

A BRIEF HISTORY OF

HEPATITIS RESEARCH

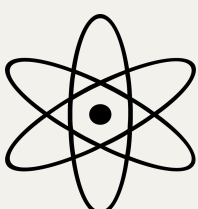
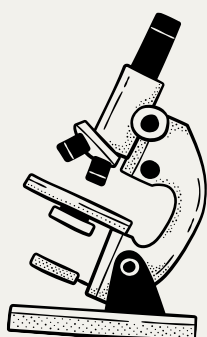
THE 20TH CENTURY SAW A RISE IN MEDICAL DISCOVERIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS. LET'S TAKE A LOOK AND SEE HOW IT IMPACTED HEPATITIS RESEARCH THROUGHOUT THE AGES.

1900-1919

1908: The link between jaundice and a virus is hypothesised by S. MacDonald.

1912: The word 'Hepatitis' becomes medical terminology.

Late 1910s: Due to poor conditions during World War I there was an outbreak of Hepatitis among soldiers.



1950-1959

1953: Hepatitis can now be reported.

Research into Hepatitis diseases led to major innovations throughout the 1900s in vaccine science. Hepatitis vaccines become the first of its kind to be derived from plasma and to be created through genetic engineering techniques.



1970-1979

1973: Hepatitis A can now be identified and isolated by scientists.

1975: Non A and B type Hepatitis is discovered.

1976: The Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine is awarded to Baruch S. Blumberg and D. Carleton Gajdusek for their research on Hepatitis B.

1977: Hepatitis D is discovered.

1978: Hepatitis E is discovered.



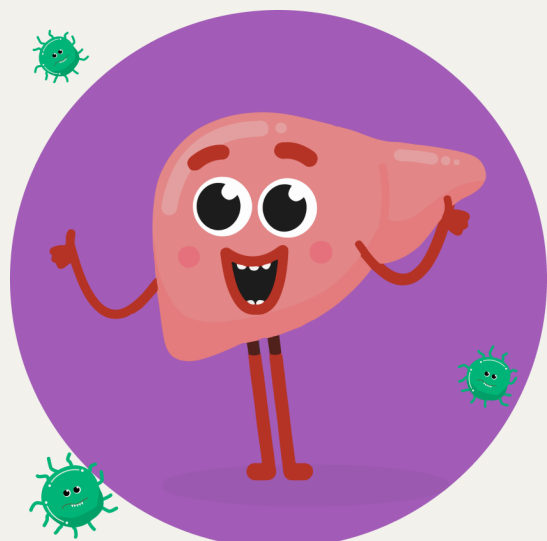
1990-1999

1992: Routine blood screenings for Hepatitis start to take place, before blood transfusions.

1992: A vaccine for Hepatitis A is formulated.

1993: The Hepatitis A vaccine is introduced in Victoria, Australia.

1996: Hepatitis G is discovered. From the late 20th Century on, new types of Hepatitis viruses have been identified as research continues.

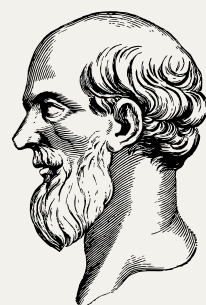
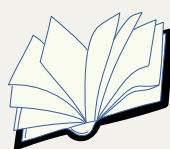


EARLY HISTORY

Prehistoric Era: According to research conducted in 2013, the first identified species to be infected with Hepatitis may have been prehistoric birds, who transferred the virus to mammals, millions of years ago.

Ancient Sumeria: Clay paintings are said to depict the oldest description of jaundice in history. In Ancient Sumerian culture, the liver was considered the sight of the soul and hence sickness of the liver was connected to the mythological devil, Ahhazu.

Classical Greece: Ancient physician Hippocrates was one of the first to clinically describe the signs of viral jaundice.



1940-1949

Early 1940s: In World War II, due to the Yellow Fever vaccines and blood transfusions, many soldiers were infected with Hepatitis.

1940s: Two Hepatitis strains, A and B, are identified.



1960-1969

1965: Hepatitis B is discovered, aided by the identification of the 'Australia antigen' or HBsAg surface antigen. This would lead the researchers to win the Nobel Prize for Medicine or Physiology in 1976.

1967: The first successful liver transplant was performed by the physician, Doctor Thomas E. Starzl. For some patients with Hepatitis conditions, a liver transplant can be a treatment option.

1969: The first vaccine for Hepatitis B is created.



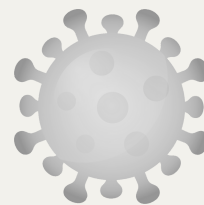
1980-1989

1980: Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Diseases (NAFLD) is discovered.

1983: The first Hepatitis B vaccine is introduced in Victoria, Australia.

1987: Hepatitis B vaccines become available to adults and neonates in Victoria, Australia.

1989: Hepatitis C is discovered. This would lead the researchers to win the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine in 2020.



2000+

2000: In Australia, the Hepatitis B birth-dose vaccine is introduced.

2010: In honour of Baruch S. Blumberg July 28th, his birthday, marks World Hepatitis Day. Doctor Blumberg dedicated his life to Hepatitis B research and won the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1976.

2010s: Self-testing technology for certain Hepatitis viruses become widely available.

2012: In China a vaccine is approved against Hepatitis E. Yet it is not available in Australia as the virus is not prevalent here.

2018: An excavation and genome sequencing project found, in ancient skeletons, an early example of the Hepatitis B virus infecting humans.

2020: The Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine is awarded to Harvey J. Alter, Michael Houghton and Charles M. Rice for their discovery of Hepatitis C.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF HEPATITIS RESEARCH REFERENCES

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