

# EASY C FACTS

## What About Treatment?

First of all, not everyone needs to be treated with current hepatitis C (HCV, or Hep C for short) medications. But if you are thinking about being treated there are many things to think about.

The decision to treat should be made by you and your doctor based on how hepatitis C is affecting you. You will need to know your viral load, genotype and how much your liver is damaged.

*The good news is that there are medications to treat hepatitis C that can get rid of the virus in about 50% of people.*

However, treatment is not easy and the decision is a difficult one for most people. Talk to your doctor about the possible benefits as well as the potential side effects you might have while on treatment.

There are two medications (called combination therapy) to treat HCV. Pegylated interferon (time-released interferon) and ribavirin is now considered the best way to treat HCV.

### Remember.....

- ◆ Not everyone needs to be treated with current HCV medications.
- ◆ Treatment works for about ½ of the people who take the medicines.
- ◆ There can be many side effects from interferon plus ribavirin.
- ◆ Work with your doctor or nurse to decide whether treatment is right for you.

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