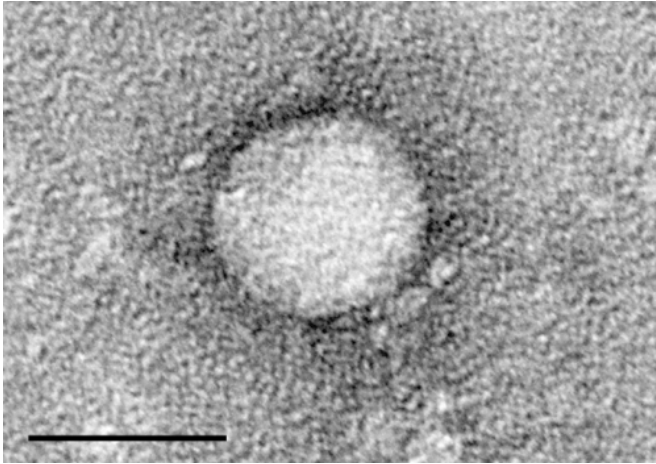


Public health-primary care testing has high uptake, doesn't identify hidden hepatitis C

9 January 2018



More information: Jeanne Heil et al. Detecting Hepatitis B and C by Combined Public Health and Primary Care Birth Cohort Testing, *The Annals of Family Medicine* (2018). [DOI: 10.1370/afm.2166](https://doi.org/10.1370/afm.2166)

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Electron micrographs of hepatitis C virus purified from cell culture. Scale bar is 50 nanometers. Credit: Center for the Study of Hepatitis C, The Rockefeller University.

A strategy to test the general population for hepatitis B and C viruses in areas of high prevalence had high test uptake but did not detect hidden chronic hepatitis C infections.

The study, a public health-primary care collaboration, sought to test individuals between 40 and 70 years of age (n=6,743) in two Dutch hepatitis hotspots.

All [family physicians](#) in the hotspots invited their patients to be tested, with implementation and follow-up by the regional public health service.

Test uptake was higher than expected at 51 percent (n=3,434), however no active/[chronic hepatitis C](#) infections were detected.

This strategy, the authors surmise, could be effective in countries with higher rates of hepatitis or other infectious diseases, but is not recommended for low prevalence countries.

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