Cure: High Hep C Cure Rates

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In a recent trial, Gilead Sciences' newly approved Harvoni (ledipasvir/sofosbuvir) cured hepatitis C virus (HCV) in nearly all people who were coinfected with HIV and genotype 1 of HCV. The trial included 50 coinfected participants, about a quarter of whom had advanced fibrosis, although none had cirrhosis. The 37 participants who were on antiretrovirals (ARVs) to treat HIV were taking Truvada (tenofovir/emtricitabine) with either Sustiva (efavirenz), Isentress (raltegravir) or Edurant (rilpivirine). After 12 weeks of Harvoni treatment, all 13 of those not taking ARVs were cured of hep C, while 36, or 97 percent, of those taking ARVs were cured. Harvoni has been found to raise levels of Viread (tenofovir, a component of Truvada), but the researchers did not detect significant abnormalities. However, three people did have transient protein in their urine.

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