

Mayo Clinic Minute

Hepatitis C Epidemic

Video	Audio
Vivien Williams	More than 3 million people in the U.S. are living with the hepatitis C virus.
Stacey Rizza, M.D. Infectious Diseases Mayo Clinic	“Hepatitis C has become an epidemic throughout the world.”
Vivien Williams	But, Mayo Clinic infectious diseases specialist Dr. Stacey Rizza says there’s good news. New medication can cure the once hard to treat hep C virus 90 percent of the time. The virus, transmitted by body fluids, attacks the liver.
Stacey Rizza, M.D.	“The virus causes first inflammation in the liver. Eventually, in many patients, it can go on to cause scarring or fibrosis in the liver.”
	After years or decades, hep C can cause cirrhosis, liver failure and even cancer.
Stacey Rizza, M.D.	“So, it is important – that even if people feel absolutely fine – they figure out if they’re hepatitis C infected. If they are, we can treat it now with some of the excellent new medications.”
Viv stand up	So, who should be tested for hep C? The CDC recommends everyone who was born between the years 1945 to 1965.
	Baby boomers are five times more likely to have hep C. A simple blood test can reveal if you have the virus, and, in most cases, medication can cure it. For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I’m Vivien Williams.