What is it and why is it important?
- A viral infection that can cause liver inflammation, liver scarring (cirrhosis), liver cancer, and liver failure.
- Up to 65% of infected individuals are not aware of their infection.
- 30-40% of people with chronic (long lasting) infection will develop cirrhosis or cancer.
- Chronic infection occurs in 95% of infected infants but only 5% of infected adults.

What are the symptoms?
- Most chronically infected people have no symptoms at all until they develop symptoms of liver failure.
- Initial infection can sometimes be associated with fever, fatigue, nausea, abdominal pain, yellow eyes and skin, dark urine.

Disease Burden:
- 240 million people have hepatitis B worldwide.
- Hepatitis B causes nearly 800,000 deaths per year.
- ~19,000 people newly infected every year in the U.S.
- ~850,000-2.2 million people in the U.S. are chronically infected with hepatitis B.

Risk Factors: You should be tested if:
- You or your parents were born in areas where hepatitis B is common.
- Your immune system is impaired (due to medicine or disease).
- You are pregnant.
- You have been exposed to hepatitis B tainted blood or bodily fluids (sexual, needles, transfusion, work exposure).
- You live with someone who has Hepatitis B.

How do I know if I have Hepatitis B?
- Simple blood tests can tell if you’ve been vaccinated, exposed or have a current infection.
- Exposure to hepatitis B does not mean you are infected, your doctor will need to confirm the presence of the actual virus in your blood.

Is there a treatment for Hepatitis B?
- Not all individuals with hepatitis B need therapy.
- Some people with hepatitis B need to be screened for cancer even if they don’t need treatment.
- There is no cure for hepatitis B, but well tolerated oral medications can suppress the virus.
- Treatment of hepatitis B can reduce the risk of liver cancer, cirrhosis, and other disease complications.
- Treatment is often life long, so your liver doctor can help you decide if treatment is right for you.

Anything new on the horizon?
- Active ongoing research to find a cure so stay tuned!