



Cheap Antihistamine Combats Hepatitis C in Mice

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An inexpensive over-the-counter allergy drug has been found to inhibit hepatitis C virus (HCV) in mice, opening the possibility that the antihistamine may one day become a part of the treatment arsenal, Time Magazine reports. Publishing their findings in Science Translational Medicine, researchers gave chlorcyclizine HCl (CCZ) to hep C-infected mice that had been grafted with human liver cells.

The drug appeared to limit the virus's capacity to replicate in liver cells, similar to the effects of approved hep C therapies, but without toxic side effects.

The next step will be to test CCZ's effects in people, a process that should proceed at an accelerated clip since the drug is already approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. In the meantime, researchers caution that people with hep C should not attempt to treat the virus themselves with the drug.

To read the press release, [click here](#).

To read the Time story, [click here](#).

To read the study abstract, [click here](#).

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