



I'm Still Here

Jackie Johnson was diagnosed with hepatitis C in 2010. But in 2015, he took advantage of the latest hep C treatments and was soon cured.

December 3, 2018 By [Oriol R. Gutierrez Jr.](#)

Jackie Johnson learned he was living with hepatitis C virus (HCV) in 2010 after a doctor's visit led to him getting an HCV test. He'd gone for a checkup after experiencing extreme fatigue daily, which he attributed as a side effect of his HIV medications. He had tested positive for HIV not long before.

Johnson received his HCV-positive test result while still living in Dallas, where he was born and raised. A doctor at the time told him that a liver screening showed no scarring and that the hep C treatment of the day was both heavy on side effects and suboptimal. As a result, Johnson decided it was best to put hep C on a back burner.

Doing so allowed Johnson to pursue his acting ambitions. He saved up money and eventually moved to New York City in 2014. He struggled for a while, working odd jobs to pay his bills. However, he did connect to care soon after he arrived. In 2015, he took advantage of the latest hep C treatments and was soon cured of HCV.

Johnson's story illustrates the importance of pursuing your life goals, whether they be acting or getting cured of hep C. [Click here](#) to read more about Johnson's journey to better health.

In addition to treating and curing your hep C, achieving and maintaining overall health and wellness is a life goal we all should consider. However, for people living with hep C who are also dealing with additional health concerns, managing general wellness and getting cured of HCV is that much more important.

Case in point: For those living with chronic kidney disease (CKD), getting cured of hep C is not only important but likely. For people with CKD, treating their HCV was once considered difficult on the older hep C medications. A new study shows that newer direct-acting antiviral therapies are effective for those with CKD.

In fact, researchers have become so confident in curing hep C with the latest meds that they are studying whether HCV-negative people could receive kidney transplants from HCV-positive donors. A small study found that doing so and then treating the recipients for hep C was safe and effective. [Click here](#) for more.

The good news about hep C cures is spreading. Nonetheless, baby boomers have been slow to get tested. The majority of people living with hep C in the United States were born between 1945 and 1965. Getting them tested for HCV is critical.

To that end, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention now recommends a one-time test for baby boomers, regardless of hep C-related risk factors. The message is working. [Click here](#) for more.

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