



**D**octor Strange is an upcoming American superhero film featuring the Marvel Comics character of the same name. It is intended to be the 14th movie of the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU). Various incarnations of Doctor Strange have been in development on the silver screen since the mid-1980s until Paramount Pictures acquired the film rights in April 2005 on behalf of Marvel Studios. It has been filmed in Nepal, UK, US and China. The plot revolves around Stephen Strange, the world's top neurosurgeon. After being injured in a car accident that ruins his career, he sets out on a journey of healing, where he encounters the Ancient One, who later becomes Strange's mentor in the mystic arts. Benedict Cumberbatch stars as Dr Strange. Cumberbatch is best known for his roles in the TV series *Sherlock*, and movies including *Star Trek Into Darkness* and *The Imitation Game*. 

**Directed By:** Scott Derrickson

**Produced By:** Kevin Feige

**Release Dates:** October - November 2016

*Source: marvel.com*



MPSA

## HEPATITIS



JESSICA ZARB

**H**epatitis is an inflammation of the liver and can have different causes. Viral hepatitis is caused by five different types of viruses, type A to type E. However, types A, B and C are the most common. The prognosis includes liver cancer, cirrhosis, extreme fatigue, vertigo and jaundice.

**Hepatitis A** is transmitted via the faeco-oral route or through contaminated water or food. It does not lead to chronic long term liver disease.

**Hepatitis B** is transmitted via sexual contact, blood-to-blood contact such as infected needles and from mother-to-child during childbirth. It leads to chronic disease, usually liver cirrhosis and cancer. Symptoms include aches and pains, abdominal discomfort and hematuria. Once contracted 95% of adults will clear the virus and not develop chronic hepatitis B. There are two drug treatments, i.e. anti-viral medication, and peginterferon alfa or interferon alfa exhibiting immune-modulatory properties.

**Hepatitis C** is a blood-borne virus which is transmitted through infected needles or contaminated equipment. Although it is slow acting, it results in serious disease such as liver cancer.

**Hepatitis D** is transmitted through mucosal contact with infectious blood and can be acquired either as a co-infection with hepatitis B virus or as superinfection in people with hepatitis B virus infection. On the other hand, **hepatitis E**, like type A, is transmitted via the faeco-oral route.

As Desidius Erasmus said, *Prevention is better than cure*. Preventive measures are vital to combat these viruses. Vaccination is available against hepatitis A and B. Vaccines are not yet available for hepatitis C although some candidate vaccines are being studied. Sanitising hands and avoiding contaminated water are also essential at combating viral hepatitis. 

## AVAILABLE REGULATORY AFFAIRS SERVICES

Pharmacist with 8 years regulatory affairs experience available to conduct local literature surveillance of adverse events for medicinal products.  
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