

Acute Hepatitis of Unknown Cause



What Parents/Caregivers Need to Know

Acute hepatitis of unknown cause has been found to result in liver swelling in children 16 years of age and younger. Although most children will recover, parents and caregivers still need to be aware of the signs and symptoms and when to seek medical care. Hepatitis is a word used to describe swelling of the liver. There are many causes of hepatitis in children. Causes can be from a virus, infection, toxin, or can be unknown.

This is a rare condition. Most children fully recover and do not need long-term treatment. If your child has severe acute hepatitis of unknown cause, they will need to stay in the hospital. A very small number of children develop complications.

Signs and Symptoms include:

- Yellow eyes or skin
- Diarrhea, nausea and vomiting
- Stomach pain
- Pale stools
- Low energy
- Bleeding of the gums and nose

Call your healthcare provider if your child has these signs and/or symptoms.

If your child has:

- Difficulty waking up or is not responding
- New seizures
- Severe bleeding
- Trouble breathing

Call 911 or go to your local emergency.



Acute hepatitis of unknown cause has been related to lung or stomach infections such as the Adenovirus and COVID-19 virus. If required, your healthcare provider will do testing to check if your child has acute hepatitis of unknown cause.

The COVID-19 vaccine has not been a cause.

If your child has been in contact with a household, school or daycare that has hepatitis and/or the COVID-19 virus and they start to show symptoms, tell your healthcare provider.

If you have any questions, please call your healthcare provider for more information.

