



HIV & Hep C Coinfection

DON'T WAIT, IT'S TIME TO TAKE ACTION & FIGHT BACK

HIV & HEP C COINFECTION

1 OUT OF 3 PEOPLE WITH HIV HAVE HEP C

HIV and Hep C have similar **BLOOD-TO-BLOOD** transmission routes. Because both HIV and Hep C are transmitted through the sharing of needles and works, many injection drug users get both diseases. In addition, a significant number of people who received blood transfusions before blood donations were tested for HIV and Hep C are also coinfecting.

HEP C IN PEOPLE WITH HIV

People with HIV who have been diagnosed with Hep C should be evaluated by a healthcare provider who specializes in both diseases. Talking to a healthcare provider about Hep C for someone with HIV is **MORE URGENT** than for someone with Hep C alone since the rate of liver disease progression is faster.

It is best to begin a conversation with your doctor about maintaining liver health before Hep C can do further damage.

THE LIVER

The liver is the largest organ in the body. It is called a **'NON-COMPLAINING ORGAN'** since it can be damaged and a person might not even know it. One of the most important functions that the liver performs is that it filters—what people eat, breathe and substances that get on the skin. The **LIVER PROCESSES HIV MEDICINES** so it is important that people with HIV keep their livers healthy.

Finally, there are medications (vaccines) to protect you from other hepatitis viruses that are recommended for people with HIV and Hep C. There is **NO VACCINE** for Hep C.

TREATING HEP C

People with HIV who have been diagnosed with Hep C should be evaluated for Hep C treatment. Treatment of Hep C for someone with HIV is **MORE URGENT** than for someone with Hep C alone since the rate of liver disease progression is faster.

Most coinfecting people should be treated with a combination of **PEGYLATED INTERFERON** and **RIBAVIRIN**. In both coinfecting people and those with Hep C alone, recent studies show that pegylated interferon is more effective than the older form of standard interferon. The treatment response rates for getting rid of Hep C tend to be somewhat lower for coinfecting people than for those with Hep C alone. Because Hep C can progress faster in people with HIV, some experts believe it is best to **BEGIN HEP C TREATMENT AS EARLY** as possible for coinfecting people, while the immune system is still working well.

CONCLUSION

Hep C is a **LEADING CAUSE OF ILLNESS** in people with HIV and is a very real medical concern for people living with HIV. But there is hope, and the more that you learn about HIV and hepatitis C the better you will be able to **ADVOCATE** for yourself. Get help from family, friends and your medical care team to make sure that you **STAY HEALTHY** and **LIVE LONGER**.



FIGHT LIVER DAMAGE TALK TO YOUR DOCTOR ABOUT THE FACTS



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HIV AND HEPATITIS C CONNECTION

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THE LIVER, HIV AND HEP C

The liver processes HIV medicines so it is important that people with HIV keep their livers healthy.

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