



I have hepatitis C, but I never used drugs or have any other risk factors. How could I have gotten the virus?

August 15, 2016 By [Lucinda K. Porter RN](#)

Approximately 10 percent of people with hepatitis C virus (HCV) have no identifiable source of infection. However, the usual list of [risk factors](#) is by no means complete.

A [recent study](#) in the Lancet revealed that HCV may have been transmitted at substantially high rates prior to 1965 because of medical reasons rather than injection drug use or other behavior-related causes (unsafe tattooing, high-risk sex practices, etc.). At that time, needles and syringes were reused; infection control was not nearly what it is today.

Although not knowing how you got hep C can be frustrating, this may be offset by the fact that hepatitis C infection is now curable. You may not know how you got the virus, but if you are cured, you will know how you got rid of it.

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<http://beta.docker.hepmag.com/article/hepatitis-c-never-used-drugs-risk-factors-gotten-virus>