



# DID YOU KNOW? HEPATITIS B



## GENERAL FACTS

- Hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection is a major, global, public health problem.<sup>1</sup>
- HBV is the 10th leading cause of death worldwide.<sup>2</sup>
- 2 billion people have been infected worldwide (approximately 1/3 of the world's population) and 350 million of them are chronic carriers.<sup>1</sup>
- HBV is 50-100 times more infectious than HIV.<sup>1</sup>
- 90% of infants infected during the first year of life develop chronic hepatitis B infection.<sup>1</sup>
- 30-50% of children infected between one and four years of age develop chronic hepatitis B infection.<sup>1</sup>
- HBV is widespread in Africa, South East Asia, the Amazon Basin in South America, and Eastern and Central Europe.<sup>1</sup>
- HBV infection can go undetected for many years.<sup>3</sup>

## TRANSMISSION<sup>1</sup>

- Transfer of the virus from an infected woman to her newborn during the delivery process
- Direct blood-to-blood contact
- Sexual contact
- Child-to-child transmission
- Unsafe injections and transfusions
- Use of un-sterile needles

## DISEASE PROGRESSION

- HBV infection generally causes only mild, non-specific symptoms until the disease is far advanced so many people do not realize they are infected and at risk for serious liver disease.<sup>3</sup>
- Chronic HBV infection causes chronic inflammation and scarring of the liver, ultimately leading to cirrhosis, liver cancer and/or liver failure.<sup>1</sup>
- HBV is the leading cause of liver disease globally and causes up to 80% of the world's primary liver cancer.<sup>2</sup>
- The incidence of liver cancer (hepatocellular carcinoma, or HCC) has increased worldwide and is now the 5th most frequent cancer, killing more than 500,000 people each year.<sup>2</sup>

## HEPATITIS B: THE NUMBERS

About 1.2 million people die each year (equivalent to 115 deaths/hour) from liver cancer or liver failure caused by chronic hepatitis B infection.<sup>2</sup>

### WORLDWIDE

350 million	Worldwide – chronically infected <sup>1</sup>
1.2 million	Worldwide deaths per year from HBV-related chronic liver disease <sup>2</sup>

### UNITED STATES

~ 1.25 million	Americans chronically infected <sup>4</sup> Asian and Pacific Islanders make up more than half of this number <sup>5</sup>
~ 37,000	Americans treated <sup>6</sup>
5,000 – 6,000	Americans die of HBV-related illnesses annually <sup>3</sup>
~ 73,000	Americans newly infected in 2003 <sup>3</sup>

### EUROPE

0.1% – 8%	Prevalence of chronic HBV in regions of Europe; Northwestern Europe to Eastern/Southern Europe, respectively. <sup>7</sup>
~ 57,000	Europeans treated <sup>6</sup> (France, Germany, Italy, Spain, U.K.)

### DISEASE PROGRESSION

10%-20%	Of chronic HBV patients develop liver cancer <sup>2</sup>
25%	Of chronic HBV patients will die from chronic active hepatitis, cirrhosis or primary liver cancer <sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup>World Health Organization – Fact Sheet, <sup>2</sup>Lavanchy, D. Journal of Viral Hepatitis, March 2004, <sup>3</sup>Center for Disease Control – Frequently Asked Questions, <sup>4</sup>CDC- Fact Sheet, <sup>5</sup>101st Congress US Senate Resolution 117 – designating the week of May 9, 2005 as 'National Hepatitis B awareness Week' Available at [Thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c109:S.RES.117.ATS](http://Thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c109:S.RES.117.ATS) Accessed 12/16/05, <sup>6</sup>Decision Resources. Hepatitis B October 2003, <sup>7</sup>Robert Koch Institute. Epidemiologisches Bulletin. 18. November 2005 / Nr. 46



For More Information: email [Idenix@Idenix.com](mailto:Idenix@Idenix.com) | [www.idenix.com](http://www.idenix.com)