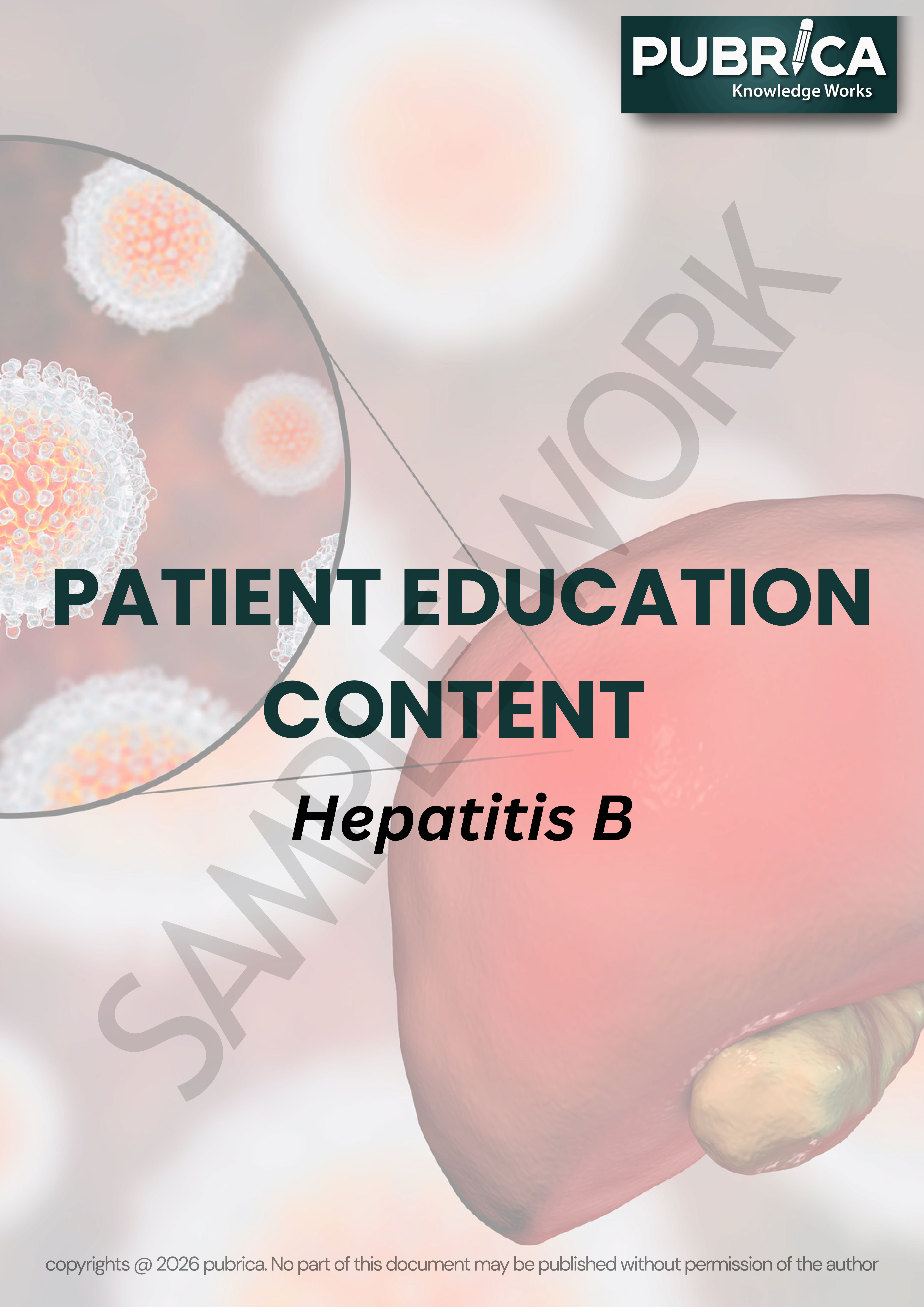




PATIENT EDUCATION CONTENT

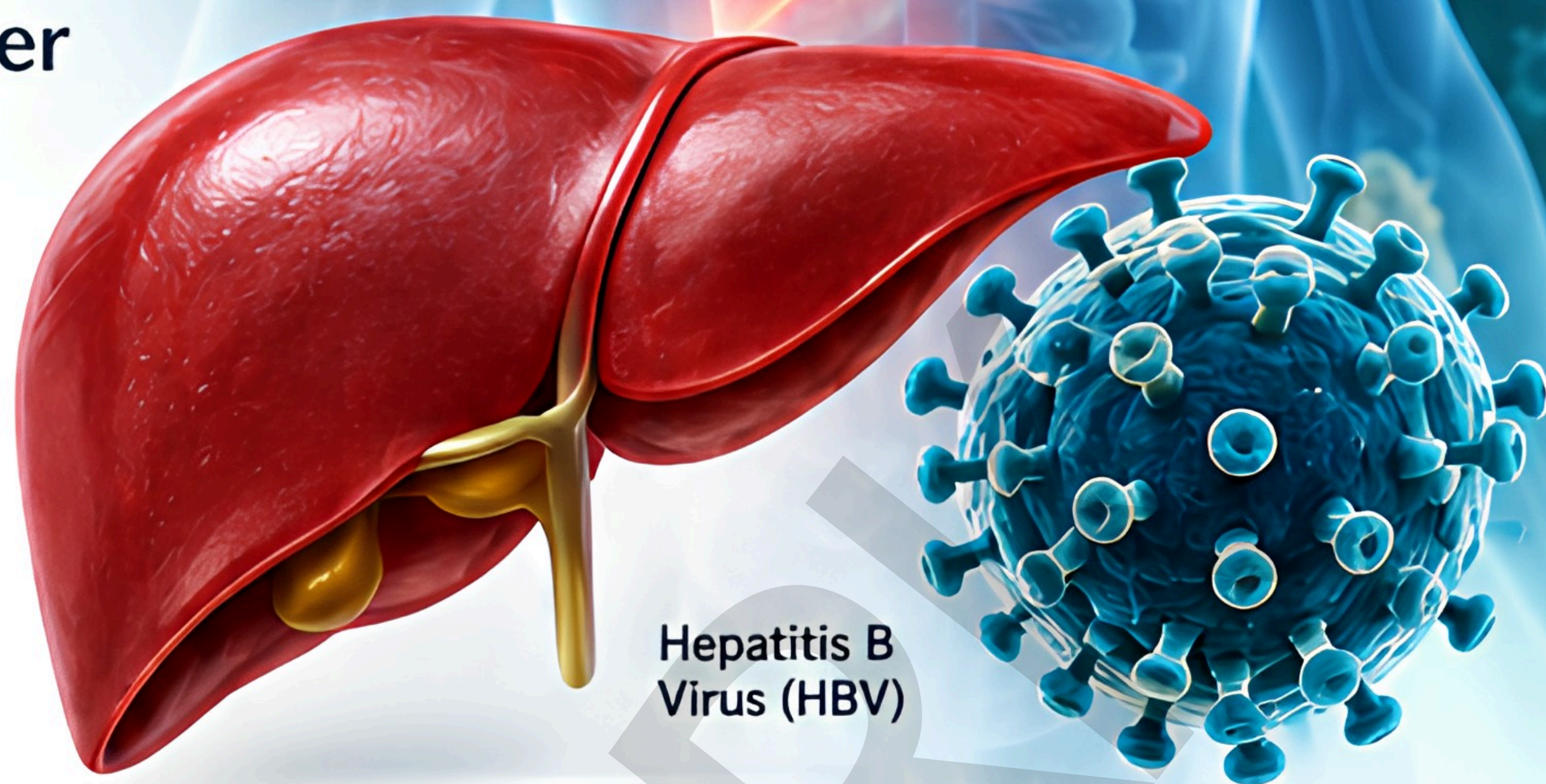
Hepatitis B

Hepatitis B

A Viral Infection Affecting the Liver

Definition

Hepatitis B (HBV) is a viral infection caused by the hepatitis B virus that mainly affects the liver. It can cause either a short-term (acute) infection or a long-term (chronic) infection. Chronic infection can lead to complications such as **liver cirrhosis and liver cancer**.



Types

- 1 Acute hepatitis B**
Short-term infection.
- 2 Chronic hepatitis B**
Long-term infection that can cause liver damage.

Signs and Symptoms

- Often no symptoms
- Jaundice
- Dark urine
- Fatigue
- Loss of appetite
- Nausea vomiting
- Abdominal pain
- Fever and joint pain



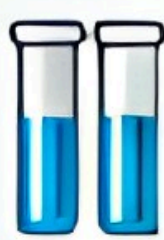
Causes

-  Infected blood or body fluids
-  Mother-to-child transmission during childbirth
-  Unprotected sexual contact
-  Sharing contaminated needles
-  Unsafe tattooing/piercing
-  Needlestick injuries

Risk Factors

-  Infected mother or sexual partner
-  Multiple sexual partners
-  Sharing needles
-  Healthcare work
-  Unsafe medical procedures
-  Living with a person with chronic hepatitis B

Diagnosis

-  Blood tests for HBV markers
-  Liver function tests
-  HBV DNA viral load test
-  Ultrasound or other tests to assess liver damage

Treatment

-  **Acute:**
Mainly supportive care.
-  **Chronic:**
Antiviral medicines such as tenofovir or entecavir when indicated.

Prevention

-  Hepatitis B vaccination
-  Safe sex practices
-  Avoid sharing needles, razors, and toothbrushes
-  Use sterile tattoo/piercing equipment
-  Screen blood before transfusion
-  Test pregnant women and provide preventive treatment to newborns when needed.