

Hepatitis C Caring Ambassadors Program Newsletter

September 2007



IN THE NEWS

Women Offered Hepatitis C Tests [UK]

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/england/lincolnshire/6971079.stm

“A Lincolnshire hospital is contacting 62 women operated on by a gynaecologist who was carrying the Hepatitis C virus. Boston's Pilgrim Hospital will tell the women the risk of infection was remote, and offer them blood tests. The specialist, unaware he had the virus when he treated them a few years ago, passed it on to several patients, one of whom later died.”

Who Will Recover Spontaneously From Hepatitis C Virus Infection?

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2007/08/070829102044.htm>

Science Daily — “More than 3% of world population is infected with hepatitis C virus (HCV). The outcome of HCV infections is either self recovery or chronic hepatitis, and many of the chronic infections will develop into liver cirrhosis or liver cancer. Since there is no cure for chronic hepatitis C, nor is there any approved vaccine for this virus, hepatitis C is currently a major health problem worldwide. Twenty to fifty percent of HCV infected patients recovers spontaneously. The hepatitis C patients and their relatives like to know if his/her infection would fall into the category for self recovery.”

Health Department Tells Doctors to Watch for Hepatitis C

http://publicbroadcasting.net/wned/news.newsmain?action=article&ARTICLE_ID=1139680§ionID=1

“Doctors in Erie County should be on the lookout for hepatitis C, a disease that could be fatal. Erie County Health Commissioner Doctor Anthony Billittier says there appears to be an increasing number of people with the disease. He says it's important to find cases of Hepatitis C and provide treatment.”

A Tiny Cut Turns Into A Close Call

<http://www.latimes.com/features/health/la-he-practice3sep03,1,5323619.story?coll=la-headlines-health>

“My patient's laceration was relatively easy to suture. Only one layer of stitches would be needed, and I could have him on his way in less than 20 minutes. My years working in the emergency room had made me comfortable with minor injuries; the repair looked good, and the scarring would probably be minimal.”

Intercell Says Hepatitis C Vaccine Shows Progress

<http://www.reuters.com/article/health-SP/idUSL2081765020070820>

“Austrian vaccine maker Intercell said on Monday interim results from a small sample size of a Phase II study for a Hepatitis C vaccine showed a significant viral load reduction and very good safety profile. The first data came from 25 patients in an exploratory clinical study of 50 patients who were chronically infected with Genotype 1 of the Hepatitis C virus, Intercell said in a statement.”

Romark Launches Clinical Trial of Hepatitis C Drug

<http://www.bizjournals.com/tampabay/stories/2007/08/13/daily43.html>

“Romark Laboratories said it has begun a Phase II clinical trial of Alinia for treating chronic hepatitis C in the United States. Romark also said it will release interim data from an international clinic trial during a meeting of the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases in early November. The two steps represent important milestones for Romark's development program, Dr. Jean-Francois Rossignol, chairman and chief science officer, said in a release.”

ViroPharma To End Dosing In Mid-Stage Trial of Hepatitis C Drug

<http://www.reuters.com/article/health-SP/idUSWNAS156920070810>

Aug 10 (Reuters) – “ViroPharma Inc. said it and partner Wyeth Pharmaceuticals, a unit of Wyeth decided to end dosing with a drug to treat Hepatitis C virus in a mid-stage trial due to safety concerns. ViroPharma said the drug, HCV-796, was given along with pegylated interferon and ribavirin. This decision follows a review of safety data which shows elevated liver enzyme levels in some patients after 8 weeks or more of therapy with the combination, ViroPharma said in a statement.”

Billboard Campaign Calls Attention To Hepatitis C

<http://www.emaxhealth.com/39/15262.html>

“A billboard campaign that Maryland state officials hope will raise awareness of the hepatitis C virus (HCV) began appearing this week in the Baltimore area. “There are ways to protect your liver and avoid transmitting HCV, said Dr. Michelle A. Gourdine, DHMH deputy secretary for Public Health Services. If you are at risk, a simple blood test is a good way to learn your status.” And that is the message the billboards are designed to impart. Six faces jump out of a bright yellow background, all thinking, Me? The balance of the text reads “Hep C.Find Out.” HepCMaryland.org, a site sponsored by DHMH.”

Hepatitis C Threat Through Sex Seen

http://www.gaycitynews.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=18683703&BRD=2729&PAG=461&dept_id=568864&rftid=6

“A growing body of evidence suggesting that hepatitis C can be transmitted sexually is prompting some AIDS activists to call for more research and for AIDS groups to talk to clients about the health threat. “People are starting to hear that message,” said Spencer Cox, founder and executive director of the Medius Institute for Gay Men's Health.”

Peregrine's Hepatitis C Virus Phase Ib Study Results Promising

<http://www.emaxhealth.com/39/14736.html>

“Peregrine Pharmaceuticals announced final data from its Phase Ib study of bavituximab in patients with chronic hepatitis C viral infection. The data has been accepted for an oral presentation at The Liver Meeting 2007, the premier event in the science and practice of hepatology hosted by the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD).”

IBM and University Scientists Launch Global Computing Effort to Find Cures for Dengue, West Nile, and Hepatitis C Diseases

<http://money.cnn.com/news/newsfeeds/articles/marketwire/0294340.htm>

“In an effort to halt the spread of deadly infectious diseases now threatening to reach epidemic proportions around the world, an unprecedented research effort was launched today by IBM (NYSE: IBM), The University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB), and the University of Chicago to discover drugs to treat and cure dengue fever, West Nile encephalitis, hepatitis C, and a host of related diseases including yellow fever.”

Pharmasset Completes Enrollment Of Phase 1 Study Of R7128 For HCV

<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/78666.php>

“Pharmasset, Inc. has completed patient enrollment of the ongoing multiple ascending dose study of R7128 for the treatment of hepatitis C virus (HCV). R7128, a nucleoside polymerase inhibitor of HCV, is currently being evaluated in a Phase 1 clinical trial as part of Pharmasset's collaboration with Roche. The primary objective of the multiple ascending dose study is to assess the safety, tolerability and pharmacokinetics of R7128 after once-daily or twice- daily dosing for 14 days in up to 40 patients chronically infected with HCV genotype 1 who have previously failed interferon therapy.”

Tattoo Studio Faces \$10M Lawsuit [Canada]

<http://www.thestar.com/News/article/248673>

“A \$10 million class-action lawsuit has been launched against an Oshawa body art studio after thousands of people were urged to get tested for blood-borne diseases because they may have been exposed to dirty equipment. The lawsuit against Longhorn Custom Bodyart Studio was filed in the Ontario Superior Court of Justice in Whitby Monday on behalf of Oshawa resident Kaleb Beaulieu, who received a tattoo at Longhorn in July.”

Man Battles for His Life, Medicaid Coverage

<http://www.wltx.com/news/story.aspx?storyid=52207>

“A Columbia man received news no one wants to hear last July: diagnosis of not one, but two serious illnesses. He says he's unable to seek proper treatment because of complications with Medicaid. Living with Hepatitis C and Cirrhosis of the Liver hasn't come easy for Chan McCaskill.”

CLINICAL TRIALS, COHORT STUDIES, AND PILOT STUDIES

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Clinical Features and Outcome of Chronic Viral Hepatitis with Acute Exacerbation in Patients with Concurrent Infections of Hepatitis B and C Virus. Chuang CS, et al. Dig Dis Sci. 2007 Aug 9; [Epub ahead of print].

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BASIC AND APPLIED SCIENCE, PRE-CLINICAL STUDIES

Portal-systemic shunting in patients with fibrosis or cirrhosis due to chronic hepatitis C: the minimal model for measuring cholate clearances and shunt. Everson GT, et al. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther.* 2007 Aug 1;26(3):401-10.

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MISCELLANEOUS WORKS

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