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# HEPATITIS C

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**Abstract** **Original Research Article**

Hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection is to affects a significant public health challenge in global. Hepatitis c is a leading cause of chronic liver disease, cirrhosis, and hepatocellular carcinoma. The long-term occurs of HCV on liver health implies the importance of this issue at both national and international levels. Although antiviral therapies for Hepatitis C was proved to be highly effective, many regions still report low levels of public awareness and screening of infections. These gaps hinder early screening and treatment, contributing to transmission and preventable health complications. Assessing the public's knowledge, awareness, and practices regarding Hepatitis C is main course for developing effective prevention and education initiatives. A clear understanding of these above topics enables health professionals to design programs that can improve awareness, promote screening, and ultimately reduce the misconception of HCV infection.

**Keywords:** Self-rated awareness levels of Hepatitis C, Understanding of early detection and screening benefits, Knowledge about vaccine availability, Vertical transmission, Use of sterile needles, General perceptions regarding treatment outcomes.



## INTRODUCTION

Hepatitis C is the most common global pandemic, caused by hepatitis C virus (HCV), the survey about hepatitis c is to understand the awareness and knowledge of people about the infection. It causes issues in liver leads to chronic liver diseases, cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma if in cases untreated. The main goal is known the people awareness about hepatitis c but mostly there are varying level of awareness in population even though more excellent antiviral therapy available in global. In order to maintain and improve treatment outcomes and to avoid adverse effects, early diagnosis is needed. Public health programs in recent years have focused on increasing awareness, explaining misconceptions and to promote screening programs but the unresolved issues are about availability of vaccine and way of transmission.

The survey results show the self-reported awareness is typically more with 60.4%of participants claiming that they do know more about hepatitis c. A positive assessment of screening utility was pointed out by a large population of respondents more than 80% acknowledge that the early detection through screening improves treatment outcomes. On the other hand 13.9% people mistakenly believe that vaccination exists and 14% of the population are unsure, this is suggesting that there is still misconception about vaccine availability. This survey highlights the importance of continuing for coordinate efforts to educate to overcome the knowledge gap and avoid misconception and improve the prevention measures of hepatitis c virus (HCV).

## METHODS

To determine participants' awareness and understanding of hepatitis c, a cross sectional descriptive survey was used. The study included 102 participants, the survey was multiple choice questions focused on several significant topics, including self rated hepatitis c awareness, knowledge of the benefits of early detection and screening, awareness of vaccination availability and treatment outcome perception. Participants voluntarily gave their opinion and data was collected anonymously. The result was examined using statistics and described response in piechart and percentage. The purpose of the survey was to highlight misconception and awareness gaps to promote public health education attempts.

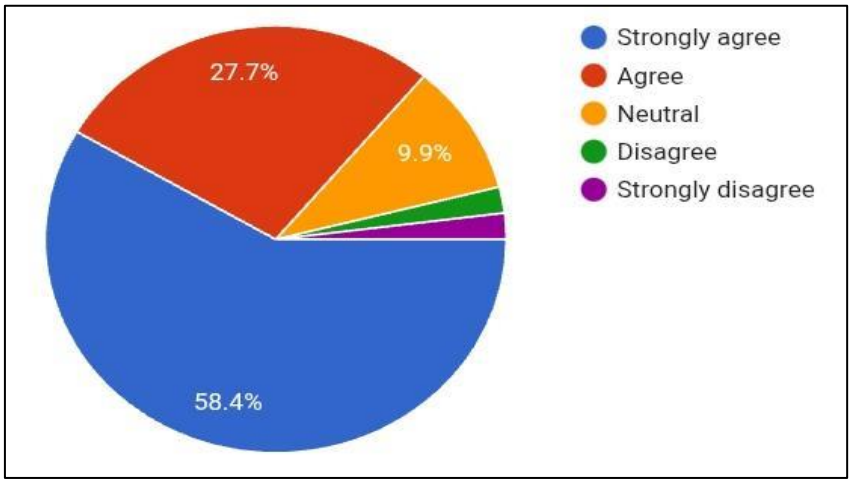
# RESULTS

For the purpose of measuring awareness and knowledge of hepatitis c,102 participants answered the survey. The level of awareness on scale is zero to highly elevated, the participants increased their level of awareness.

1. 60% of participants said they were particularly aware
2. 18.8% participants were quite knowledgeable
3. 12.9% participants were moderately aware
4. Only 5%participants know minimal or nothing about hepatitis c.

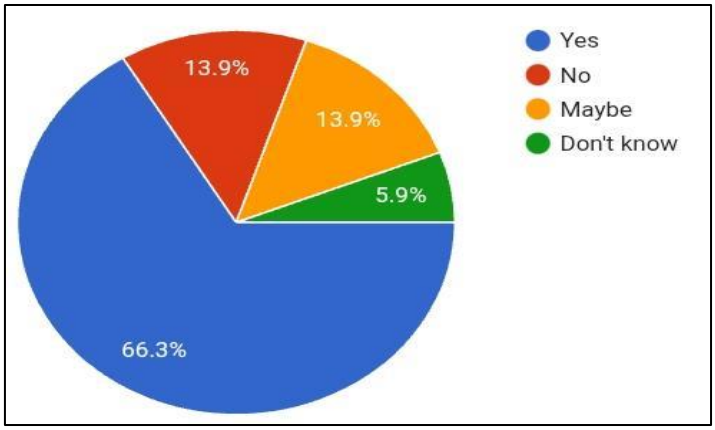
Benefits of early detection, participants are well aware of importance is

1. 58.4% strongly agreed
2. 22.8% agreed that early detection improves the treatment outcomes.
3. 6.9% are disagreed strongly




Vaccination availability, some misleading data about vaccine availability was identified in results.

- 13.9% participants thought there was vaccine for hepatitis c to prevent
- 13.9% were unclear
- 66.4% participants responded correctly for no availability of vaccine.




The results suggest that despite widespread knowledge and understanding of beneficial effects of early detection, and misconception about the availability of vaccines are still present. This highlights the importance of more effective outreach programs aimed at breaking misconception and improving the understanding of hepatitis c prevention.

# DISCUSSION

Over 60% of participants assessed their knowledge of hepatitis c is generally in the position aspect. These high self reported awareness rates are encouraging and suggest that a significant proportion of the population surveyed may be receiving public health information. It is particularly significant in early screening is in Advantage

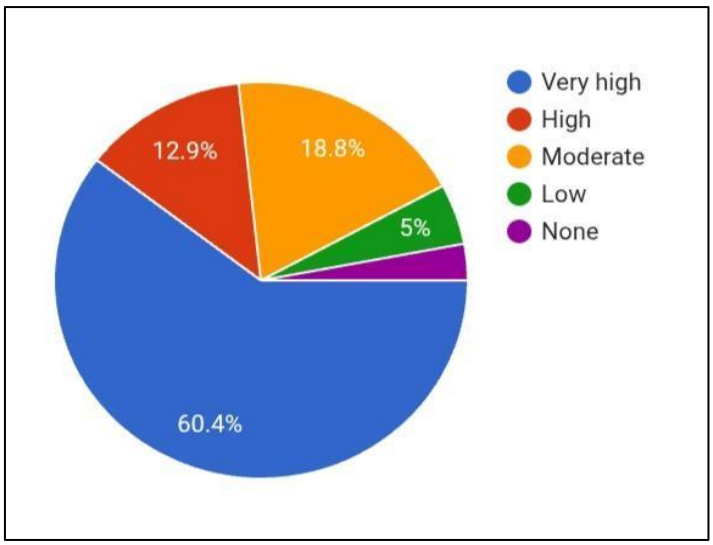
Mostly 81% (58.4% strongly agree,22.8% agree) that screening is useful.

This acknowledgement is consistent with the result of a survey that early detection is essential for both improving therapy success rates and delaying the severances of liver diseases. However, the survey

revealed the important information gaps in the accessibility of vaccines.

Despite the fact that there is no vaccine to prevent hepatitis c at the present movement, over 28% participants said they are thinking there was one or may be not sure. This persisting misconception follows global trends to identify in earlier research and suggest that more important education initiatives are very much required. All of these results indicated that awareness attempts have achieved significant advance, there are still important areas of improvement, especially in explaining the demographic information effect of hepatitis c. The study limitations include its benefits of conversion sample and self reported data. Which might be not typical of the general population.

**Awareness**:




According to the survey participants are well informed about hepatitis c. The majority of participants feel well known about the hepatitis, as shown by the significant 60.4% participants who ranked their knowledge are more likely very high

And 18.8% participants were determined as high. This indicates that the group of participants being questioned has an adequate basis of acknowledgement regarding hepatitis c.

58.4% -strongly agreeing
22.8%- agreeing

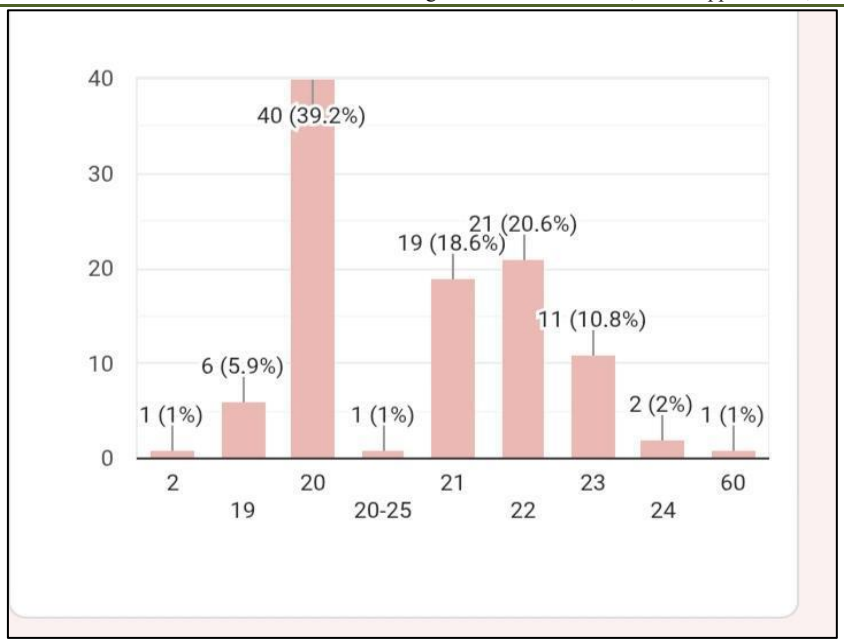
Improve the results, and the study shows that the majority of participants recognize the importance of early detection and screening. Better health seeking improvement and promoting diagnosis are provided by high level of awareness. However, despite these positive indications, several misconceptions present, particularly with availability of vaccine. Nearly 28% participants either thought there was a vaccine or were unsure, despite 66.3% accurately showing there is no vaccine available. Overall survey indicates the although there is a suitable amount of awareness in particular educational need is required despite the misconception and general understanding of hepatitis c.

The majority (39.2%) are in their 20s. The next two highest age groups are 21 (18.6%) and 22 (20.6%). Other ages between 19 and 24 had smaller numbers, with a few outliers (2 and 60 years old). You would cross-analyze survey answers on knowledge questions (such as awareness level, advantages of early screening, and vaccine knowledge) with these age groups to find out which one has the most accurate information regarding Hepatitis C. The results of your current survey concentrate on total replies rather than cross-tabulated data. The general high awareness seen probably reflects the degree of knowledge in this younger adult population, as the majority of responders are between the ages of 20 and 22.

Young participants may be more acknowledged about hepatitis because of easier access to digital information and learning resources. However, without actual cross tabulations it is impossible to access a certain age group.

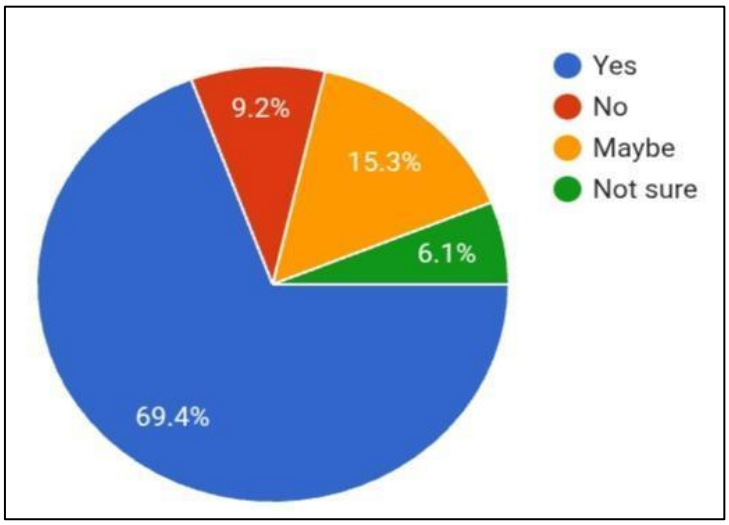
The majority participants in 102 people are mostly young people between 20 and22.

- 18.6% 21 years
- 20.6% 22yr
- 39.2% between 19 to 23




**Vertical transmission**

The survey, which had 102 participants, assessed their knowledge of the chances for vertical hepatitis transmission from mother to child during pregnancy or child birth. The result showed that 69.4% of participants accurately chose yes, acknowledging that a mother diagnosed with hepatitis c can infect her newborn. In comparison,15.3% said that transmission is not a possibility,9.2% said might be and 6.1% are mostly unsure. These results indicate that while most participants are aware of the infection transmission, some participants still have significant lack of understanding.



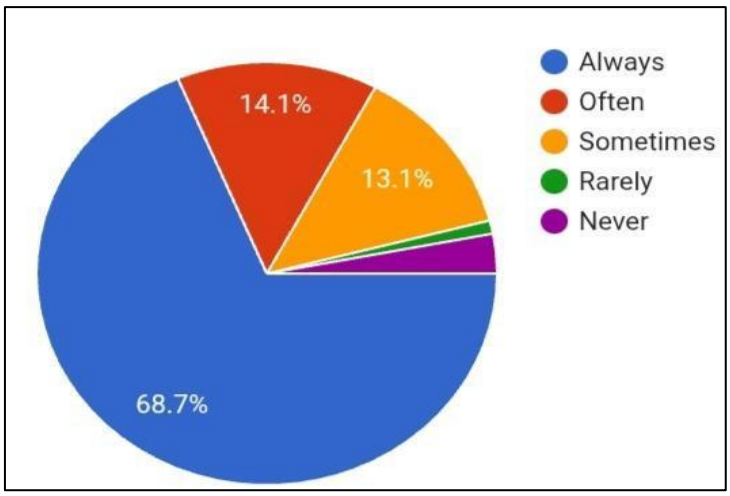

Since the early diagnosis and preventive measures may greatly decrease the risk of infection in babies, raising awareness about vertical transmission is important. Hepatitis C screening needs to be recommended for pregnant mothers because the early diagnosis is more effective medical therapy and monitoring throughout pregnancy and delivery. Transmission risks can also decrease by avoiding needles invasive procedures and being aware of safe delivery techniques. while nursing is generally safe since there are no cracked and bleeding nipples, public health education programs should emphasize the importance of postnatal testing and regular monitoring for infants born to infected mothers. Improving our awareness of these subjects can help lower the amount of new incidents while encouraging improved health for mothers and their children.

**Transmission from needle**

The total 99 participants took part in the survey which was mean to measure knowledge of possibility of Hepatitis c transmission in route of using the unsterilized needles or syringes. using unsterilized injection equipment can spread hepatitis c, according to the results

which shown that a significant majority of participants (68.7%) adequately indicated. However,15.2% of participants said 'no',11.1% said maybe and 5.0%said 'don't know '. These results highlight the ongoing need for health education regarding the risk of Bloodborne infectious disease through showing that while the majority of people are accurately aware of one main method of transmission, a significant portion are uninformed or unclear.

The major global cause of hepatitis c is sharing or reuse of unsterilized needles, syringes, or other equipment, according to medical and public health education such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Center of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Indirect transmission of hepatitis c through even small amounts of contaminated blood may occur since the Bloodborne infectious virus can live outside the body of contaminated surfaces for as many as 6 weeks under specific circumstances. This risk is unlimited to drug use, it can also increase from sharing personal hygiene products that may come into touch with blood and may risk the medical procedures.




A survey question that 99 participants answered assessed their personal safety actions by asking if they always make sure sterile or new needles are used before getting an injection. The results showed that 68.7% of participants said they 'always' check for sterile needles,14.1% said they do check, often;13.1% said they do check, sometimes; an estimated 3.0% said they do it, rarely; 1.0% they never do so. These results show that major participants have a responsible attitude towards injection safety, even though a smaller percentage still neglect to regularly ensure that needles are sterile before using.

Before having an injection, confirm that the needles are sterile. This is the most important preventive measures against Bloodborne infectious diseases which includes HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis c. Medical equipment that has been contaminated can easily spread hepatitis c, particularly when syringes and needles are reused without having been thoroughly sterilized. The World Health Organization WHO indicates that significant numbers of new HCV infections globally each year are caused by ineffective injection procedures.

According to the survey results, participants were aware that personal health habits have a significant increase in how they think about the results of hepatitis c therapy. The vast majority of participants (60.8%) indicated a very high level of knowledge of hepatitis c, which was associated with general positive assessment of the success of therapy. These individuals are generally confident in positive outcomes since they are well aware of availability of direct acting antivirals and their high success rate.

12.9% of participants that were slightly knowledgeable indicated cautious optimism. Though they are aware that there is treatment availability, issues about the duration of course of treatment, potential side effects or access to care can affect their assessment, On the other hand, individuals who know barely about treatment outcomes showed uncertainty, which illustrates how attitudes towards medical investigation are impacted by misconception. Perceptions were also impacted by behavioral changes, a proactive approach to health and preventative care shown by participants consistently confirmed the use of sterile needles prior to injection, which may associated with a more favourable opinion of treatment outcomes. Overall, the results shows a significant association between perception of treatment results, preventative particles, and awareness. They highlight the necessity of specialized education effects and public health programs to raise awareness of hepatitis c treatment.

## CONCLUSION

According to the survey, the majority of participants had a very high level of knowledge regarding hepatitis c, indicating that participants'

awareness of illness was generally very high. This increased awareness of risks of transmission was associated with proactive prevention measures, such as regular check of sterile needles before injections. Participants showed confidence in the effectiveness of current medication, as their general positive evaluation of treatment results, especially among those with high awareness. Participants with moderate or poor responses on the other hand showed a bit of hesitation, highlighting the influence of incomplete knowledge on treatment. All things considered, the results highlight the significance of focusing on health programs to increase knowledge and confidence in hepatitis c therapy. The survey shows that a majority of participants, who were young people between the ages 20 and 22, had an adequate degree of knowledge about hepatitis c.

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