

# EASY C FACTS

## Ribavirin Warning!

Ribavirin is the pill or capsule that you take with interferon to treat hepatitis C (HCV or Hep C for short). The major side effects of ribavirin are skin rashes, anemia (low red blood cells), dry cough and birth defects.

Since ribavirin can cause anemia it is important that you talk with your doctor about any problems that you have with your heart.

Ribavirin can also cause **birth defects** so you will need to make sure that you practice TWO forms of effective birth control before you start treatment until 6 months after treatment ends. Talk to your doctor or nurse about what two forms of birth control means. Women will also need to have a pregnancy test before and during treatment.

*The good news is it's safe to become pregnant 6 months after stopping the HCV medications.*

## Remember.....

- ◆ Ribavirin can cause birth defects.
- ◆ If you are a **male** taking ribavirin you and your female sexual partner must use two types of birth control. Your female sexual partner will be asked to take a pregnancy test before you start and also during treatment.
- ◆ If you are a **female** taking ribavirin you and your male sexual partner must use two types of birth control. You will be required to take a pregnancy test before you start and also during treatment.
- ◆ If you have any heart problems, ribavirin may make them worse. Notify your doctor before you start treatment.

[www.hcvadvocate.org](http://www.hcvadvocate.org)

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