

Behavior Modification Following a Diagnosis of Hepatitis C Infection

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Objectives: To determine the extent of postdiagnosis counseling and to characterize behavior before and after diagnosis of hepatitis C infection. **Methods:** We interviewed 133 persons diagnosed with hepatitis C in Wyoming from 1999 to 2001. **Results:** Approximately two thirds of cases received counseling at the time of diagnosis. Older and symptomatic patients were more likely to receive counseling. Counseling was signifi-

cantly associated with increases in condom use, wound covering, and hepatitis A and hepatitis B vaccination, but not with changes in addictive behaviors. **Conclusions:** Counseling was an effective strategy for promoting several desirable behavior changes among persons with hepatitis C infection.

Key words: hepatitis C, counseling, health behaviors, behavior change, STDs

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