5 Common Questions and Answers about Hep C Treatment

January 4, 2017 By Connie M. Welch

Hep C patients often have questions regarding Hep C treatment. Here are 5 of the most common questions asked about Hep C Treatment.

I did Hep C treatment in the past that failed, am I eligible to be treated again? Most definitely yes! Just because past treatment did not bring you the cure, does not mean it won't happen with new treatment. Keep trying no matter what. You've got everything to gain from moving forward with new treatment.

I'm hesitant about new treatment due to the harsh side effects I experienced with past treatment, what are side effects like with new treatment? Every patient's treatment experience is a bit different but overall the new treatments today have considerably less side effects than older treatments like with Interferon and/or Ribavirin. Interferon is no longer used in new treatments and there are several treatment options without Ribavirin, depending on your liver condition. Plus treatment is considerably shorter today with 8 to 12 weeks being the standard.

The most common treatment side effects today are fatigue, headache, possible brief period of insomnia, other side effects may occur but less common. All side effects can vary but many often cycle out and pass during treatment and recovery.

Be sure to talk to your physician about your medical condition and all medications you take as well as vitamin/supplements and herbs you take prior to starting treatment. Report all side effects you experience to your physician.

It's important to note that many patients report not experiencing any side effects. This is not necessarily common, but it can happen especially with improved treatments.

Will I be able to work and take care of my family while doing treatment? With the new treatment options today, majority of patients can work and take care of their families while they are doing treatment. Depending on your overall medical condition, your physician can recommend best what you need to do. Under the American Disability Act, your job is protected while you are doing treatment and dealing with Hep C. If you did need to take any time off to rest during treatment, it's best to let your employer know about your treatment. Your physician can also write a letter of

medical need for leave if you or a family member who helps you as a caregiver, needs to take time off from work.

You may find you need to take some extra time to rest when you get home from work or have family or friends help out with extra chores during your treatment. Be flexible and most of all take time to take care of yourself. Hep C Treatment is temporary compared to the rest of your life. Don't hesitate to ask others for help if you need it.

I was diagnosed with liver damage, can Hep C treatment reverse my liver damage? This is a very good question. The goal of Hep C treatment is to eliminate the virus and stop any further damage to the liver. The liver is an amazing organ that can regenerate healthy liver tissue from mild liver damage. Liver damage or scarring can vary in degree from no damage to mild damage (fibrosis) to severe scarring (cirrhosis).

The liver can regenerate from mild damage with fibrosis but not from severe scarring such as cirrhosis. It has been reported that some regeneration improvement can occur even with some degree of cirrhosis but severe scarring from cirrhosis cannot be reversed. But without Hep C treatment and eliminating the virus, liver damage will continue to destroy liver function.

Once I do treatment and receive the cure will Hep C ever come back?

If the patient has completed the course of treatment and the Hep C virus shows Non-Detected in the blood 12 weeks after treatment has been completed, the patient has acheived SVR (sustained virologic response) and considered cured. Your physician may test you again at 24 weeks post treatment, but studies show very little difference in 12 and 24 weeks post treatment. Since the Hep C virus replicates in the body so rapidly, if the virus was still present 12 weeks after treatment it would show up.

With the high powered new treatment designed to target the virus cell and destroy it, new treatment offers a 90 to 99% cure rate. So there is very little chance of Hep C reoccurrence once the patient has received SVR 12 weeks.

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