Easy C Treatment Guide

Genotype 2

GET TESTED • GET TREATED • GET CURED
Introduction

This guide is a very brief overview of hepatitis C treatment. It is meant to help you understand the latest drugs that are used to treat hepatitis C if you have genotype 2—an uncommon strain of hepatitis C. It is intended as an aid to help you work with your doctor and nurse. One of the most important things you can do is to learn as much as possible about hepatitis C as you can. This will help you make important decisions that are right for you.

The drugs can cure most people with hepatitis C—in fact, the Sovaldi plus ribavirin can cure up to 100% (10 of 10 people) who take the pills. These drugs are called direct-acting antivirals. They are called this because they work to stop the hepatitis C virus from making more copies of itself. Some people may have to take another drug called ribavirin because their hepatitis C is a little harder to cure.

THIS GUIDE INCLUDES:

- Definitions of commonly used terms
- The best drugs to treat hepatitis C—genotype 2
- How long treatment lasts
- The most common side effects of the drugs
- Resources

It is important to know that even though the hepatitis C drugs can cure up to 10 out of 10 people that not everyone is going to be cured. However, the chances of being cured have never been better.

I hope this guide gives you information that will make the decision a little easier. If there is any additional information that would help to improve this guide, please email me at alanfranciscus@hcvadvocate.org

—Alan
Commonly Used Terms

CURE
At the end of treatment a person who no longer has the condition or disease. In hepatitis C it means that 12 weeks from the end of treatment that the hepatitis C virus is no longer found in the blood. It is also called sustained virological response (SVR).

DIRECT-ACTING ANTIVIRALS
Medications that directly stop the hepatitis C virus from making more copies of itself.

GENOTYPE
Are strains of hepatitis C. There are 7 genotypes numbered 1 through 7. Genotype 2 is an uncommon genotype in the world and the United States. Genotype information is important for HCV treatment decisions and for how long to take the medications.

HCV
The hepatitis C virus (HCV). It is a virus that is spread by blood-to-blood contact.

RIBAVIRIN
A medication that may be combined with some HCV medications.
Note: Ribavirin can cause birth defects. Pregnancy must be avoided if ribavirin is part of treatment. Talk to a doctor or nurse about effective birth control.

SIDE EFFECTS
A condition that is caused by the use of drugs (medications).

SOVALDI
A drug used to treat hepatitis C. It is combined with other drugs. SOVALDI is combined with ribavirin to treat genotype 2.
SOVALDI is a drug used to treat hepatitis C. It is taken with another drug—ribavirin. It is approved to treat genotype 2. SOVALDI is taken for 12 weeks.

The cure rate for genotype 2 is up to 100% (10 of 10) people who take the combination of the pills. Talk to your doctor or nurse about the treatment and if it is right for you.

Hepatitis C drugs are expensive. Gilead, who makes SOVALDI, has programs that may be able to help with the cost of the drugs. Gilead also has other services that may help. Contact Gilead at: MySupportPath.com or 1-855-769-7284
Suggested Reading

A Guide to Understanding Hepatitis C 2016
By Alan Franciscus

Hepatitis C Treatment One Step at a Time.
By Lucinda K. Porter, RN.
Demos Health.

Resources

For more information about HCV, contact the following organizations

- National Institutes of Health
  http://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/health-topics/liver-disease/hepatitis-c/Pages/ez.aspx

- Centers for Disease Control - Hepatitis C
  http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/HCV/PDFs/HepCGeneralFactSheet.pdf

- National HCV Helpline
  877-HELP-4-HEP (877-435-7443)

Visit the HCV Advocate Website for information about hepatitis C including:

- HCV Advocate Website: www.hcvadvocate.org for information about hepatitis C

- Newly Diagnosed: Information and a printable brochure to help newly diagnosed patients
  http://hcvadvocate.org/newly-diagnosed/

- Treatment Issues: Treatment-related information: fact sheets about approved medications, side effects, and more
  http://hcvadvocate.org/treatment/

- Fact Sheets: This lists all of our fact sheets including our Easy C Facts, HCSP Fact Sheets, FAQ, Guides, Coinfection Facts, Chinese Easy C’s, and Tattoos
  http://hcvadvocate.org/publications/fact-sheets/

- Resources: Disability Benefits, Glossaries (Medical & Herbal), Helpful links including support groups
  http://hcvadvocate.org/resources/

- Espanol: Fact Sheets in Spanish
  http://hcvadvocate.org/spanish/

- A Guide to Understanding Hepatitis C 2016. Includes information about a patient assistance programs

- Newsletter: Monthly and Mid-monthly editions
  http://hcvadvocate.org/publications/newsletter/