

The Six Clinical Stages of CHB Infection

<u>HBeAg Positive</u>	
Immune Tolerant	May present up to the third decade of life. Usually asymptomatic, normal ALT values, HBV DNA levels range from 2,000,000 to 200,000,000,000 iu/ml ($10^7 - 10^{12}$ copies/ml). Liver biopsy or elastography findings of minimal or no fibrosis. ^a Little or no progression after 5 years follow-up. ^{b,c}
Chronic Hepatitis	May present with or without symptoms, elevated ALT values, HBV DNA 20,000 to 20,000,000 iu/ml ($10^5 - 10^8$ copies/ml). Liver biopsy shows acute necroinflammation and moderate to advanced fibrosis.
Cirrhosis	Usually present in fourth to fifth decade of life, elevated ALT values, HBV DNA 20,000 to 2,000,000 iu/ml ($10^5 - 10^7$ copies/ml). May have decreased albumin levels and low platelet counts.
<u>HBeAg Negative</u>	
Low Replication Stage (i.e. inactive carrier)	Normal ALT value, HBV DNA ≤ 2000 iu/ml ($\leq 10^4$ copies/ml). Prognosis good. However, reversion to active liver disease may occur.
Chronic Hepatitis	Characteristics similar to HBeAg positive chronic hepatitis patients.
Cirrhosis	Characteristics similar to HBeAg positive cirrhosis patients.

*Reversion to active liver disease may occur at any stage of HBV infection.

^a Kao JH, Chen DS. Critical analysis of the immune tolerance phase of chronic HBV infection: Natural history and diagnoses. *Curr Hepatol Rep* 2008;7:5-11.

^b Yim HJ, Lok AS. Natural history of chronic hepatitis B virus infection: what we knew in 1981 and what we know in 2005. *Hepatology* 2006; 43(2 Suppl 1):S173-S181.

^c Hui CK, Leung N, Yuen ST, et al. Natural history and disease progression in Chinese chronic hepatitis B patients in immune-tolerant phase. *Hepatology* 2007;46:395-401.

Predictions of Progression in CHB patients

HBeAg	Used as a surrogate marker for high levels of serum HBV DNA. HBeAg has been reported to be a risk factor for chronic hepatitis, cirrhosis, and HCC. ^{a,b,c}
HBV Genotype	Genotype C is predictive of non chemical outcomes and HCC development. ^{d,e,f,g} Genotype B is associated with HCC in younger Taiwanese patients and in older Japanese patients.
HBV-DNA	A linear relationship between progression to cirrhosis and to development of HCC in Taiwanese ^{h,i,j} . The rate of progression to cirrhosis increased with increasing levels of HBV DNA starting from 2000 iu/ml (10 ⁴ copies/ml). Also the incidence of HCC increased from 1.3% for HBV DNA < 60 iu/ml (< 300 copies/ml) to 14.9% for HBV DNA levels ≥ 200,000 iu/ml (≥ 10 ⁶ copies/ml)
BCP Mutants	BCP mutants were detected more frequently in HCC patients with high HBV DNA levels and Genotype C. ^{e,g,k} The BCP mutants was associated with an increased risk for disease progression and development of HCC in both genotypes B and C patients. ^{e,f}
PC Mutants	PC Mutants are most often detected in HBeAg negative CHB patients. ^{c,d,e,f,g,i,k,l,m} PC mutants are associated with ALT elevations, increased HBV DNA levels, and persistent hepatic necroinflammation.
AFP	Elevated AFP levels during ALT flares, in the absence of HCC, were detected in CHB patients who progressed to cirrhosis and may be used as a marker for antiviral therapy.

HBeAg: Hepatitis B “e” antigen

HBV: Hepatitis B virus

HBV DNA: Hepatitis B virus deoxyribonucleic acid

BCP: Basal core promoter

PC: Precore

AFP: Alpha-fetoprotein

^a Lin CL, Liao LY, Liu CJ, et al. Hepatitis B viral factors in HBeAg negative carriers with persistently normal serum alanine aminotransferase levels. *Hepatology* 2007;45:1193-1198.

^b Yang HI, Lu SN, Liaw YF, et al. Hepatitis B e antigen and the risk of hepatocellular carcinoma. *N Engl J Med* 2002;347:168-174.

^c Chen CJ, Yang HI. Natural history of chronic hepatitis B REVEALed. *J Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2011;26:628-638.

^d Chan HL, Hui AY, Wong ML, et al. Genotype C hepatitis B virus infection is associated with an increased risk of hepatocellular carcinoma. *Gut* 2004;53:1494-1498.

^e Liu CJ, Chen BF, Chen PJ, et al. Role of hepatitis B viral load and basal core promoter mutation in hepatocellular carcinoma in hepatitis B carriers. *J Infect Dis* 2006;193:1258-1265.

^f Kao JH, Chen PJ, Lai MY, Chen DS. Basal core promoter mutations of hepatitis B virus increase the risk of hepatocellular carcinoma in hepatitis B carriers. *Gastroenterology* 2003;124:327-334.

^g Tong MJ, Blatt LM, Kao JH, Cheng JT, Corey WG. Basal core promoter T1762/A1764 and precore A1896 gene mutations in hepatitis B surface antigen-positive hepatocellular carcinoma: a comparison with chronic carriers. *Liver Int* 2007;27:1356-1363.

^h Chen CJ, Yang HI. Natural history of chronic hepatitis B REVEALed. *J Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2011;26:628-638.

ⁱ McMahon BJ. The natural history of chronic hepatitis B virus infection. *Hepatology* 2009;49:S45-S55.

^j Liew Y, Tai D, Chen T, et al. Alpha-fetoprotein changes in the course of chronic hepatitis: relation to bridging hepatic necrosis and hepatocellular carcinoma. *Liver* 1986;6:133-137.

^k Loomba R, Liu J, Yang HI, et al. Synergistic effects of family history of hepatocellular carcinoma and hepatitis B virus infection on risk for incident hepatocellular carcinoma. *Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2013;11:1636-1645.e1-3. doi: 10.1016/j.cgh.2013.04.043.

^l Tong MJ, Huynh TT, Siripongsakun S, et al. Predicting clinical outcomes in patients with HBsAg-positive chronic hepatitis. *Hepatol Int* 2015;9:567-577.

^m Beasley RP, Hwang LY, Lin CC, Chien CS. Hepatocellular carcinoma and hepatitis B virus. A prospective study of 22 707 men in Taiwan. *Lancet* 1981;2:1129-1133.

Treatments for Hepatocellular Carcinoma

1) Surgery

- a) Resection
- b) Liver Transplantation

2) Interventional Radiology

a) Percutaneous Ablative Techniques

- 1) Ethanol
- 2) Radiofrequency
- 3) Microwave
- 4) Irreversible electroporation

b) Transcatheter Techniques

- 1) Chemoembolization
- 2) Drug eluting beads
- 3) Yttrium – 90

3) Oncology

- a) Chemotherapy
- b) Immunotherapy

Summary of Published Guidelines and Algorithms for Treatment for HBV Infection

	HBeAg Positive			HBeAg Negative			Compensated Cirrhosis		Decompensated Cirrhosis	
	HBV DNA	ALT	Histology	HBV DNA	ALT	Histology	HBV DNA	ALT	HBV DNA	ALT
EASL Guidelines 2017	>2,000 IU/mL	> ULN	Mod G/Mod F	>2,000 IU/mL	> ULN	Mod G/Mod F	Detectable	NA	Detectable	NA
	>2,000 IU/mL	< ULN	Mod G/Mod F	>2,000 IU/mL	< ULN	Mod G/Mod F				
APASL Guidelines 2012	>20,000 IU/mL	> 2x ULN	NA	>2,000 IU/mL	> 2x ULN	NA	>2,000 IU/mL	NA	NA	NA
AASLD Guidelines 2015	>20,000 IU/mL	> 2x ULN	NA	>2,000 IU/mL	> 2x ULN	NA	Detectable	NA	NA	NA
US Algorithm 2015	>2,000 IU/mL	> ULN	NA	>2,000 IU/mL	> ULN	NA	Detectable	NA	Detectable	NA

ULN: Upper limits of normal

NA: Not applicable

Mod G: Moderate grade of inflammation

Mod F: Moderate fibrosis

Type and Definition of Responses to Treatment for HBV Infection

Types	Alternative Terms	Definition
Virological Response		Undetectable HBV DNA by a sensitive PCR (20 IU/mL)
Primary Non-Response		< 1 log HBV DNA (IU/mL) decline from baseline at 3 months of treatment
Partial Response	Sub-Optimal Response	> 1 log decline, but detectable HBV DNA (IU/mL) after at 3 months of treatment
Secondary Non-Response	Virological Breakthrough	> 1 log increase from the nadir HBV DNA(IU/mL) level while on therapy in compliant patients
HBV Resistance	Anti-HBV Virological Resistance	Development of selected HBV variants with ammino acid substitution and reduced susceptibility to the same NA therapy
Virological Rebound	Relapse	Increase in serum HBV DNA to >20,000 IU/mL or above pre-treatment baseline level after achieving virological response, during continued therapy