



IN THE NEWS

'KC Star' Investigation Leads to \$1 Billion Hepatitis C Settlement

http://www.editorandpublisher.com/eandp/news/article_display.jsp?vnu_content_id=1002950538

“Evidence uncovered by The Kansas City Star helped bring about a \$1 billion settlement for approximately 5,500 Canadians with Hepatitis C, the paper reported today.”

New hope for Hepatitis C research

http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2006-08/ra-nhf080906.php

“The mystery surrounding Hepatitis C, a disease that affects millions of people worldwide, is one step closer to being solved.”

MedMira Offers New Rapid Diagnostic to Combat "the hidden epidemic -Co-infection with HIV/Hepatitis C

<http://www.newswire.ca/en/releases/archive/August2006/14/c5373.html>

“Multiplio Delivers Simultaneous Rapid Diagnosis of HIV and Hepatitis C - XVI International AIDS Conference”
An estimated 56,000 Canadians are living with HIV infection (The Public Health Agency of Canada) - and 30% of

Hepatitis C-related liver cancer mortality on the rise: report

<http://english.www.gov.tw/TaiwanHeadlines/index.jsp?catid=10&recordid=98089>

“The mortality rate of hepatitis C-related liver cancer has been rising in Taiwan, particularly in the southern counties of Yunlin, Jiayi and Tainan, according to a study report released Saturday.”

African American patients with hepatitis C (HCV) infections experience a lower response rate to the peginterferon alfa-2a and ribavirin combination treatment than Caucasian Americans...

<http://www.news-medical.net/?id=19493>

“Racial differences in viral responses were seen as early as the fourth week of treatment.”

Hep C activist dies at 48

<http://www.cbc.ca/story/science/national/2006/08/18/vandusen-obit.html>

“Neil Van Dusen, an outspoken victim of Canada's tainted blood scandal, died Monday of complications from hepatitis C. He was 48.”

Phynova Group Plc (“phynova” and or the “company”) Granted First UK Patent for PYN17 A Botanical Drug for the Treatment of Hepatitis C

<http://www.pharmalive.com/News/index.cfm?articleid=366960&categoryid=32>

“Phynova Group plc, a developer of Western pharmaceuticals based on safe and effective Chinese medicines, is pleased to announce that the UK Patent Office has granted a key patent to cover and protect its Hepatitis C treatment programmes.”

HIV/HCV coinfecting patients more prone to end-stage liver disease without treatment

<http://www.aidsmap.com/en/news/F64B87B6-E73A-47E9-B437-765A953DCF37.asp>

“Individuals coinfecting with HIV and hepatitis C virus are more likely to develop end-stage liver disease (ESLD) compared to patients with hepatitis C virus, alone, according to a study presented at the Sixteenth International AIDS Conference in Toronto on August 15th.”

Media Statement on NICE Guidance for Treatment of Mild Hepatitis C

<http://www.prnewswire.co.uk/cgi/news/release?id=177571>

“The Hepatitis C Trust is delighted with the NICE guidance issued today as it gives patients the opportunity to be treated during the early stages of hepatitis C, before measurable damage occurs to their liver. This guidance offers a lifeline to hundreds of thousands of people in the UK who now have the hope of an early cure.”

'Many people with hepatitis C feel very dirty'

http://ichuddersfield.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/0330features/tm_objectid=17602985&method=full&siteid=50060&headline=-many-people-with-hepatitis-c-feel-very-dirty--name_page.html

“A Huddersfield woman has spoken of the misery of an illness which has left her wanting to take her own life. Netherton woman Maureen Ross, 55, has suffered from the hepatitis C virus for 13 years, leaving her so lethargic that she feels suicidal.”

UK's NICE backs Roche, Schering-Plough hep C drugs

http://today.reuters.com/news/articleinvesting.aspx?view=CN&storyID=2006-08-23T121942Z_01_L23346811_RTRIDST_0_HEALTH-BRITAIN-HEPATITIS.XML&rpc=66&type=qcna

“Two similar drug treatments for hepatitis C from Roche and Schering-Plough have been recommended for use on Britain's state-run health service.”

Inovio Reveals Positive Data From The Combined ChronVac-C DNA Vaccine And Inovio's MedPulser DNA Delivery System - Update

<http://www.tradingmarkets.com/.site/news/BREAKING%20NEWS/352286/>

“Inovio Biomedical Corp. a bio-medical company said its partner, Tripep AB of Sweden has achieved additional positive pre-clinical results from the combination of ChronVac-C DNA vaccine and Inovio's MedPulser DNA delivery system.”

Japan court awards damages over hepatitis C infections

<http://www.todayonline.com/articles/139435.asp>

“A court has ordered the Japanese government and drugmakers to pay 168 million yen (1.4 million dollars) to 11 people who contracted hepatitis C from tainted blood products.”

CLINICAL TRIALS, COHORT STUDIES, AND PILOT STUDIES

Peginterferon-alfa2a plus ribavirin for 48 versus 72 weeks in patients with detectable hepatitis C virus RNA at week 4 of treatment. Sanchez-Tapias JM, et al. Gastroenterology. 2006 Aug;131(2):451-60.

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Hepatitis C virus genotypes and viral concentrations in participants of a general population survey in the United States. Nainan OV, et al. Gastroenterology. 2006 Aug;131(2):478-84.

http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?db=pubmed&cmd=Retrieve&dopt=AbstractPlus&list_uids=16890602&query_hl=4&itool=pubmed_DocSum

Peginterferon and ribavirin treatment in African American and Caucasian American patients with hepatitis C genotype 1. Conjeevaram HS, et al. Gastroenterology. 2006 Aug;131(2):470-7.

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The results of a randomized trial looking at 24 weeks vs 48 weeks of treatment with peginterferon alpha-2a (40 kDa) and ribavirin combination therapy in patients with chronic hepatitis C genotype 1.

Brandao C, et al. J Viral Hepat. 2006 Aug;13(8):552-9.

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Effectiveness of interferon plus ribavirin combination in the treatment of naive patients with hepatitis C virus type 5. A French multicentre retrospective study. Bonny C, et al. Aliment Pharmacol Ther. 2006 Aug 15;24(4):593-600.

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Long-term follow-up of previous hepatitis C virus positive nonresponders to interferon monotherapy successfully retreated with combination therapy: are they really cured? Ciancio A, et al. *Am J Gastroenterol.* 2006 Aug;101(8):1811-6. Epub 2006 Jun 16.
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A randomised trial to compare the pharmacokinetic, pharmacodynamic, and antiviral effects of peginterferon alfa-2b and peginterferon alfa-2a in patients with chronic hepatitis C (COMPARE). Silva M, et al. *J Hepatol.* 2006 Aug;45(2):204-13. Epub 2006 Apr 18.
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Mental and physical symptoms associated with lower social support for patients with hepatitis C. Blasiola JA, et al. *World J Gastroenterol.* 2006 Aug 7;12(29):4665-72
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Influence of interferon therapy on outcome after surgery for hepatitis C virus-related hepatocellular carcinoma. Uenishi T, et al. *Hepatol Res.* 2006 Aug 23; [Epub ahead of print]
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A Prospective Analysis of the Prognostic Value of Biomarkers (FibroTest) in Patients with Chronic Hepatitis C. Ngo Y, et al. *Clin Chem.* 2006 Aug 24; [Epub ahead of print]
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Cancer incidence in people with hepatitis B or C infection: a large community-based linkage study. Amin J, et al. *J Hepatol.* 2006 Aug;45(2):197-203. Epub 2006 Mar 31.
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BASIC AND APPLIED SCIENCE, PRE-CLINICAL STUDIES

Variations in the Viral NS5B Region in Japanese Patients with Chronic Hepatitis C Virus Genotype 1b Infection. Sugihara K, et al. Intervirology. 2006 Aug 21;49(6):319-326 [Epub ahead of print]

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CR5Delta32 mutation does not influence the susceptibility to HCV infection, severity of liver disease and response to therapy in patients with chronic hepatitis C. Goyal A, et al. World J Gastroenterol. 2006 Aug 7;12(29):4721-6

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Dynamics of interferon-specific gene expression in peripheral blood of interferon alfa-naive patients with genotype 1 chronic hepatitis C infection treated with albumin-interferon alfa. Bain VG, et al. Hepatol Res. 2006 Aug;35(4):256-62. Epub 2006 May 30.

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Hepatic steatosis is associated with fibrosis, nucleoside analogue use, and hepatitis C virus genotype 3 infection in HIV-seropositive patients. McGovern BH, et al. *Clin Infect Dis.* 2006 Aug 1;43(3):365-72. Epub 2006 Jun 22.
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HIV Coinfection Impairs CD28-Mediated Costimulation of Hepatitis C Virus-Specific CD8 Cells. Yonkers NL, et al. *J Infect Dis.* 2006 Aug 1;194(3):391-400. Epub 2006 Jun 30.
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The effect of antioxidant supplementation on hepatitis C viral load, transaminases and oxidative status: a randomized trial among chronic hepatitis C virus-infected patients. Groenbaek K, et al. *Eur J Gastroenterol Hepatol.* 2006 Sep;18(9):985-989.
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