

What this Means for Patients

The issue of routine screening for hepatitis in patients about to undergo chemotherapy has been unresolved for some time. This new provisional clinical opinion from ASCO summarizes the existing evidence and provides practicing oncologists with the practical guidance needed to engage their patients in shared decision-making, said Charles Penley, MD, Immediate Past Chair, ASCO Clinical Practice Committee.

Talk with your doctor about how to proceed with HBV testing given your current health, current or past HBV infection or exposure, and cancer treatment plan. Preventing reactivation with HBV, which could result in liver failure, is a potential benefit of the HBV test. Some potential harms of this test are that it may result in a delay of beginning chemotherapy, the possibility that antiviral medication could interfere with chemotherapy, and any costs to the patient and doctors from performing the test and evaluating the results.

For More Information

[Understanding Chemotherapy \[1\]](#)

[Talking With the Doctors and Nurses \[2\]](#)

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Links:

[1] <http://www.cancer.net/node/24723>

[2] <http://www.cancer.net/node/25188>