

# Next Up...

The lowdown on what's inside the pipeline

January 1, 2000 By [Tim Horn](#)

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**Brand Name: To be announced**

**Generic Name:** Tipranavir

**Company:** Pharmacia & Upjohn

**For:** HIV

**Class:** Protease Inhibitor (PI)

**Status:** Phase II trials under way

**Standard Treatment:** Highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART)

**Notes:** Designed with resistance

in mind. A test-tube study found tipranavir to be 90 percent effective against HIV strains resistant to three or more PIs. Information about dosing and side effects to be determined.

**From the gut of PWA Stephen Gendin:** "I'm skeptical of claims of unique-resistance profiles—they usually don't pan out. Tipranavir's long-term toxicities and dosing are the drug's most promising aspects, though both are still unclear."

**Brand Name: Coactinon**

**Generic Name:** Emivirine

**Company:** Triangle Pharmaceuticals

**For:** HIV

**Class:** NNRTI

**Status:** Phase I/II trials under way

**Standard Treatment:** HAART

**Notes:** A non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor (NNRTI) similar to nevirapine (Viramune), delavirdine (Rescriptor) and efavirenz (Sustiva). Twice-daily dosing is the plan, and information about side effects is pending.

**From the gut of PWA Stephen Gendin:** "What's so exciting about an NNRTI with an overlapping resistance profile? It's only useful to the NNRTI-naive, and there's no evidence that it's better than the NNRTIs already available."

**Brand Name: To be announced**

**Generic Name:** T-20 (Pentafuside)

**Company:** Trimeris

**For:** HIV

**Class:** Fusion Inhibitor

**Status:** Phase II trials under way

**Standard Treatment:** HAART

**Notes:** This new class of anti-HIV drug prevents the virus from attaching to CD4 cells at one particular site. No major side effects reported, but dosing is a hassle: T-20 is not effective if taken orally, so twice-daily injections are needed.

**From the gut of PWA Stephen Gendin:** Finally, a drug that operates in a unique way! This drug is important for people who've run through all other drug options. For those in need of new therapies, self-injection is the least of their problems."

**Brand Name:** Pegasys

**Generic Name:** Pegylated Interferon

**Company:** Hoffman LaRoche

**For:** Hepatitis C (HCV)

**Class:** Interferon

**Status:** Phase III trials under way; approvals pending

**Standard Treatment:** Robertron (ribavirin and standard interferon)

**Notes:** A new formulation of an old drug, pegylated interferon can be taken just once a week. In two clinical trials—neither enrolled HIVers—the drug was more effective than standard interferon in combating hepatitis C.

**From the gut of PWA Stephen Gendin:** "More convenient and less toxic than the standard treatment, this drug will be very popular. But as with anti-HIV meds, it still needs to be teamed with other drugs to control hepatitis C."