

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 4 May 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2017-03-medications-hcv-infections.html>

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