HEPATITIS & LIVER HEALTH

GET TESTED TODAY!

Q&A with Dr. Jon McCone Jr.

We are united
Patient resources across the country

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Knowledge is power

If you were born between 1945 and 1965, ask your healthcare provider today for an OraQuick® HCV test.

LISTEN UP! Musicians advocating for hepatitis awareness:

NATALIE COLE

JON SECADA

GREGG ALLMAN

PHOTOS ABOVE: TUNE INTO HEP C
PHOTO RIGHT: SPECIAL FROM CONGRESSMAN JOHNSON’S OFFICE

FROM DIAGNOSIS TO CURE

Congressman Henry “Hank” Johnson (GA-04) shares his inspiring story of overcoming the odds.

CDC recommends all Baby Boomers get a one-time Hepatitis C Test

If you were born between 1945 and 1965, ask your healthcare provider today for an OraQuick® HCV test.

20 minutes to know if you may have Hep C
VENTRELIS® (boceprevir) 200 mg Capsules is a prescription medicine used with the medicines peginterferon alfa and ribavirin (peg/riba) to treat chronic hepatitis C genotype 1 infection in adults with stable (compensated) liver disease who have not been treated before or who have failed previous treatment. Do not take VENTRELIS alone.

It is not known if VENTRELIS is safe and effective in children under 18 years of age.

Important Safety Information

VENTRELIS plus peg/riba may cause birth defects or death of your unborn baby. If you are pregnant or your sexual partner is pregnant or plans to become pregnant, do not take VENTRELIS plus peg/riba. If you are planning to become pregnant, use a reliable birth control method to avoid becoming pregnant.

- Women who are planning to become pregnant or who may become pregnant should use two reliable birth control methods to avoid becoming pregnant, and should not take VENTRELIS plus peg/riba. Reliable birth control methods are defined as taking a combination of at least one hormonal method, such as birth control pills, vaginal ring, implants, and injections, and a non-hormonal method, such as condom or cervical cap.
- Women who are already pregnant should stop taking VENTRELIS plus peg/riba and use reliable birth control methods to avoid becoming pregnant.
- Women who are planning to breastfeed should not take VENTRELIS plus peg/riba. You should not breastfeed your baby until at least 6 months after stopping VENTRELIS plus peg/riba treatment.

Do not take VENTRELIS if you are taking certain medicines. VENTRELIS and other medicines may affect each other. This can cause you to have too much or not enough VENTRELIS or other medicines in your body, affecting the way VENTRELIS and your other medicines work, or causing side effects that can be serious or life-threatening.

Tell your health care provider about all the medicines that you take, including prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Do not start taking a new medicine without telling your health care provider. For a listing of medicines that you should not take with VENTRELIS, please see the Medication Guide on the back of the next page.

Why do you want a greater chance to be cured of the hepatitis C virus?

Combination therapy with VENTRELIS® (boceprevir) offers a greater chance of cure for some patients versus treatment with peginterferon alfa and ribavirin (peg/riba) alone. “Cure” means you have cleared the hep C virus (it is not detectable in your blood 6 months after completing all treatment).

- In clinical studies with patients who have not been treated before, 63% to 69% cleared the virus when VENTRELIS was added to peg/riba versus 38% with peg/riba alone.

Important Safety Information (continued)

Before you take VENTRELIS, tell your health care provider if you have blood problems (low white blood cell count [neutropenia], have liver problems other than hepatitis C, have human immunodeficiency virus [HIV], or any other immunity problems, had an organ transplant, plan to have surgery, have any other medical condition, or are breastfeeding. You should not breastfeed. You should not do both.

VENTRELIS may cause serious side effects, including blood problems. VENTRELIS can affect your bone marrow and cause low red blood cell and low white blood cell counts. Some people, these blood cell counts may fall to dangerously low levels. If your blood cell counts become very low, you can get anemia or infections.

Before and during treatment, your health care provider will do blood tests. These tests will check for side effects and also tell you early on how well treatment is working and how long you may need to be on it.

The most common side effects of VENTRELIS with combination therapy include: tiredness, nausea, headache, and change in taste.

Tell your health care provider about any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away. There may be other side effects of VENTRELIS. For more information, ask your health care provider.

Call your health care provider for medical advice about side effects. You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

For more information on VENTRELIS, please see the Medication Guide on the next page.

Need help paying for VENTRELIS? Call 1-866-363-6379

Visit ventrelis.com

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**VICTRELIS** (danoprevir) Capsules

**Capsules**

**Do not take VICTRELIS if you take:**

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you are taking, including prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal or other supplements. If you are taking any of these medicines, tell your healthcare provider before taking VICTRELIS.

**Before you take VICTRELIS, tell your healthcare provider if you:**

• take certain medicines.

Talk to your healthcare provider before taking VICTRELIS if you

• have certain blood disorders such as low red blood cell count (anemia) or a certain type of low white blood cell count (neutropenia).
• take immunosuppressive medicines such as rituximab (RITUXAN) or a monoclonal antibody (mAb) directed against CD20 (e.g., ofatumumab (AREVAN)).

**How should I take VICTRELIS?**

• Read this Medication Guide before you start taking VICTRELIS and each time you get a refill. There may be new information.

**What are the possible side effects of VICTRELIS?**

VICTRELIS may cause serious side effects, including:

• Blood problems: VICTRELIS may affect your bone marrow and blood cell production. Your blood cell counts may become very low, you can get infections, and you can bleed easily.

• Certain types of liver problems:

• Test liver function before you start taking VICTRELIS.

• Tell your healthcare provider if you take a medicine that affects your liver function.

• Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

**Who should not take VICTRELIS?**

• Women who are pregnant or may become pregnant.

• Women who are breastfeeding.

• Men who have sex with men.

• Men whose sex partners have HIV/AIDS.

• Women whose sex partners have HIV/AIDS.

• Men and women who are allergic to danoprevir.

**What is danoprevir?**

Danoprevir (VICTRELIS) is a prescription medicine used in the management of adults with hepatitis C virus (HCV) genotypes 1, 4, and 5 who are treatment-naive or who have not been treated with prior antiviral therapy and are infected with HCV genotype 1.

**VICTRELIS** is available in 2 different strengths: 120 mg and 240 mg.

**VICTRELIS** is a capsule that contains:

Controlled dissolution (CARGENTR®, NEUGENTR®, SIGMAGRAN®, VERAGMAL, WURAGMAL®)

**Adverse reactions**

This information does not take into account that your medication is being taken in combination with peginterferon alfa and ribavirin. You may also have other side effects that may vary from person to person. You should discuss the risks and benefits of your treatment with your healthcare provider.

**What should I watch for?**

• Tell your healthcare provider if you take a medicine that affects your liver function.

**Tell your healthcare provider if you are taking or plan to take any other medicines, including prescription, non-prescription, and herbal medicines, vitamins, and supplements.

**How should I store VICTRELIS?**

**What happens if I miss a dose?**

• Tell your healthcare provider if you take a medicine that affects your liver function.

**How to tell if a dose has been missed:**

• Tell your healthcare provider if you take a medicine that affects your liver function.

**What are the possible side effects of VICTRELIS?**

VICTRELIS may cause serious side effects, including:

**Blood problems:** VICTRELIS may affect your bone marrow and blood cell production. Your blood cell counts may become very low, you can get infections, and you can bleed easily.

**Liver problems:** VICTRELIS may affect certain blood tests that measure liver problems. You may have bile duct damage, which can cause liver problems. You may also have a liver tumor.

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BAY BABY BOOMERS

BABY BOOMERS:

A CONCERT FOR A CAUSE:
Fighting back against hepatitis C with education, advocacy, and music.

NATALIE COLE

There is a stigma surrounding hepatitis C because it’s associated with IV drug use. But it really doesn’t matter how you got the virus. What’s important is that you do something about it.

JON SEDACA

I wish I could go back in time and tell my father, and other affected people, to learn more about the disease so they wouldn’t think I’m sharing my family’s personal story with the world.

GREGG ALLMAN

“Doing nothing is not an option; they need to talk with their doctors.”

The American Liver Foundation is often asked, “Who gets liver disease?” According to the National Institutes of Health, approximately 130 to 170 million people worldwide, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, including 3.2 million in the U.S., have chronic hepatitis C. The American Liver Foundation has been working to raise awareness of chronic hepatitis C as a disease.

Living with hepatitis C

According to the National Institutes of Health, individuals with chronic hepatitis C virus infection include fatigue, jaundice, and dark urine. However, many people infected with HCV have no symptoms. HCV can lead to chronic disease, liver disease, and liver cancer, after infection.

SPEAKING OUT THROUGH MUSIC

On July 27, 2011, the night before World Hepatitis Day, Natalie Cole launched an awareness campaign called Living with Hepatitis C. The concert raised more than $250,000 for community-based groups supporting people with chronic hepatitis C. The concert featured chronic hepatitis C advocates Natalie Cole, Jon Secada, GRAMMY® award-winning R&B singer Carl Carlton, and Jon Secada. GRAMMY® award-winning R&B singer Carlton was diagnosed with chronic hepatitis C in 2006—he doctors estimate Carlton may have contracted the virus in the early 1990s. He asked, “Who gets hepatitis C?”

One thing is for sure—the diagnosis of hepatitis C is a taboo, such as injectable drug use or sexual history. The advantages of testing outweigh the risks. The American Liver Foundation recommends that all adults be tested. We can get the test done at your doctor’s office, at a local health center, or on a point-of-care test. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, “This is good test. Many people don’t remember whether they had a blood transfusion as a child, or they don’t want to discuss topics they consider taboo. Such as drug use or sexual history.” The advantages of testing outweigh the risks. The American Liver Foundation recommends that all adults be tested.

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TAKING ACTION

According to the NIH, diagnosing and treating hepatitis C can save lives. Genetic testing determines which of the six genotypes people have, making the most difficult to treat. Treatment is individualized to suit each patient’s needs. People with Hepatitis C can be treated with a combination of medication to remove the virus. Continuing to bring down disponível and affordable hepatitis C drugs to communities around the world, including those in low-income countries, is vital. The American Liver Foundation is working to support policies that will ensure access to effective and affordable hepatitis C treatment.

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People are dying due to lack of knowledge—not lack of treatment options. Most people—upwards of 75 percent of those infected with HVC and 65 percent of the HBV-infected population—are not aware of it, so over the years, these viruses progress into cirrhosis and liver cancer—the second deadliest cancer after pancreatic cancer. Death rates from HCV doubled between 1999 and 2007, yet treatment options have increased. Michael Ninburg, Executive Director, Hepatitis C Support Project, says, "These are disease states that we can eliminate. HCV is vaccine-preventable and HBV is treatable." No matter what the result, there is treatment. Advocates have a sense of urgency around educating the public. Their focus is on prevention, getting people tested, treatment and providing emotional support. Alan Franciscus, Executive Director Hepatitis C Support Project, is optimistic. He says, "There has been so much improvement in awareness, management, and treatment in the last 15 plus years. I think the biggest change is in HCV treatment. When I was first diagnosed and treated with interferon monotherapy, there was only a 9 percent chance of a cure for my particular strain. Now we have a combination of medications that can cure up to 80 percent of people who take them." Through his advocacy work, Franciscus and his colleagues emphasize that HCV is a blood-borne disease, which is spread by blood-to-blood contact (as in HAV) and that it is a death sentence. He urges those infected to take precautions in order to not spread the virus, and also to avoid alcohol, eat a healthy diet and get exercise.

HBV can affect anybody. Regarding HBV, Block calls it "an equal-opportunity virus that can affect anybody." Universal vaccination guidelines for newborns in the U.S. have drastically reduced the rate of new cases of HBV. Block notes that there is a "critical window of opportunity" in the first 12 to 24 hours after birth, during which newborns should be vaccinated to prevent infection. "Without vaccination, a newborn whose mother is HBV-infected has a 90 percent chance of becoming chronically infected. This is a missed opportunity, because HBV is the deadliest vaccine-preventable disease there is," she says. According to the Hepatitis B Foundation, Asian Americans are at particular risk. One in ten Asian Americans has HBV, and two out of three don't know it. Block says, "You can't be treated unless you know it. There are good treatments that can help stop the disease from progressing to liver cancer. It's better to treat sooner, rather than later." The Hepatitis C Support Project, the Hepatitis B Foundation and the Hepatitis Education Project are on the forefront of helping patients connect the dots between testing, prevention, treatment and support, for patients, clinicians and caregivers. There are also other organizations with both local and national services (see page 6). HealthPro Solutions, a Hepatitis C advocacy organization headquartered in New York City, has mapped the information to make it easier to find local resources. For more information, please visit: hepinfo.org. The Hepatitis B Foundation has done the same for HBV-related resources and information: hepinfo.org.
**Question:** What was your reaction when you were first diagnosed with Hepatitis C?

**Answer:** On the evening that I found out I have Hepatitis C, I was shocked and alone in the rink while skating, to determine, while skating, to light and fight this disease.

**Question:** What steps can be taken to protect myself and my friends from Hepatitis C?

**Answer:** When I was weak, she was strong. She has been my rock. When I was weak, she was...
Keep It Simple with Ribasphere RibaPak

- You take only two ribavirin pills each day instead of up to six
- Weekly pack helps you keep track of every pill and is marked for easy AM and PM dosing

To learn more, visit: www.RibaPak.com

Important Safety Information about Ribasphere RibaPak (ribavirin, USP) Tablets

Ribasphere® RibaPak® (ribavirin, USP) Tablets is a medicine used with another medicine called peginterferon alfa-2a to treat chronic hepatitis C infection in adults whose livers still work normally, and who have not been treated before with a medicine called an interferon alpha.

The following is the most important information you should know about Ribasphere RibaPak:

1. You should not take Ribasphere (ribavirin, USP) alone to treat chronic hepatitis C infection.

2. Ribasphere may cause you to have a blood problem (hemolytic anemia) that can worsen any heart problems you have, and cause you to have a heart attack or die. People with a history of serious heart disease should not be treated with this medicine. Please talk to your health care professional to see if this medicine is right for you.

3. Ribasphere may cause birth defects or death of your unborn baby. You should not take this medicine if you are pregnant or your sexual partner is pregnant, nor should you or your partner become pregnant while you are taking Ribasphere and for 6 months after you stop treatment. You need to use two forms of reliable birth control when you take Ribasphere and for the 6 months after treatment.

For more information, please see the Ribasphere RibaPak (ribavirin, USP) Tablets Brief Summary of safety information on the previous page. Please see full Prescribing Information available at RibaPak.com. Safety information for other drugs you may take as part of combination therapy should also be reviewed before you begin treatment. Be sure to talk to your doctor or other health care professional.