ATTACK OF THE HEP-B VIRUS!

CAPTAIN BIO
One afternoon on the beach...

Incoming!

Awesome shot, Kevin! We won!

Hey, no sweat, Frankie! We’re a dynasty in the making!

Meanwhile, just down the boardwalk, danger lurks in Lou’s tattoo shop...

It’s a danger too small to be seen by the human eye...

But the threat exists, lingering on contaminated surfaces like this used tattoo needle!

Hep-B— the hepatitis B virus!

I have several days to spread myself before I die, but why wait?

I hope some body comes in here soon.

It is Hep-B— the hepatitis B virus!

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This used needle has not been sterilized!

Good! Now I can get into a body and do some liver damage!

C'mon, Frankie, let's do something cool to celebrate!

Soon in the tattoo shop... man, these are so cool! Which one are you getting, Frankie?

Okay, any ideas?

Well, I'm not yellow! I want this one, Lou!

Good choice, kid. It will look cool.

I don't know about this, Kev.

C'mon, let's do something cool to celebrate!

Okay.

Any ideas?

Soon, in the tattoo shop...

Man, these are so cool! Which one are you getting, Frankie?

Okay, any ideas?

Well, I'm not yellow! I want this one, Lou!

Good choice, kid. It will look cool.

I don't know about this, Kev.

Nothin' to worry about, kid! We use only the best equipment in this joint!

Thanks, but I'll pass.

Hey Kev, what's going on, man? That was an easy spike!

Missed again!

We win!

Among the spectators is Dr. Mark Phillips...

That kid seems kind of shaky.

Perfect! This body hasn't been vaccinated against me, good ol' Hep B!

Now to trash the liver!

I feel lousy, Frankie!

Of course you do—we just lost the game!

No, I feel sick.

Save the excuses, loser!

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Hey Cap! What's happening?

I don't know. He's been real tired lately.

Hi, I'm a doctor. Is he okay?

I think you better meet me at the medical center for a thorough exam.

AT THE MED CENTER...

Kevin, I'm going to check your medical records.

Wait here for the nurse to run blood tests.

Suddenly, Captain Bio is stunned by a fast-moving object!

Oomph!

I'm okay, Surge! Just had the wind knocked out of me!

What was that?

I'm not sure, but I think we'll find the answer in the liver area!

Wait here for the nurse to run blood tests.

While waiting for the test results...

I'll take a look myself as...

In the next room, Dr. Phillips does the Bio-Meter...

I believe Kevin may have some liver damage.

Kevin, how are you feeling?

My body aches all over, and I feel like I'm gonna get sick!

I'll take a look myself as...

Follow me through the bloodstream, Surge! We have some investigating to do!

My body aches all over, and I feel like I'm gonna get sick!

I believe Kevin may have some liver damage.
Wow, this liver looks like it could have problems!

It’s infected with Hep B, Surge!

I’ve seen cases of hepatitis B before, but not many are this serious!

I’ll take that as a compliment!

Viruses cells—attack!

Soon

This is a private party, boys.

Er... cap, it’s getting a bit crowded in here.

I’ll take that as a compliment!

We’ve got the info we need, Surge! I’m going to hurry back...

...to tell Kevin!
Kevin, the blood tests confirmed my suspicions. You have a severe case of hepatitis B.

HEPATITIS B IS A VIRAL INFECTION OF THE LIVER.

What?!!

Hepatitis B is a viral infection of the liver.

How could I have gotten it?

Hepatitis B is a viral infection of the liver.

Unfortunately, there are many ways.

It can be found in blood and other body fluids of an infected person.

Hepatitis B is a viral infection of the liver.

Those at higher risk are drug users who share needles.

I don’t use drugs!

Well, there are other ways: unprotected sexual contact.

I do have a girlfriend.

Contact with infected blood or from an unsterile needle while undergoing tattoos, ear or body piercing...

Did you say tattoos?

“Contact with infected blood or from an unsterile needle while undergoing tattoos, ear or body piercing…”

I don’t use drugs!

Those at higher risk are drug users who share needles.

I don’t use drugs!

I can’t wait to get back in on the action!

Hello Kevin! How are you feeling?

I can’t wait to get back in on the action!

Better than I did before, Doc!

Later that summer...

We were lucky—Hep B can be a dangerous foe!

Your luck will change, bio! Beware!

“Contact with infected blood or from an unsterile needle while undergoing tattoos, ear or body piercing…”

I have a severe case of hepatitis B.

You have a severe case of hepatitis B.

Hepatitis B is a viral infection of the liver.

How could I have gotten it?

“Contact with infected blood or from an unsterile needle while undergoing tattoos, ear or body piercing…”

I don’t use drugs!

Those at higher risk are drug users who share needles.

I can’t wait to get back in on the action!

Better than I did before, Doc!

We were lucky—Hep B can be a dangerous foe!

Your luck will change, bio! Beware!

The End
What is hepatitis B?

- Hepatitis B is a virus that affects your liver. It is easier to get than HIV, and can cause permanent liver damage and even death.\(^4\) In fact, after smoking, hepatitis B is the world’s leading known cause of cancer.\(^7\)
- Hepatitis B virus is capable of surviving for days on environmental surfaces exposed to body fluids containing hep B virus.
- At least 200,000 people are infected every year in the United States.\(^5\)
- More than 1.25 million people in the United States are chronically infected with the hepatitis B virus and are at an increased risk of dying from chronic liver disease or liver cancer.\(^5\)
- 4,000 – 5,000 people die every year in the United States from hepatitis B-related illnesses.\(^5\)

How do you get hepatitis B?

- Hepatitis B is a virus that is spread through blood and other body fluids.
- It can be spread through contact with an unsterile needle contaminated with hepatitis B. This could occur during tattooing, ear or body piercing, or drug injection.\(^1\)
- It can enter your body through sexual contact or through breaks in your skin.\(^1\)
- It can be spread by sharing a toothbrush, or a razor with someone who is infected.\(^1\),\(^2\)

Can hepatitis B be prevented?

- YES. People at risk can modify their behavior and take special precautions. In addition, there are vaccines available that help prevent hepatitis B in many people. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends vaccination against hepatitis B for all 11–12 year-olds who have not already been vaccinated, and for adolescents >12 years old who may be at increased risk for infection.\(^6\)
- Talk to your doctor about the benefits and risks of vaccination. Find out if vaccination against hepatitis B is right for you.

References