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. Seroconvert means losing HBsAg – their serology changes from HBsAg positive to negative.

Once they are HBsAg negative it means they are cured and immune from further infection (they will be HBsAb-positive and HbcAb-positive).

Females who HBsAg seroconvert under age 50 and males who do so under 40 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 (although it is a reduced risk compared to being HBsAg positive) of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC).

The Hepatitis Foundation will monitor these people with blood tests (LFT and AFP) every six months for five years. The exception is those with a first-degree relative with HCC. Such people are kept on long-term monitoring regardless of the age of HBsAg seroconversion.

HBsAg becomes negative

| High risk: Cirrhosis (family history of HBV-related HCC) | Continue monitoring blood tests indefinitely |
| <40 (male) <50 (female) | Discharge from monitoring blood tests |
| >40 (male) >50 (female) | Continue monitoring for five years (may be longer on a case-by-case basis). |

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

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