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# Many still blur about hepatitis

## Most Malaysians unaware of the different types of the ailment

**Dateline: Penang**

**A**LMOST half of the Malaysian population is unaware of the difference between Hepatitis A, B, C, D, E and G, Malaysian Liver Foundation (MLF) vice-president Datuk Dr Robert Ding Pooi Huat said.

He said a recent survey that the foundation conducted nationwide showed that most of the Malaysians had heard of hepatitis as a form of infection.

"But many were still unaware of the different types of hepatitis," he said in a press statement.

Dr Ding said about 2.5 million Malaysians were infected with hepatitis, with the majority suffering from Hepatitis B.

Hepatitis B, he said, was spread from person to person by blood and bodily fluids, very much like the way AIDS was transmitted.

It included unprotected sexual contact, blood transfusion, the use of contaminated needles and transmission from mother to child during childbirth, he said.

He said about 6% of Malaysians were Hepatitis B carriers.

He added that most people were unaware

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DATUK DR ROBERT DING POOI HUAT

that they had contracted the disease until much later when they were diagnosed with complications such as cirrhosis (hardening of the liver) and liver cancer.

Dr Ding said MLF would be celebrating Penang Hepatitis Day with an awareness campaign in Gurney Plaza at the concourse area (ground floor) this Sunday from 11am to 5pm.

For details, contact Dr Ding at 04-2205048.