Hepatitis C: Baywatch and birthday suits

November 13, 2015 By Grace Campbell

It's always heartening to see someone announce that they've been cured of hepatitis C. When that someone is high profile it gives the entire cause a little kick along. It's good to have some media coverage talking about HCV treatments and their successes. Keeping the cause in the public eye is hard work in a time of constant media churn and change. The news cycle seems to have to attention span of a gnat - no offence to gnats intended!

When Pamela Anderson announced her hep C cure she did it with a bang. No "from the shoulders up" smiling selfie for our Baywatch star. She was proud of her cure, proud of the fact she'd beaten the dragon and proud of being on a yacht. (Naked. In Cannes. Excuse me while I wipe the pea-green envy from the corner of my mouth, I seem to be dribbling.)

Which led me to think ... what photo would you post to celebrate your cure? How could you get a photo to encapsulate the joy, excitement and pleasure of a victory against the hepatitis C virus? *

Where would you take it?

What would you include?

Who would be with you?

I think we should celebrate courageous and victorious moments like these. I think we should hashtag them. #imcured or #nomorehvc spring to mind.

I thought about how I'd like to commemorate SVR12 if I'm lucky enough to make it.

I still have most of my empty pill bottles. 24 weeks worth of ombitasvir/paritaprevir/ritonavir, dasabuvir and ribavirin. They're in the shed holding small screws, nuts, washers and tacks. I could surround myself with them.

I could scatter all the paperwork that has accumulated over the past 12 months of pre-treatment, treatment and post treatment and recline on them like an odalisque (but I'd keep my clothes on. Some things are better left unseen).

I could take a selfie with my specialist, my CNC and me (note how possessive I have become of them).

So many choices. I have another two or three weeks left to make my mind up.

How would you Instagram your moment of victory over hepatitis C?

* I did have another thought, and that was a calendar of people cured of hep C. Naked. But that's a blog entry for another day.

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