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6831	07.07.2022	13.07.2022	Karnal Haryana	www.tribuneindia.com/English <u>https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/haryana/in-6-</u> <u>months-karnal-reports-384-cases-of-hepatitis-c-</u> <u>410452</u>
Title:	In 6 months, Karnal reports 384 cases of hepatitis C, Haryana			
Action By CSU, IDSP –NCDC	Information communicated to DSU- Karnal, SSU- Haryana			

Cases of hepatitis C and B continue to emerge across the district. Data from the Health Department highlights that as many as 384 cases of hepatitis C and 104 of the hepatitis B have been reported from the district till June 30 this year.

The department is providing free of cost treatment to the patients and has managed to reduce the number of cases, but — as per the authorities – there is still a long way to go as continued efforts to increase awareness about screening, risk factors, treatment and linkage to care remain necessary.

The Health Department had started a treatment centre at the District Civil Hospital in 2018 for hepatitis C and later in December 2020, it started the facility for hepatitis B patients.

In the past 15 months, this centre has treated 72 patients for hepatitis B and 786 for hepatitis C, said Dr Satvinder Singh, Nodal Officer, National Viral Hepatitis Control Programme (NVHCP), at the Civil Hospital.



He maintained that apart from putting them on treatment, they make the patients aware of the cause and the remedies. Besides, screening of the family members as well as immediate contacts is done for timely detection of the chronic disease.

Chronic hepatitis B or C infection can result in potentially life-threatening health outcomes, including liver cirrhosis and liver cancer, he said.

He maintained that people are unaware about the infection and mode of transmission. Both hepatitis B and C are blood-borne and the infection occurs through exposure to blood from unsafe injection practices, use of infected sharp instruments, unscreened blood transfusion, use of injectable drugs, unsafe tattooing, unsafe piercing of ear and nose, contact with blood and other body fluids during sex with an infected partner and from mother to child during birth and delivery, said Dr Singh.

The data says in 2014, 173 cases of hepatitis C were reported in the district, 272 in 2015, 319 in 2016, and 710 in 2017. These cases were referred to PGI Rohtak. Later, the treatment facility was started in Karnal. As many as 1,165 cases of hepatitis C were reported in 2018. Of those, 1,090 were given complete treatment. In 2019, 1,062 cases were reported and 990 of them got treatment. In 2020, 585 cases were reported and 400 were given complete treatment. As many as 650 cases were reported in 2021 and 430 have been given treatment, the data says.

In December 2020, the treatment of hepatitis B was started in Karnal and five cases were reported in that month. So far, 336 cases have been reported. Dr Yogesh Sharma, Civil Surgeon, said all health institutions had been directed to screen the vulnerable population. "We have also made the screening of pregnant women mandatory for the both hepatitis B and C," said the Civil Surgeon.

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