

Hepatitis C Biopsy

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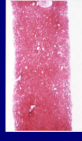
Liver Biopsy

- Most accurate way to stage liver disease
- Best indicator of risk of developing cirrhosis
- Can identify other processes that might impact on treatment plan
 - Co-existing autoimmune hepatitis
 - Excessive fat in the liver
 - Excessive iron in the liver
- Provides a way to monitor disease progression
 - Compare 2 biopsies over 3-5 years

How Do We Assess Severity of HCV on a Liver Biopsy?

- There are a number of different scoring systems that share the following:
 - Grade
 - Amount of inflammation
 - Stage
 - Amount of scarring (fibrosis)

Liver Biopsies: Fibrosis Stage



No Fibrosis



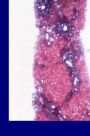
Stage 1—Fibrous expansion of some portal areas



Stage 3—Fibrous expansion of most portal areas with occasional portal to portal bridging



Stage 4—Fibrous expansion of portal areas with marked bridging (portal to portal and portal to central)



Stage 6—Cirrhosis, probable or defined

Which Patients with HCV Should Get a Liver Biopsy?

- Any time there is clinical concern about early cirrhosis or a concurrent cause of liver disease
- Genotype 1 infection
 - Useful for making treatment decisions
- Genotype 2 or 3
 - Reasonable to treat without a biopsy

How Do We Diagnose and Characterize HCV Infection?

- Antibody test
- Measure virus level in the blood
- Genotype
- Liver biopsy
 - Asses degree of inflammation and scarring