Technivie Approved for Genotype 4

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The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently approved AbbVie's single-tablet combination regimen Technivie (ombitasvir/ paritaprevir/ritonavir) plus ribavirin to treat genotype 4 of hepatitis C virus in those without cirrhosis. This is the first time the FDA has approved an interferon-free treatment for genotype 4.

Technivie effectively comprises one of the two tablets in AbbVie's Viekira Pak (ombitasvir/paritaprevir/ritonavir; dasabuvir), which was approved to treat genotype 1 in December 2014.

Perhaps looking to avoid the public relations pinch Gilead Sciences encountered when it priced Sovaldi (sofosbuvir) at $1,000 per pill, or $84,000 for a 12-week treatment, AbbVie has set the price of Technivie at $76,653 for 12 weeks of therapy.

Technivie's approval was based on a Phase IIb study in which all 91 participants without cirrhosis—49 of whom had and 42 of whom had not been treated before—were cured after 12 weeks of Technivie and ribavirin. Another 44 treatment-naive participants took Technivie without ribavirin for 12 weeks; 40 of them (91 percent) were cured.

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