I just tested positive for hepatitis C, but my liver enzyme tests were normal. Do I have hepatitis C?

March 20, 2018 By Lucinda K. Porter RN

You may or may not have hepatitis C, depending on other test results. If your initial hep C test only screened for antibodies, then it is impossible to know if you have the virus. In order to know for sure, you need a viral load test.

The viral load test detects the actual hepatitis C virus, known as HCV RNA. If the viral load test was done, and your HCV RNA is undetectable, then you don't have hep C. If the viral load test detected HCV RNA, then the result is positive for hepatitis C.

Approximately 20 to 30 percent of people with hepatitis C have normal liver enzymes. Treatment is recommended for everyone with hepatitis C, even if they have normal liver enzymes.

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