; founds the Naomi Judd Education and Research Fund to raise awareness about HCV

Hepatitis B Foundation is established

4.5 percent of 2,000 Philadelphia firefighters tested for HCV receive positive test results

Poet Allen Ginsberg dies from complications due to liver cancer resulting from HCV infection

Hepatitis A outbreak in Pennsylvania caused by green onions kills three and sickens at least 575 people; other hepatitis outbreaks in Georgia and Tennessee sicken over 300 people

Actress Pamela Anderson announces she has HCV

An estimated 40 million infants and children and 30 million adults in the U.S. have received the HBV vaccine

U.S. CDC estimates that less than 80,000 people are infected with hepatitis B

Asian Liver Foundation launches the Jade Ribbon Campaign to raise awareness about HBV and liver cancer in Asian/Pacific Islander communities

*Newsweek* publishes photos of AIDS activist Larry Kramer, who has hepatitis B; Kramer receives transplant after seven months on the transplant waiting list

U.S. Congress designates May 9–16 first National Hepatitis B Awareness Week

U.S. CDC announces that deaths from HCV are expected to triple over the next 10 years

U.S. CDC estimates 51,000 new HBV infections occurred in 2005

Survey results in New York City reveal that 21% of the Asian-American population tested positive for HBV infection

First World Hepatitis Awareness Day held on October 1

U.S. CDC announces that HBV incidence has declined 79% from 1990 through 2005

U.S. CDC announces that HCV incidence among people aged 25–39 years old declined 92% from 1992 through 2005

## Medical Advances

Baruch Blumberg and Harry Alter discover HBsAg, a serological marker for HBV infection

Mario Rizzetto and John Gerin discover the hepatitis D virus

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HBeAg, a serological marker for hepatitis A (HAV), is discovered and HAV virus is isolated

U.S. laws are passed requiring donated blood to be screened for HBV

Maurice Hilleman and colleagues at Merck begin researching and testing an HBV vaccine made from parts of the virus

ACIP recommends that all pregnant women be tested for HBV

HCV virus isolated and identified

U.S. FDA approves recombinant HBV vaccine

ACIP recommends that all infants born to HBV-positive mothers receive the HBV vaccine and HBV globulin; ACIP also recommends that all pregnant women in high-risk groups be tested for HBV

Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) publishes the first official recommendations on the use of HBV vaccine

A serum-derived HBV vaccine is made available for general use

Wolf Szmuness and colleagues at Merck show that the vaccine provided more than 90 percent protection against HBV

U.S. FDA approves lamivudine for chronic HBV

U.S. FDA approves combined HAV/HBV vaccine for use in people over the age of 18 years

The first HAV vaccine becomes available for general use

First drug to treat HBV, interferon alfa-2b, approved in the U.S.

Effective HCV screening of the blood supply begins

Donated blood in the U.S. is screened for HCV

World Health Organization and ACIP recommend all children receive HBV vaccine

U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approves alfa interferon, the first effective HCV treatment

Donated blood in the U.S. is screened for HCV

U.S. FDA approves entecavir

U.S. FDA approves Peginterferon alfa-2a

U.S. FDA approves telbivudine

More than 40 investigational HBV and HCV treatments in development

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