

# **Chronic Hepatitis C Natural History and Current Treatment 2013**

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## **Financial Disclosures**

Research Support from Anadys, BMS, Gilead,  
Globeimmune, Merck, Novartis, Roche, Vertex  
Consulting: Cumberland, Novartis

**AND**

My presentation may possibly include discussion of  
off-label use of DAAs

## **Outline of this talk**

- Review Hep C 101: basic statistics
- Review the CDC Baby Boomer Directive
- Provide an overview to current Rx with the new DAAs
- Give a glimpse of the future, which happens to be just around the corner

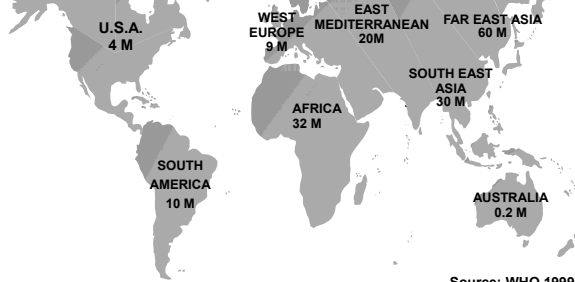
## **Hepatitis C Virus (HCV)**

- Discovered in 1989 as a small RNA blood-borne virus with a large reservoir of chronic carriers worldwide
- Major cause of post-transfusion hepatitis prior to 1992
- Major cause of chronic liver disease, cirrhosis, and hepatocellular carcinoma worldwide
- Prevalence is 1.8% of the US population, 4 million
- 1990-2015: estimated 4-fold increase in the number of patients diagnosed with HCV in the United States

NIH Consensus Development Conference Panel Statement Management of Hepatitis C, 2002.

## Hepatitis C: A Global Health Problem

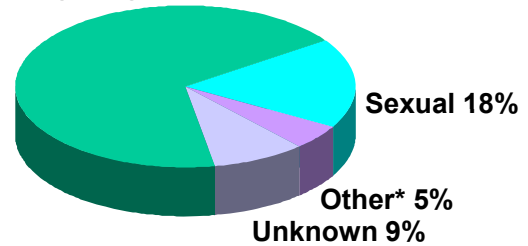
170 Million Carriers Worldwide, 3-4 MM new cases/year



Source: WHO 1999.

## Sources of Infection for Hepatitis C (1995-2000)

Injecting drug use 68%



\*Nosocomial; Health-care work; Perinatal

Adapted from Hepatitis Slide Kit <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/hepatitis/slideset/>  
Accessed 01/18/03. Alter M.J. Hepatology 2002;36:S93-S98.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
**MMWR**  
Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report  
Recommendations and Reports / Vol. 61 / No. 4  
August 17, 2012

Recommendations for the Identification of  
Chronic Hepatitis C Virus Infection Among  
Persons Born During 1945-1965



Continuing Education Exercises available at <http://mmwr.cdc.gov/mmwr/continuing-education>



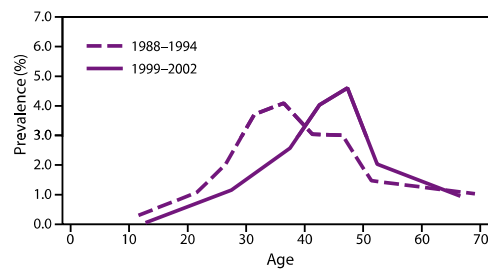
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

## Recommendations for Identification of Chronic Hepatitis C Virus Infection Among Persons Born During 1945-1965

- Adults born during 1945-1965 should receive one-time testing for HCV without prior ascertainment of HCV risk.
- All persons with identified HCV infection should receive a brief alcohol screening and intervention as clinically indicated, followed by referral to appropriate care and treatment services for HCV infection and related conditions.

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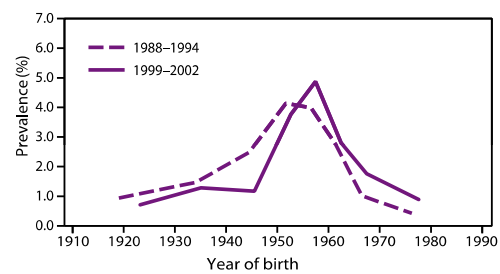
**FIGURE 1. Prevalence of hepatitis C virus antibody, by age at time of survey — National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, United States, 1988–1994 and 1999–2002**



**Source:** Armstrong GL, Wasley A, Simard EP, et al. The prevalence of hepatitis C virus infection in the United States, 1999 through 2002. *Ann Internal Med* 2006;144:705–14. Modified and reprinted with permission from Annals of Internal Medicine.

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**FIGURE 2. Prevalence of hepatitis C virus antibody, by year of birth — National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, United States, 1988–1994 and 1999–2002**



**Source:** Armstrong GL, Wasley A, Simard EP, et al. The prevalence of hepatitis C virus infection in the United States, 1999 through 2002. *Ann Internal Med* 2006;144:705–14. Modified and reprinted with permission from Annals of Internal Medicine.

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## Recommendations and Reports

**TABLE 1. Number and prevalence of persons born during 1945–1970 positive for anti-HCV and with chronic HCV infection, by birth cohort — National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, United States, 1999–2008**

Birth cohort	U.S. population (in millions)*	Anti-HCV		Chronic HCV infection	
		No. (in millions)	(Weighted %) <sup>†</sup>	No. (in millions) <sup>‡</sup>	(%)
1945–1965	84.2	2.74	(3.25)	2.06	76.6
1950–1970	89.2	2.89	(3.24)	2.17	80.6
1945–1970	105.1	3.15	(3.00)	2.36	87.3
1950–1965	68.3	2.47	(3.61)	1.85	69.9
1950–1960	45.6	1.83	(4.01)	1.37	52.3
1945–1949	13.2	0.21	(1.58)	0.16	6.7
1966–1970	20.9	0.41	(1.94)	0.30	10.8

**Abbreviations:** HCV = hepatitis C virus; anti-HCV = antibody to hepatitis C virus.

\* Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 2010 Census: Single years of age and sex: summary file 1, table PCT12. Available at [http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=DEC\\_10\\_SF1\\_PCT12&prodType=table](http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=DEC_10_SF1_PCT12&prodType=table). Accessed April 27, 2012.

<sup>†</sup> Not adjusted by age or other covariates.

<sup>‡</sup> An estimated 75% of anti-HCV-positive persons have chronic HCV infection. (Source: Ghany MG, Strader DB, Thomas DL, Seeff LB, American Association for the Study of Liver D. Diagnosis, management, and treatment of hepatitis C: an update. [Practice Guideline.] *Hepatology* 2009;49(4):1335–74.)

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Seeff LB, American Association for the Study of Liver D. Diagnosis, management, and treatment of hepatitis C: an update. [Practice Guideline.] *Hepatology* 2009;49(4):1335–74.)

**TABLE 2. Prevalence of anti-HCV among three birth cohorts, by sex and race/ethnicity\* — National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, United States, 1999–2008**

Characteristic	Anti-HCV (weighted %)		
	1945–1965	1950–1970	1945–1970
<b>Sex</b>			
Male	4.34	4.12	3.89
Female	2.19	2.34	2.14
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>			
White, non-Hispanic	2.89	3.01	2.77
Black, non-Hispanic	6.42	5.73	5.60
Mexican American	3.26	2.56	2.71

**Abbreviation:** anti-HCV = antibody to hepatitis C virus.

\* Not adjusted by age or other covariates.

by non-Hispanic white males (4.05%) and Mexican-American males (3.41%).

Complicating health outcomes among HCV-infected persons born during 1945–1965 are a lack of health insurance (31.5%) and use of alcohol (3). Of all anti-HCV positive

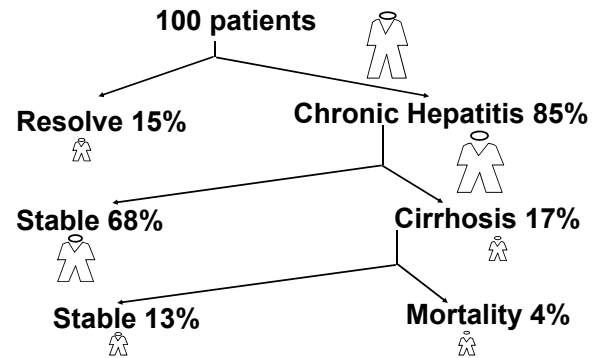
CDC

## Summary of new CDC Recs

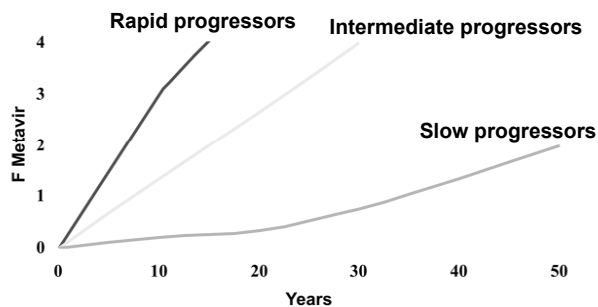
- Current estimates are ca. 4 million Americans with HCV
- Between 45 and 85% of HCV infected are unaware of it
- Risk-based strategies have failed
- Baby boomers (1945-1965) represent 27% of the population but 75% of those infected
- 1990-2015: estimated 4-fold increase in the number of patients diagnosed with HCV in the United States

NIH Consensus Development Conference Panel Statement Management of Hepatitis C, 2002.

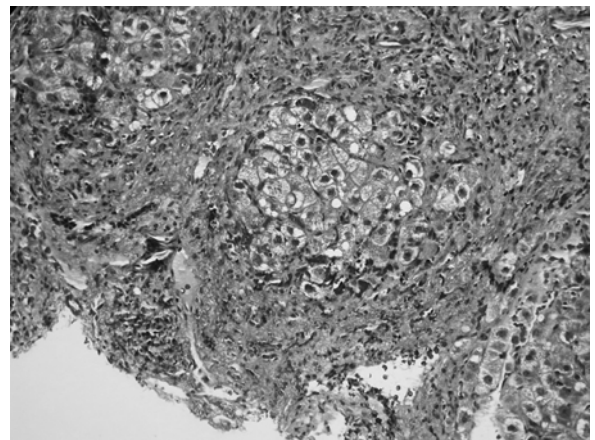
## Natural History Hepatitis C

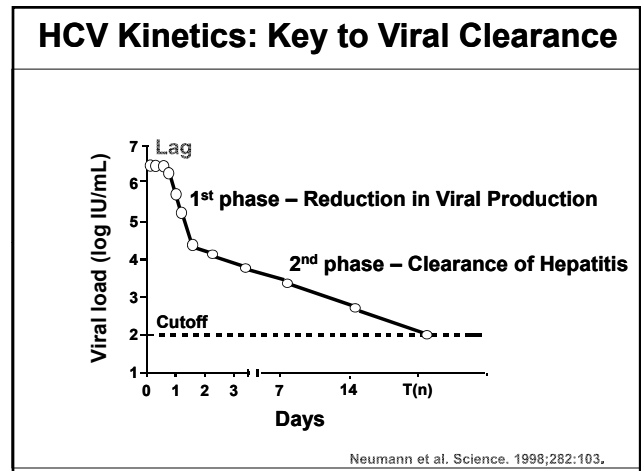
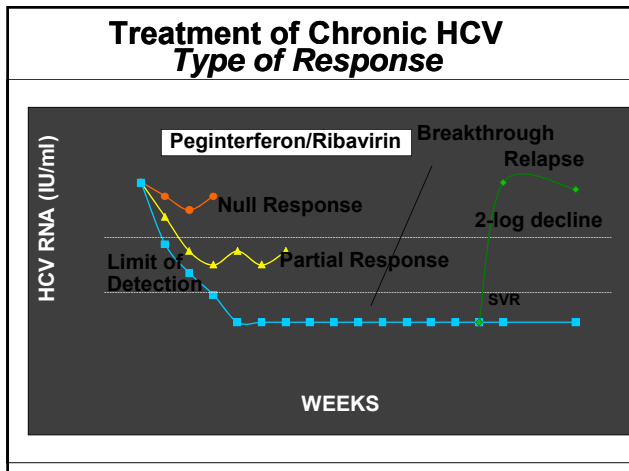
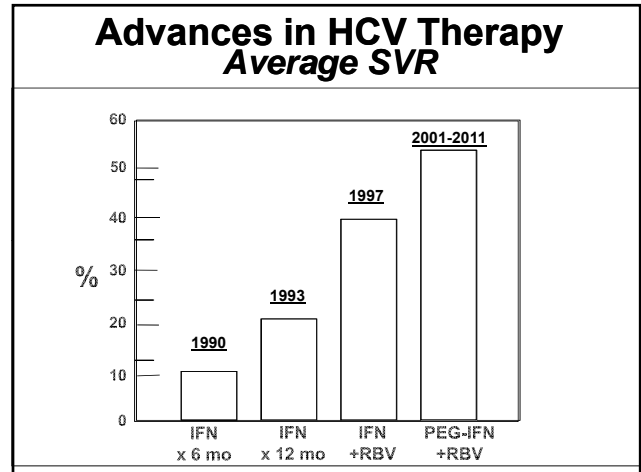
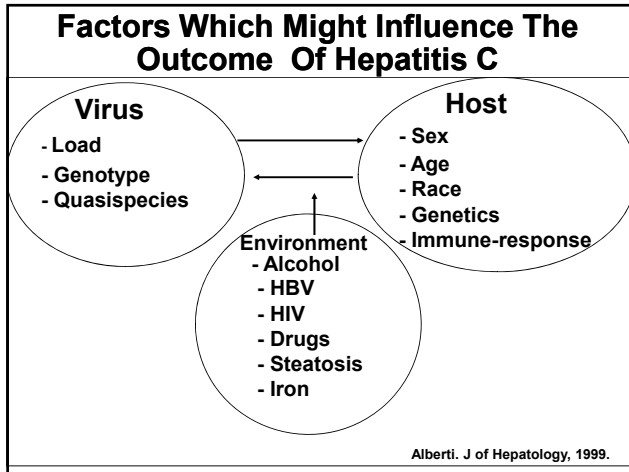


## Modeling of Liver Fibrosis in Chronic Hepatitis C, n=1157 Patients



Poynard et al, Hepatology 1999

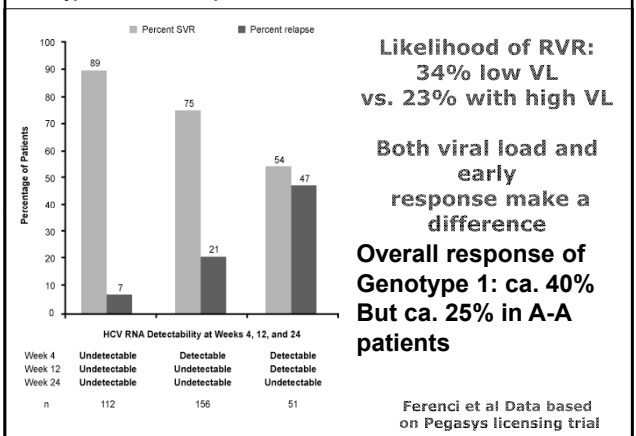




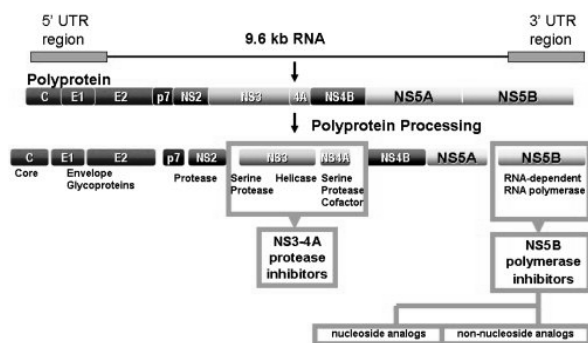
## Virological Response Terms

- **EVR** = minimum 2 log<sub>10</sub> decrease in HCV RNA during first 12 wk of therapy
- **ETR** = undetectable HCV RNA at the completion of therapy
- **SVR** = persistently undetectable HCV RNA for ≥6 months following completion of therapy
- **RVR** = negative at wk 4
- **eRVR** = extended RVR, neg wk 4 + wk 12, 20
- **VRVR** = negative at wk 1

Genotype 1: Relationship of SVR rate and time to undetectable HCV RNA.

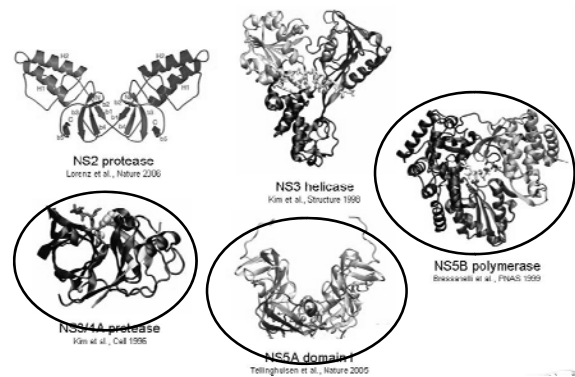


## HCV Polyprotein Processing and Viral Protein Function



McGovern B, Abu Dayyeh B, and Chung RT. Hepatology. 2008; 48:1700-12

## Potential HCV Targets

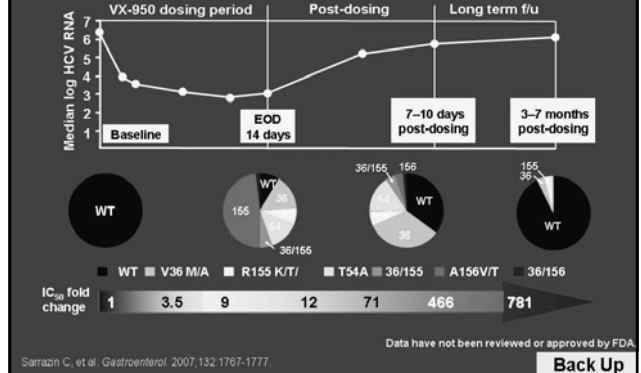


Adapted from Bartenschlager RJ. Presented at 43<sup>rd</sup> EASL Milan, Italy, April 2008.

## Graveyard for HCV Compounds is Filling Up Quickly!



## Emergence of Resistance Underlies Breakthrough and Plateau Response



## Major HCV Therapy Trials 2006-2011

**MERCK: Boceprevir, Victrelis®**  
**SPRINT-1:** Naïve, Phase 2: Boceprevir: dose finding  
**SPRINT-2:** Naïve, Phase 3: Boceprevir: RGT/Blacks/Non-Black  
**RESPOND-2:** Experienced, Phase 3: Boceprevir, length Rx experienced  
**VERTEX: Telaprevir, Incivek®**  
**PROVE-1:** Naïve, Phase 2: Telaprevir, dose/duration  
**PROVE-2:** Naïve, Phase 2: Telaprevir, leave off RBV?  
**ADVANCE:** Naïve 8 vs 12 wk, Phase 3: Telaprevir, shorten Rx to 8 wk  
**ILLUMINATE:** Naïve RGT, Phase 3: Telaprevir: RGT: 24 vs. 48  
**REALIZE:** Experienced, Phase 3: Telaprevir: Lead-in

## Add on to SOC: Phase 2 Trials of HCV NS3-4A protease inhibitors in HCV-1

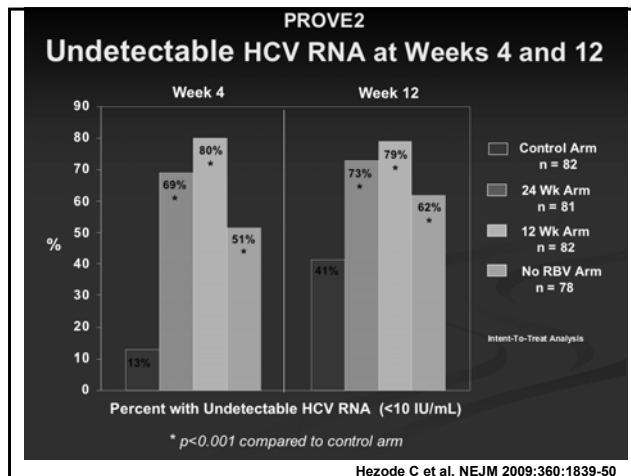
Response	PROVE1 (24 wks)	PROVE2 (24 wks)	SPRINT-1 (28 wks) (no lead-in/lead-in)	SPRINT-1 (48 wks) (no lead-in/lead-in)	SOC Peg/RBV (48 wks)
RVR	81%	69%	39%	37%	8-15%
SVR	61%	68%	54/56%	67/75%	38-48%

- PROVE1: TPV + Peg-2a / RBV × 12 wks then Peg/ RBV × 12 wks if RVR (24W)
- PROVE2: TPV + Peg-2a / RBV × 12 wks then Peg RBV × 12 wks (24W)
- SPRINT-1: Boceprevir + Peg-2b + RBV for 24/28 weeks or 44/48 weeks with or without a 4-wk lead in period of PEG-2b + RBV

McHutchison J, et al. NEJM 2009;360:1827-38  
 Hezode C et al, NEJM 2009;360:1839-50  
 Kwo P, et al. Lancet 2010; 376:705-16



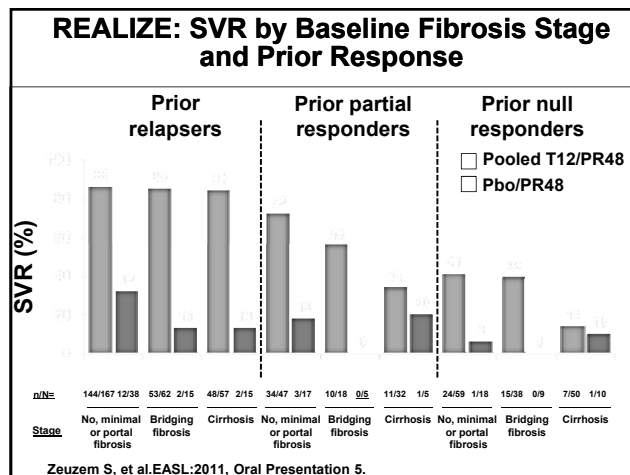
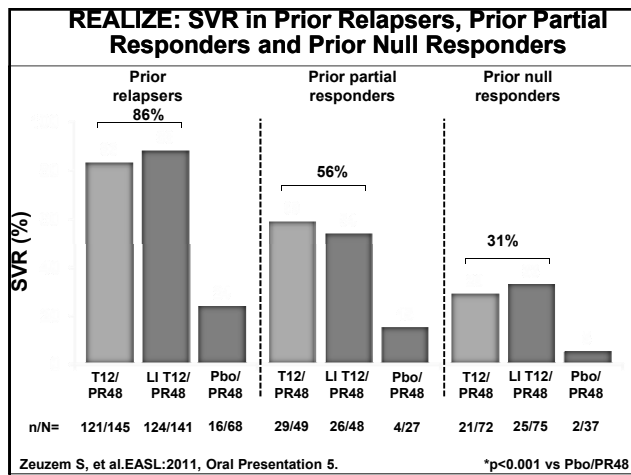




**ADVANCE: Most Common Adverse Events**

% of Patients with	T12PR N=363	T8PR N=364	PR (control) N=361
Any Adverse Event*	99	99	98
Fatigue	57	58	57
Pruritus	50	45	36
Headache	41	43	39
Nausea	43	40	31
Rash	37	35	24
Anemia	37	39	19
Insomnia	32	32	31
Diarrhea	28	32	22
Influenza-like illness	28	29	28
Pyrexia	26	30	24

Shaded areas: 10% or greater incidence in either TVR groups vs control



## Conclusions: HCV Therapy as of 2011

### Durability of therapy

- SVR is a cure
- Tailor therapy to early viral response: RGT is effective

### Protease inhibitors

- High rates of RVR in naive patients, ca. 65%
  - Can shorten Rx to 24-28 weeks Rx for RVR's
  - Treatment-limiting adverse effects include rash, diarrhea
- More side effects, limiting responses but few relapses
- Virological failure occurs with mutations, ? significance
- Cirrhosis, high VL, genotype less predictive; 1b > 1a
- Prior IFN/RBV response determines 3-drug response
- Need IFN and RBV so far!!
- Watch for earlier and more severe anemia!

## Results

857 HCV patients were identified.

498 HCV genotype 1 patients were analyzed.

67 had negative HCV RNA, were seen outside date range, or were already on a treatment protocol.

407 deferred HCV treatment.

91 started on triple therapies.

174 were not genotype 1 or had unknown genotype.

19 discontinued before 12 weeks.

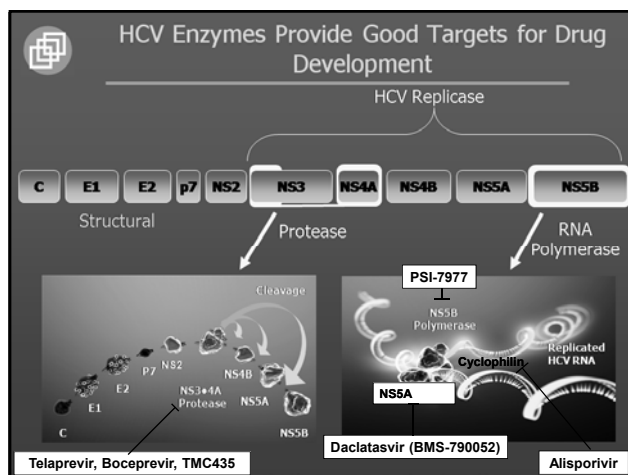
72 did not discontinue early.

57 genotype 1 were on dialysis, HIV-co-infected, or post-transplant.

61 were waiting for clinical trial, treated with another protocol, or were unsure of treatment plan.

## Discussion

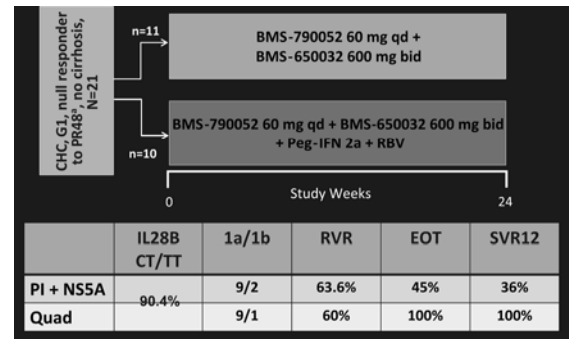
- Triple therapy initiation rate was only 18%
- Reasons to defer triple therapy included medical and psych contraindications, too early or too late
- Probably more HCV patients in academic practices have advanced fibrosis and/or are prior treatment non-responders. "Hard-to-treat"
- Triple therapy discontinuation rate (20.8%) higher than the 7-9% reported in clinical trials



### Examples of > 80% SVR Rates in Phase II, DAA + PegIFN + RBV Trials in HCV GT1, Rx Naïve Patients

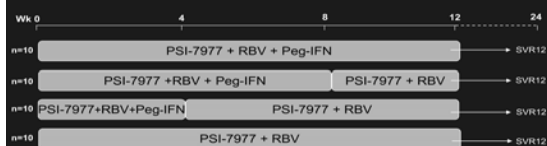
Direct Acting Antiviral	Target	SVR rates (DAA /PR vs. PR)	Unique Features
Daclatasvir 10 mg, 48 wk, N=12	NS5A Replication Complex	92% vs. 25%	First in class Once daily dosing No new side effects
TMC435, 150 mg X 24 wk, N=79	NS3/4A protease	86% vs. 65%	Macrocyclic Higher resistance barrier Once daily dosing
PSI-7977 400 mg, 24 wk, N=47	NS5B polymerase	91% vs. < 50%	Pangenotypic Once daily dosing No resistance observed

### Phase 2a Study of Double or Quadruple Therapy of Null Responder, Genotype 1 HCV Infection with Daclatasvir (BMS-790052) and Asunaprevir (BMS-650032) +/- PR



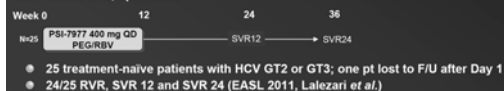
Lok, AS, et al, NEJM, 2012; 366:216

### PSI-7977 ELECTRON Nucleotide Analogue in Genotype 2/3



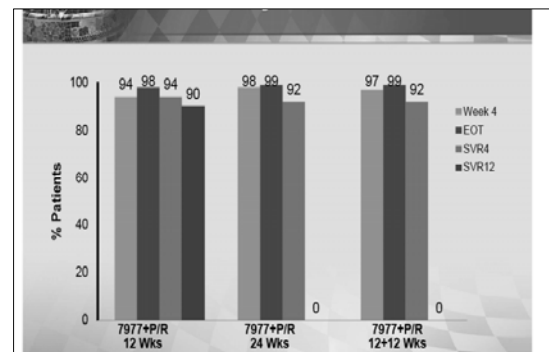
Time Wk	PSI-7977 RBV 12 weeks PEG		PSI-7977 RBV 8 weeks PEG		PSI-7977 RBV 4 weeks PEG		PSI-7977 RBV NO PEG	
	n	%<LOD	n	%<LOD	n	%<LOD	n	%<LOD
SVR12	11/11	100	10/10	100	9/9	100	10/10	100

#### HCV GT2 or GT3, open-label

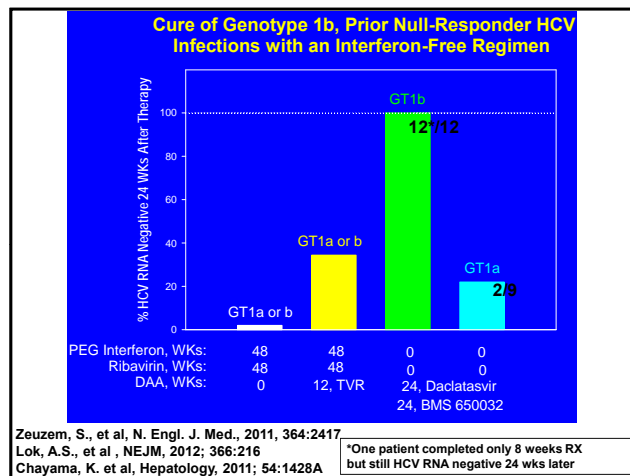
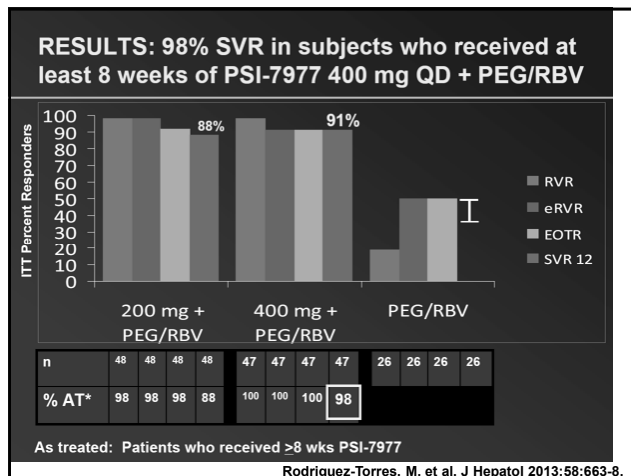


Rodriguez-Torres, M, et al. J Hepatol 2013;58:663-8.

### The ATOMIC Study; 7977 plus P/R for geno 1 HCV



Rodriguez-Torres, M, et al. J Hepatol 2013;58:663-8.



### Summary: Current State of Play 2013

- Triple therapy is superior to Peg/RBV
- But is not successful in many patients with established cirrhosis
- Interferon/RBV still needed so far
- New agents hold great promise/not here yet
- We will be able to treat all sorts of HCV patients within the next 3 years: HIV, cirrhosis, post-transplantation

### Unanswered Questions

- 2<sup>nd</sup> generation agents are not yet here but seem amazing
- Will they work as well in the 'hard to treat?'
- How will we treat HIV/HCV? Or transplant patients?
- When will we have an approved IFN-free regimen?
- What will be the cost of a 'sure cure?'

### **Public Health Concerns**

- Medications very expensive, currently up to \$70,000 for a course of treatment
- No vaccination available
- Large number of unrecognized cases, probably around 50%
- Need to develop strategies to identify new cases
- Increasing numbers with end-stage liver disease being recognized: HCC
- Large burden on health care system

### **Taking the CDC Recs to Heart**

- CDC recs represent a watershed
- How to implement them?
- How about employee screening for HCV?
- HIPAA considerations?
- The drugs will soon be available, fall 2013?
- Conquering Hep C is in sight!!

### **Ohio State Liver Care/Transplant Group**



Chronic/end stage liver disease, hepatitis B and C, clinical trials, drug-induced liver injury, acute liver failure.  
Phone: 614-293-6255 Fax Referrals To: 614-293-8518  
Long-Distance: 800-293-8965 After business hours, call: 800-293-5123