

Patient Information About Hemochromatosis and Iron Overload

Please **CAREFULLY** read this information, and then answer the question in the box on this page.

Hemochromatosis is a medical condition that causes the body to store too much iron. It can lead to serious and sometimes fatal health problems such as liver damage and liver cancer, heart disease, arthritis, diabetes, or sexual impotence. Hemochromatosis is a condition that can run in families and be passed from parents to children.

If someone has hemochromatosis, the iron usually builds up in the body over many years before the person gets sick. So, if the condition is found early, it may be possible to prevent many or all of the health problems.

The excess iron can be removed by having some blood drawn (like donating blood) on a regular basis. If organ damage has not already occurred, removing the excess iron allows a person with hemochromatosis to have a normal life expectancy.

An iron test is now available for hemochromatosis. For this test, a small sample of your blood will be taken to measure the amount of iron in your body. If the blood test shows that your iron is not at a safe level, your doctor will need to discuss this with you and do some additional medical tests.

The iron test for hemochromatosis is offered free of charge at this clinic.

Would you like to have this test?

Yes

No

If you answered YES to the question above, please fill out the PINK form.

If you answered NO to the question above, please fill out the GREEN form.

When you have completed our brief questionnaire, please place this in the enclosed envelope. Your answers are confidential, and your name will not be recorded. Thank you.