

Hepatitis B

Seroconversion of hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg)

What is HBsAg-seroconversion?

HBsAg-seroconversion is when you have cleared hepatitis B and it is not detected in your blood (HBsAg is negative or not detected)

HBsAg-seroconversion

About one percent of people with hepatitis B will spontaneously HBsAg-seroconvert every year in adulthood. Seroconversion means losing HBsAg – a person's serology changes from HBsAg-positive to negative.

Once they are HBsAg-negative, they are cured and immune from further infection (they will be HBsAb-positive and HBeAb-positive).

Both males and females under the age of 50 who HBsAg-seroconvert will be discharged from monitoring, as their risk of subsequent

complications is extremely low.

People who seroconvert over these ages may still be at risk of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC), although this risk is reduced compared to being HBsAg-positive.

The Hepatitis Foundation of New Zealand will monitor these people, including those who are at high risk of HCC due to family history and/or who have cirrhosis, with blood tests (LFT and AFP) every six months indefinitely.

HBsAg becomes negative

High-risk: Cirrhosis or family history of HBV-related HCC



Continue monitoring blood tests indefinitely

HBsAg-seroconversion at:
<50 years old (male)
<50 years old (female)



Discharge from monitoring blood tests

HBsAg-seroconversion at:
>50 years old (male)
>50 years old (female)



Continue monitoring indefinitely

*Six-monthly liver function tests (LFTs) and alpha-fetoprotein (AFP)
12-monthly full blood count (FBC)



The Hepatitis Foundation of New Zealand
PO Box 647, Whakatane 3158

Phone: 0800 33 20 10
Fax: (07) 307 1266
Email: hepteam@hfnz.nz
Web: www.hepatitisfoundation.org.nz