

EASY C FACTS

Ribavirin Warning!

Ribavirin is a pill that is taken with other medications to treat hepatitis C (HCV or Hep C for short).

The major side effects of ribavirin include skin rashes, and anemia (low red blood cells). It can also make heart and kidney problems worse.

Ribavirin can also cause **birth defects**. Talk with your doctor about taking two forms of effective birth control. Women will also need to have a pregnancy test before, during and for six months after treatment ends.

The good news is that it's safe to become pregnant 6 months after stopping HCV treatment.

Remember.....

- ◆ If you are a **male** taking ribavirin you and your female sexual partner must use two types of effective birth control. Your female sexual partner will have to take a pregnancy test before and during treatment and for 6 months after treatment ends.
- ◆ If you are a **female** taking ribavirin you and your male sexual partner must use two types of effective birth control. You will also have to take a pregnancy test before, during and for 6 months after treatment ends.

Be sure to tell your doctor and nurse if you have any heart or kidney problems.

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