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Q100

Which one of the following statements is not correct? (a) Hepatitis B virus is transmitted much like HIV. (b) Hepatitis B, unlike Hepatitis C, does not have a vaccine. (c) Globally, the number of people infected with Hepatitis B and C viruses are several times more than those infected with HIV. (d) Some of those infected with Hepatitis B and C viruses do not show the symptoms for many years. Official key: B.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2019 · General Studies · 2 marks · Science and Technology

Science, technology, space, defence, IT - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation**(a)**

(a) Hepatitis B virus is transmitted much like HIV - blood, sexual contact, from mother to child. This statement is correct, so it is not the "not correct" key.

(b) Official key

(b) "Hepatitis B, unlike Hepatitis C, does not have a vaccine" is not correct. Hepatitis B has a widely used vaccine; Hepatitis C does not (as of the paper). That false claim is the official key.

(c)

(c) Globally, people living with HBV and HCV far outnumber those with HIV. This statement is correct, so it is not the key.

(d)

(d) Many HBV and HCV infections stay silent for years (chronic hepatitis, later cirrhosis or cancer). This statement is correct, so it is not the key.

Summary

Official key is (b). The question asks for the statement that is not correct. Hepatitis B has a vaccine; Hepatitis C did not. HBV transmission resembles HIV; chronic viral hepatitis is more prevalent than HIV worldwide and is often asymptomatic for years. Honour (b).

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

HBV vaccine

Recombinant HBsAg; in India's UIP

HCV

No licensed vaccine; direct-acting antivirals can cure

Shared routes

Blood-borne and sexual transmission of HBV and HIV

Silent epidemic

Chronic hepatitis B/C may be asymptomatic for decades

WHO

Viral hepatitis mortality comparable to other major infectious killers

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