

Follow-up tests and description

You should have regular blood tests (usually six monthly) to check if the hepatitis B virus is causing inflammation or cancer of the liver and whether you need treatment to manage this. You may not experience symptoms from the virus but that does not mean no liver damage is occurring. Regular blood tests may detect damage to your liver early and allow for treatment before you feel sick.

HBV (Hepatitis B virus) Tests	Description
HBsAg (Hepatitis surface antigen)	Positive in chronic HBV infection (lifelong) and acute HBV infection (short term infection). Two tests 6 months apart indicates a chronic HBV infection.
anti HBc (core antibody)	When positive, shows past or current infection (the body retains the core antibody even when your HBsAg is negative).
HBeAg (Hepatitis e antigen)	When positive, shows active viral replication. Measures infectivity of chronic hepatitis B.
HBV DNA Quantitative	Counts viral particles present in blood. Measures infectivity (viral load) even if HBeAg result is negative.

LFT (Liver Function Tests)	Description
ALT (alanine amino transferase) <i>Normal range: 0-40</i>	A liver enzyme that may be detectable at higher than normal levels in the blood during chronic hepatitis (CH). Indicates liver cell damage/inflammation.
GGT (gamma glutamyl transferase) <i>Normal range: 0-60</i>	Commonly raised in chronic liver damage, may be due to excessive alcohol intake, some medications, diabetes or working with solvents. May also be a sign of damage to the bile duct cells.
AST (Aspartate amino transferase) <i>Normal range 0-50</i>	Less specific than ALT in diagnosis of liver disease (can indicate a fatty liver).
Bil (Bilirubin) <i>Normal range: 0-20</i>	May be elevated in established cirrhosis, acute hepatitis or severe exacerbation of liver disease. Can indicate early signs of liver cirrhosis (scarring) if elevated and in conjunction with other test results.
Alb (Albumin) <i>Normal range: 34-48</i>	Liver Protein test – elevation can indicate liver cirrhosis or kidney disease.

Tumor Marker	Description
AFP (alpha fetoprotein) <i>Normal range: <15</i>	A liver protein that may detect early stages of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC-liver cancer). Pregnant women will also show a raised AFP.