



Hepatitis C Caring Ambassadors Program Newsletter

August 2007

IN THE NEWS

Numerous Factors Affect Success Of Interferon Treatment For Hepatitis C

<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/75882.php>

“A new study on predicting outcomes of standard treatment for hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection found that a number of factors impacted responses, including the form of the interferon given. However, for some genotypes of the disease, few of these factors play a role.”

Peregrine Pharmaceuticals Initiates Bavituximab Clinical Trial In HCV Patients Co-Infected With HIV

<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/76467.php>

“Peregrine Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a clinical stage biopharmaceutical company developing monoclonal antibodies for the treatment of cancer and hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection, today announced initiation of patient enrolment in a study of bavituximab in patients co-infected with HCV and the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).”

Abbott Announces Approval of First Fully-Automated Blood Screening Test for Hepatitis C Antibodies

<http://sev.prnewswire.com/medical-pharmaceuticals/20070712/AQTH10012072007-1.html>

ABBOTT PARK, Ill., July 12 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ “Abbott announced today it received approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for its ABBOTT PRISM(R) HCV test. This test can be used by laboratory technicians to screen individual donations of blood and plasma for antibodies to hepatitis C (HCV).”

Idenix Study of Hep C Drug Put on Hold

http://www.upi.com/Health_Business/Briefing/2007/07/13/idenix_study_of_hep_c_drug_put_on_hold/7287/

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., July 13 (UPI) – “Idenix Pharmaceuticals said Friday its studies of potential hepatitis C drug valopicitabine have been placed on clinical hold in the United States. Following discussions with the Food and Drug Administration, the hold was placed on the company's development program due to the "overall risk/benefit profile observed to date in clinical testing," Idenix said in a statement issued Friday.”

Pharmasset And Roche Initiate Studies To Advance R7128 For HCV

<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/76708.php>

“Pharmasset, Inc. announces the start of long-term chronic toxicology studies in two animal species as part of their collaboration with Roche for the development of R7128 for the treatment of hepatitis C virus (HCV). R7128 is currently being evaluated in a Phase 1 clinical trial.”

Hep-Outbreak Probers Eye Double Dip Syringes

http://www.nypost.com/seven/07012007/news/regionalnews/hep_outbreak_probers_eye_double_dip_syringes_regionalnews_susan_edelman_and_linda_stasi.htm

July 1, 2007 – “Health investigators are looking into whether an anesthesiologist suspected of spreading hepatitis infections tainted batches of medication by "double dipping" syringes into vials used for multiple patients, The Post has learned. In a widening probe, officials are also investigating whether other doctors may have used such sloppy methods - or cut corners on safety to lower costs, sources said.”

Hepatitis C: An Epidemic Bigger Than HIV

http://www.courier-gazette.com/articles/2007/07/02/mckinney_courier-gazette/news/cnews09.txt

“Conditions such as HIV are known as epidemics worldwide, but Dr. Allen Reuben said there is another disease that’s an even bigger problem in the United States. Reuben, a consultant in infectious diseases for the Medical Center of McKinney, said about 2 percent of the population in the United States is infected with Hepatitis C.”

Patient Alert After Hep C Scare [Australia]

<http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,20867,22020007-23289,00.html>

“Thousands of patients of a Sydney doctor are being urged to be tested for blood-borne viruses, including HIV, after three women contracted hepatitis C as a result of poor infection control at the eastern suburbs clinic. In March this year, it was revealed that the three women - who had visited Daniel Hameiri's general practice clinic for mineral or vitamin injections - had been diagnosed with hepatitis C. The clinic in upmarket Double Bay was closed and an investigation launched.”

Music CD To Reduce Hep C Infection [UK]

http://www.nursinginpractice.com/default.asp?title=MusicCDtoreducehepCinfection&page=article.display&article_id=4371

“The Department of Health (DH) has launched a music CD in the hope of raising hepatitis C awareness among the South Asian community. The CD, initiated as a part of the DH "FaCe It" campaign, mixes music from popular Asian artists with advice from healthcare professionals.”

The Easy Way The Government Can Reduce AIDS And Hep C

http://www.opednews.com/articles/1/opedne_jan_vand_070725_the_easy_way_the_gov.htm

“We all know that AIDS has become a scourge among black and Latina women. 64% of American women with AIDS come from the 13% who are African-American. AIDS is the leading cause of death for black women age 24 – 34 years.”

School Nurses Should Act On Human Bites

<http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/87003.html>

WASHINGTON, July 25 – “U.S. school nurses are being urged to take a proactive stance concerning human bites - especially against the risk of hepatitis B and C. Bite victims are usually concerned about HIV transmission, but epidemiological data show the transmission rate for HIV from saliva is insignificant, according to a paper in The Journal of School Nursing.”

OctoPlus Announces Promising Results for Locteron Phase IIa Clinical Study

<http://www.pharmalive.com/news/index.cfm?articleid=462235&search=1>

LEIDEN, The Netherlands, July 26, 2007- “OctoPlus N.V., the drug delivery and development company, announces today positive initial results of the ongoing SELECT-1 Phase IIa study with its lead product Locteron(TM) , a controlled release interferon alfa for the treatment of chronic hepatitis C (HCV).”

Development Discontinued For ANA975, An Early Stage Compound For Treatment Of Hepatitis C Virus Infection

<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/78000.php>

“Anadys Pharmaceuticals, Inc. today announced that it and Novartis have decided to discontinue the development of ANA975, a phase 1b compound for the treatment of hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection. The parties have determined that the results received to date from the ongoing 13 week toxicology study together with the results observed in the previous 13 week toxicology study do not support further clinical evaluation of chronic daily dosing of ANA975 in hepatitis C patients.”

CLINICAL TRIALS, COHORT STUDIES, AND PILOT STUDIES

The epidemiology of hepatitis C infection in the United States. Rustgi VK, J Gastroenterol. 2007 Jul;42(7):513-21. Epub 2007 Jul 25.

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Complexity of the HVR-1 quasispecies and disease activity in patients with hepatitis C. Kumagai N, et al. Eur J Clin Invest. 2007 Jul;37(7):566-72

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Natural History and Clinical Impact of Cryoglobulins in Chronic Hepatitis C: 10-Year Prospective Study of 343 Patients. Viganò M, et al. Gastroenterology. 2007 Jul 3; [Epub ahead of print]

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Peginterferon alfa-2a and ribavirin for 16 or 24 weeks in HCV genotype 2 or 3. Shiffman ML, et al. N Engl J Med. 2007 Jul 12;357(2):124-34.

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virologic response rate than treatment with the standard 24-week regimen.

Factors associated with spontaneous clearance of hepatitis C virus among illicit drug users. Grebely J, et al. Can J Gastroenterol. 2007 Jul;21(7):447-51.

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Contrast-enhanced ultrasound to evaluate the severity of chronic hepatitis C. Ridolfi F, et al. Dig Liver Dis. 2007 Jul 30; [Epub ahead of print]

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Impact of Asian Race on Response to Combination Therapy With Peginterferon Alfa-2a and Ribavirin in Chronic Hepatitis C. Missiha S, et al. Am J Gastroenterol. 2007 Jul 19; [Epub ahead of print]

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Efficacy of ribavirin plus interferon-alpha in patients aged ≥ 60 years with chronic hepatitis C. Honda T, et al. J Gastroenterol Hepatol. 2007 Jul;22(7):989-95

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Comparison of low-dose pegylated interferon versus standard high-dose pegylated interferon in combination with ribavirin in patients with chronic hepatitis C with genotype 3: An Indian experience. Sood A, et al. J Gastroenterol Hepatol. 2007 Jul 20; [Epub ahead of print]

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Trend of Depression and the Use of Psychiatric Medications in U.S. Veterans With Hepatitis C During Interferon-Based Therapy. Jakiche A, et al. Am J Gastroenterol. 2007 Jul 19; [Epub ahead of print]

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py if followed closely by a multidisciplinary team that includes specialists in hepatitis C and behavioral health.

Efficacy of low dose long-term interferon monotherapy in aged patients with chronic hepatitis C genotype 1 and its relation to alpha-fetoprotein: A pilot study. Nomura H, et al. Hepatol Res. 2007 Jul;37(7):490-7.

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Hepatitis-C Patients Have Reduced Growth Hormone (GH) Secretion Which Improves During Long-Term Therapy With Pegylated Interferon-alpha. Plöckinger U, et al. Am J Gastroenterol. 2007 Jul 27; [Epub ahead of print]

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Morphine Inhibits Intrahepatic Interferon- alpha Expression and Enhances Complete Hepatitis C Virus Replication. Li Y, et al. J Infect Dis. 2007 Sep 1;196(5):719-30. Epub 2007 Jul 18

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Glucose Abnormalities Are an Independent Risk Factor for Nonresponse to Antiviral Treatment in Chronic Hepatitis C. Lecube A, et al. Am J Gastroenterol. 2007 Jul 7; [Epub ahead of print]

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Occupational risks of blood exposure in the operating room. Fry DE Am Surg. 2007 Jul;73(7):637-46.

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Predictors of response of US veterans to treatment for the hepatitis C virus. Backus LI, et al. Hepatology. 2007 Jul;46(1):37-47.

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BASIC AND APPLIED SCIENCE, PRE-CLINICAL STUDIES

Clinical Utility of AFP-L3% Measurement in North American Patients with HCV-Related Cirrhosis. Sterling RK, et al. Am J Gastroenterol. 2007 Jul 7; [Epub ahead of print]

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High molecular weight form of adiponectin levels of Japanese patients with chronic hepatitis C virus infection. Furusyo N, et al. Hepatol Res. 2007 Jul 1; [Epub ahead of print]

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Tracking virus-specific CD4+ T cells during and after acute hepatitis C virus infection. Lucas M, et al PLoS ONE. 2007 Jul 25;2:e649.

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Topological and evolutionary relationships between HCV core protein and hepatic lipid vesicles: Studies in vitro and in conditionally transgenic mice. Chang ML, et al World J Gastroenterol. 2007 Jul 7;13(25):3472-7.

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Relative contribution of iron genes, dysmetabolism and hepatitis C virus (HCV) in the pathogenesis of altered iron regulation in HCV chronic hepatitis. Valenti L, et al. *Haematologica*. 2007 Aug;92(8):1037-42. Epub 2007 Jul 20

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Selection and application of serotypical synthetic peptides derived from hepatitis C virus NS5A region. Dou XG, et al. *Chin Med J (Engl)*. 2007 Jul 5;120(13):1159-65.

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Standardization of ROC Curve Areas for Diagnostic Evaluation of Liver Fibrosis Markers Based on Prevalences of Fibrosis Stages. Poynard T, et al. *Clin Chem*. 2007 Jul 18; [Epub ahead of print]

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¹³C-methacetin breath test as a quantitative liver function test in patients with chronic hepatitis C infection: continuous automatic molecular correlation spectroscopy compared to isotopic ratio mass spectrometry.

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Liver-Targeted Prodrugs of 2'-C-Methyladenosine for Therapy of Hepatitis C Virus Infection. Hecker SJ, et al. *J Med Chem*. 2007 Aug 9;50(16):3891-3896. Epub 2007 Jul 18.

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Hepatitis C Virus Stabilizes Hypoxia-Inducible Factor-1{alpha} (HIF-1{alpha}) and Stimulates the Synthesis of Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor (VEGF). Nasimuzzaman M, et al. *J Virol*. 2007 Jul 11; [Epub ahead of print]

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Diffusion-weighted magnetic resonance imaging for the assessment of fibrosis in chronic hepatitis C. Lewin M, et al. *Hepatology*. 2007 Jul 30; [Epub ahead of print]

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Evidence for cellular uptake of recombinant hepatitis C virus non-enveloped capsid-like particles. Tsitoura P, et al. FEBS Lett. 2007 Jul 27; [Epub ahead of print].

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Proteomic profiling of human liver biopsies: Hepatitis C virus-induced fibrosis and mitochondrial dysfunction. Diamond DL, et al Hepatology. 2007 Jul 25; [Epub ahead of print]

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Amino acid substitutions in the hepatitis C virus core region are the important predictor of hepatocarcinogenesis. Akuta N et al. Hepatology. 2007 Jul 26; [Epub ahead of print].

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Involvement of PI3K in HCV-related lymphoproliferative disorders. Alisi A, et al. J Cell Physiol. 2007 Jul 24; [Epub ahead of print]

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Cre-estrogen receptor-mediated hepatitis C virus structural protein expression in mice. Tumurbaatar B, et al. J Virol Methods. 2007 Jul 10; [Epub ahead of print]

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Cellular cofactors affecting hepatitis C virus infection and replication. Randall G, et al. Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A. 2007 Jul 31;104(31):12884-9. Epub 2007 Jul 6.

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T cell dysfunction by hepatitis C virus core protein involves PD-1/PDL-1 signaling. Yao ZQ, et al. Viral Immunol. 2007 Summer;20(2):276-87.

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HIV/HCV CO-INFECTION

Adding HCV Treatment to HIV Treatment in HIV-HCV Coinfected Patients: The Impact on the Different Dimensions of Fatigue and Self-Reported Side Effects. Marcellin F, et al. *J Pain Symptom Manage*. 2007 Jul 4; [Epub ahead of print]
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