

# Screening test for hepatitis B

**Hepatitis B and C are some of the most common infections in the world.**

Both viruses are transmitted by the blood or bodily fluids of an infected person coming in contact with another person's bloodstream, injured skin or mucous membrane, and also sexually. The infections are characterised by a long (up to several months) latency period and a varied clinical picture from asymptomatic carriers to severe jaundice. An infection which is detected early can be kept under control and severe complications (cirrhosis or cancer of the liver) can be avoided. Carriers can be detected by measuring the surface antigen of the hepatitis B virus (HBsAG) or the hepatitis C virus antibodies (HCV Ab).