



Many People Who Start Hepatitis C Treatment Are Lost to Follow-Up

In a recent British Columbia study, 1 in 10 people who began treatment were lost to follow-up.

April 8, 2020 By [Benjamin Ryan](#)

Among people who start direct-acting antiviral (DAA) treatment for hepatitis C virus (HCV), a substantial proportion do not maintain all their follow-up appointments.

Publishing their findings in the *Journal of Viral Hepatology*, Canadian researchers analyzed data from the British Columbia Hepatitis Testers Cohort on 4,777 people who started DAAs.

The study included people with genotype 1 of HCV who were treated with Harvoni (ledipasvir/sofosbuvir), with or without ribavirin, or the Viekira regimen (ombitasvir/paritaprevir/ritonavir; dasabuvir), with or without ribavirin, and people with genotype 3 who were treated with Sovaldi (sofosbuvir) plus ribavirin through the end of 2017.

The most commonly prescribed DAA regimen was Harvoni, with or without ribavirin. Ninety-five percent of those who received this regimen achieved a sustained virologic response 12 weeks after completing therapy, considered a cure.

The highest cure rate, of 99.5%, was seen among those who received the Viekira regimen.

Four hundred fifty-three (10.1%) of the cohort members were lost to follow-up, including 17.8% of those treated with the Viekira regimen and 15.7% of those with genotype 3.

The rate of being lost to follow-up was higher among those younger than 60 years old compared with people 60 years old and older as well as among those with a history of injection drug use and cirrhosis and those on medication-assisted treatment for opioid use disorder.

“Our findings indicate that loss to follow-up exceeds viral failure in HCV DAA therapy, and its rate varies significantly by genotype and treatment regimen,” the study authors concluded.

“Depending on the etiology of lost to follow-up, personalized case management for those with medical complications and supporting services among [people who inject drugs] are needed to achieve the full benefits of effective treatments.”

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

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