

For the vaccinated, a classic blood test can underline the amount of anti-hepatitis B antibodies circulating and if it is low, it indicates to undergo a booster. For hepatitis C, on the other hand, direct antiviral drugs have been available for some years now, capable of eradicating the virus in more than 90% of those treated.

Rapid diagnostic tests are available in Italy, where, however, the alarm over the stalemate in efforts worries experts. "After the pandemic, our country is no longer in line with the goal of eliminating hepatitis C by 2030.

We need a relaunch for the spread of vaccines, screening and treatments", said the Scientific Director of the Italian Society of Diseases. infectious and tropical (Simit), Massimo Andreoni. "

### Prevent hepatitis.

Act now "is the slogan launched by the World Health Organization to celebrate Hepatitis Day 2015 all over the world, a moment of reflection and information on this pathology, but above all on the possibilities of prevention and treatment to be implemented. immediately.

This year the event will be launched in Egypt, one of the countries most affected by hepatitis, especially hepatitis C which affects 10% of the population between the ages of 15 and 59. Hepatitis is caused by 5 different viruses



(A, B, C, D and E) and manifests itself as an inflammation of the liver that can lead to serious consequences, such as cirrhosis, fibrosis and cancer. In the majority of cases they are of viral origin, but on some occasions the infection can occur due to autoimmune diseases, or sexually and through infected blood, or even from the abuse of alcohol and drugs.

The WHO estimates that every year 1.45 million people die from hepatitis B and C which in 80% of cases are responsible for serious consequences such as liver cancer and precisely these two particular viruses want to draw the attention of governments and civil society to take action for effective and immediate preventive measures.

Preventing infection is in fact the first of the key messages of the campaign, along with resorting to the use of safe injections; get vaccinated; do tests to detect the presence of the disease and request treatments. It is essential first of all to know the risks associated with infection:

WHO reiterates the need for all health services to use only sterile material for injections and other medical procedures, to test blood donations to verify that it is not infected. and to promote the use of the vaccine against hepatitis B. In this regard, last March the Organization released a specific guideline

on the prevention and treatment of patients with chronic hepatitis B, following the example of what has been achieved by the year earlier with the similar document on screening and therapy for hepatitis C.

And it is no coincidence, moreover, that the date of July 28 was chosen in honor of the birthday of Baruch Blumberg, an American biochemist who died in 2011, awarded the Nobel Prize for discovering the hepatitis B virus and developing the first vaccine.

If we consider that about 2 million patients contract the infection each year due to unsafe injections, the most rational strategy should include, in addition to the use of syringes specially designed to prevent their reuse, also the use of medicines. to be administered orally, where possible. Hepatitis is a topic that, like many other health emergencies, requires a global and rational approach: also for this reason, the

WHO is promoting a world summit to be held from 2 to 4 September in Glasgow, Scotland, in the presence of all. policymakers and patient representatives to address the scientific, social and economic aspects of the management of hepatitis B and C.

We will also discuss the sustainability of innovative treatments for these viral infections and a possible "universal" financing of the related therapies that exceeds the programs vertical nationals. AIFA reminds that the

### Algorithm for the choice of therapy for chronic hepatitis

C is available to patients and healthcare professionals, which has recently been updated with the additional therapeutic schemes relating to the treatment options available (paritaprevir / ombitasvir / ritonavir +/- dasabuvir, daclatasvir, ledipasvir, pegylated interferon, ribavirin, simeprevir, sofosbuvir).

Precisely with a view to correct information and the transfer of adequate knowledge, the algorithm is configured as an IT tool capable of guiding the patient by offering him information, to be shared with his own doctor, on the therapeutic options available and currently reimbursed, leaving to the latter the faculty of choice.

Alongside the algorithm, there are also the AIFA Monitoring Registers for drugs for the treatment of hepatitis C which, for example, in the case of the Sovaldi and Harvoni specialties, made it possible in a few days to verify - between the SSN and the manufacturing company

- the congruity of the number of treatments initiated and therefore to define the first discount bracket in favor of the health service, defined on 23 July on the basis of the price / volume agreement agreed at the time of the negotiation of the drugs in question. For further information, consult the dedicated pages on the WHO website:



Hepatitis A Hepatitis B Hepatitis C Hepatitis E World hepatitis day - 28 July 2015 World Hepatitis Day (WHD), promoted by the World Health Organization, is celebrated on Wednesday 28 July. The day is dedicated to raising public awareness on the burden of viral hepatitis infection in the world. The campaign theme for 2021 is "Hepatitis Cannot Wait" which highlights the need to accelerate efforts to eliminate hepatitis even during the Covid 19 pandemic.