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## IN THE NEWS

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### **Steven Tyler Reveals Battle With Hepatitis C**

[http://www.billboard.com/bbcom/news/article\\_display.jsp?vnu\\_content\\_id=1003157395](http://www.billboard.com/bbcom/news/article_display.jsp?vnu_content_id=1003157395)

“Steven Tyler has revealed he was diagnosed with hepatitis C three years ago after having the illness for a long time without any symptoms. In an interview to air today (Sept. 26) on "Access Hollywood," the 58-year-old Aerosmith frontman said the infection was now "nonexistent" in his bloodstream after 11 months of treatment, including the drug Interferon.”

### **The silent epidemic: Conference to look at HIV, hepatitis C treatment**

<http://www.fayettevillenc.com/article?id=242912>

“Sebastian Battle was in the doctor’s office for a checkup after a car wreck when he was told he was HIV positive. His doctor told him he had two years to live. That was in 1991. “It was very callous and unfeeling,” said Battle, now 42. Battle, who contracted the disease through unprotected sex, is a former laboratory worker. He became a patient advocate a year ago. “Patients need to know they don’t have to die.””

### **Untreated infection a ticking time bomb**

<http://www.telegram.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060925/NEWS/609250332/1012>

“When the test returns positive for hepatitis C, patients often start counting backward. “I got the call from my doctor, and my life flashed all the way back to that tattoo place in San Francisco,” said 40-year-old Kate Wilcox. “And I knew that guy didn’t sterilize his equipment before he started working on my arm.” It was the mid 1980s when she got the tattoo, a renaissance design with angels and halos. Ten years later, not knowing she was infected, she learned about the symptoms and the risks during a public health talk on hepatitis C.”

### **Former Charger Kicks Hepatitis C**

<http://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/9949956/detail.html>

“As a kicker for the Chargers, Rolf Benirschke has had his share of challenges on the field and off, including a bout with colitis. But his recent struggle with Hepatitis C kicked off the biggest challenge of his life. Hepatitis C is a sometimes fatal liver disease that affects 4 million Americans. Ironically, Benirschke contracted the disease while being treated for ulcerative colitis.”

### **Novelos Therapeutics Enrolls 1st Patient in Hepatitis C Trial with NOV-205**

<http://www.pharmalive.com/News/index.cfm?articleid=376840&categoryid=21>

NEWTON, Mass., Sept. 28, 2006 - Novelos Therapeutics, Inc., a biotechnology company focused on the development of therapeutics to treat cancer and hepatitis, today announced that the first patient has been enrolled in a hepatitis C trial with NOV-205, the company’s second compound. The initial U.S.-based double-blind, placebo-controlled Phase 1b trial will evaluate NOV-205 versus placebo as monotherapy in 30 chronic hepatitis C genotype 1 patients who previously failed treatment with pegylated interferon plus ribavirin. A link to the trial description and contact information is available at [www.novelos.com](http://www.novelos.com) on the ‘Clinical Trials’ page.

### **Treatment of acute hepatitis C produces good response rates in HIV-positive patients**

<http://www.aidsmap.com/en/news/D7AFC6FA-6FC3-48CF-AA65-40B8145CA001.asp>

“HIV positive individuals who receive treatment soon after becoming infected with hepatitis C virus (HCV) have a high likelihood of sustained response, according to a study presented on Thursday at the 46th Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy in San Francisco.”

**Center to offer hep. C testing - The York Spanish American Center program will be free. Hispanics are at a high risk for the disease.**

[http://www.ydr.com/newsfull/ci\\_4288452](http://www.ydr.com/newsfull/ci_4288452)

“Susie Lugo walked up and down South Queen Street, stopping people with tattoos and anyone else who would listen to her talk about hepatitis C risk factors. On Thursday, she is starting a free and confidential testing program at York Spanish American Center. It will be the first such community testing offered in York that she knows of for what has become a major health problem in Hispanic and black populations in America.”

**List of Cancer-Causing Agents Grows**

<http://www.newstarget.com/020350.html>

“The Department of Health and Human Services released its Eleventh Edition of the Report on Carcinogens today, adding seventeen substances to the growing list of cancer-causing agents, bringing the total to 246. For the first time ever, viruses are listed in the report: hepatitis B virus, hepatitis C virus, and some human papillomaviruses that cause common sexually transmitted diseases. Other new listings include lead and lead compounds, X-rays, compounds found in grilled meats, and a host of substances used in textile dyes, paints and inks.”

The full report is available at the NTP website <http://ntp.niehs.nih.gov>.

**Hepatitis C virus therapies**

<http://www.nature.com/nrd/journal/v5/n9/full/nrd2134.html>

“The hepatitis C virus (HCV) is believed to have infected approximately 170 million people worldwide. Often referred to as the silent killer, patients can remain asymptomatic for decades before developing liver cirrhosis and/or hepatocellular carcinoma. Approximately 40–50% of liver transplants in the US are the result of HCV infection. Six major HCV genotypes (HCV1–6) have been identified, which vary in their geographic distribution and response to treatments.”

**Concern over rising Hepatitis-C cases [India]**

<http://cities.expressindia.com/fullstory.php?newsid=200921>

“In a recently-conducted IMA meeting at Ludhiana, a session on “Rise in Hepatitis C” was conducted under the chairmanship of Dr Rajoo Singh Chinna, Prof and HoD, Department of Gastroenterology at DMCH. During the session, talk on prevalence, transmission and treatment of Hepatitis C was given by Dr Gursaran Kaur Sidhu, chief physician, Sidhu Hospital, Doraha. It was observed that incidence of Hepatitis C was markedly on the rise worldwide and especially in India.”

**Marijuana helps patients stay on medication**

[http://today.reuters.com/news/articlenews.aspx?type=healthNews&storyID=2006-09-13T152933Z\\_01\\_N12370634\\_RTRUKOC\\_0\\_US-MARIJUANA.xml](http://today.reuters.com/news/articlenews.aspx?type=healthNews&storyID=2006-09-13T152933Z_01_N12370634_RTRUKOC_0_US-MARIJUANA.xml)

“Recovering drug addicts who are infected with hepatitis C virus may stick to their medications better if they are allowed to use marijuana, U.S. researchers reported on Wednesday. Smoking or eating cannabis may help them tolerate the side effects of the antivirals, which can clear the virus but often cause fevers, chills, and muscle and joint aches, the researchers said.”

**Hepatitis C can pose particular health problems for people who are HIV-Positive 3**

<http://www.ssonet.com.au/display.asp?ArticleID=5777>

“Gay HIV-positive men are being warned about the dangers of contracting hepatitis C on the eve of Hep C Awareness Week. Hep C is usually transmitted via blood to blood contact, and while this can happen during sex it is not classified as a sexually transmissible infection. The virus is not usually found in semen, saliva or menstrual fluid.”

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**CLINICAL TRIALS, COHORT STUDIES, AND PILOT STUDIES**

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## HIV/HCV COINFECTION

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#### COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE THERAPIES

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