

# Newer medications can cure HCV infections

March 8 2017

---

A new analysis reveals a dramatic transformation in the care of patients infected with hepatitis C virus (HCV) as more effective and tolerable medications have become available.

In an analysis of all HCV antiviral treatment regimens (N=107,079) initiated from 1999 through 2015 in the US Veterans Affairs national healthcare system, cure rates increased steadily from 19.2% in 1999 to 36.0% in 2010 before a remarkable increase to 90.5% in 2015. The number of patients achieving sustained virologic response was 1313 in 2010, the last year of the interferon era and increased 5.6-fold to 7377 in 2014 and 21-fold to 28,084 in 2015.

"The introduction of effective direct antiviral agents together with the allocation of appropriate funds and resources allowed the VA healthcare system to treat and cure [hepatitis C](#) in unprecedented numbers. In fact, out of approximately 57,500 patients cured of hepatitis C in the VA since 1999, approximately half were cured in a single year in 2015," said. Dr. George Ioannou, senior author of the *Alimentary Pharmacology and Therapeutics* analysis. "The question is whether we are delivering these medications to the patients who need them and what obstacles there are to treating and curing the majority of hepatitis C infected patients."

**More information:** A. M. Moon et al, Transformation of hepatitis C antiviral treatment in a national healthcare system following the introduction of direct antiviral agents, *Alimentary Pharmacology & Therapeutics* (2017). [DOI: 10.1111/apt.14021](https://doi.org/10.1111/apt.14021)

Provided by Wiley

Citation: Newer medications can cure HCV infections (2017, March 8) retrieved 25 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2017-03-medications-hcv-infections.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.