

Hepatitis C is an inflammation of the liver that can progress to advanced liver disease over a long period of time.

After becoming infected with the hepatitis C virus, a person's liver continually worsens. What starts as a healthy liver, begins to be covered with scar tissue. If untreated, the liver becomes worse.

Think of a cut on your skin. If you receive more cuts in the area of the original cut, as well as on top of the first cut, soon the skin will be a mass of scars.

This is what happens to a person's liver. A patient's healthy functioning liver cells are replaced with either non-functioning and scarred cells or dead cells. After a period of scarring, a liver can reach fibrosis, where the majority of the liver is covered with scars. Over a long period of time, a hepatitis C patient can develop cirrhosis where almost all of the liver is covered with hard scars.

Genentech

A Member of the Roche Group

Genentech USA, Inc.
1 DNA Way
South San Francisco,
California 94080-4990

Copyright © 2010 Genentech USA, Inc. All Rights Reserved.