C Note

July 1, 2005

A third of U.S. HIVers are coinfected with hep C (HCV)—most with tough-to-treat genotype 1. So we cheer news that Vertex Pharmaceuticals' C-fighting protease inhibitor (PI), VX 950, succeeded resoundingly in a two-week trial of 34 non-HIVer Europeans with HCV genotype 1 (some hit undetectable in that short time). To be seen: Will it work in HIVers? Stay tuned for Phase II tests, which the company hopes for—in the U.S., too—late this year or early next. Let's hope it's not all PI in the sky.

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