www.i-Base.info

Guide to hepatitis C for people living with HIV: testing, coinfection, treatment and support

Contents

Introduction	3
First questions	4
HCV transmission: how HCV is caught and passed on	8
Natural history of HCV	11
Issues affecting specific individuals	14
Acute HCV infection: new HCV infections in HIV-positive gay men	14
Long-term coinfection: long term HCV infection from blood products or by injection drug use	16
Testing and monitoring	18
HCV treatment and management of HCV infection	23
Side effects and management strategies	30
Deciding whether to treat HCV	33
Research into new HCV drugs	35
Living with co-infection: reducing stress and other lifestyle factors	36
Other viral hepatitis infections	39
Controversial aspects of HCV transmission, monitoring, care and treatment	40
HIV and HCV: Similarities and Differences	41
Glossary	42
Further information – web links and resources	44

This publication was written and compiled by Simon Collins (HIV i-Base) and Tracy Swan (Treatment Action Group, USA). Additional contributions and editorial comments are included from Sanjay Bhagani, Polly Clayden, Marc Ennals, Ramon Espacio, Loon Gangte, Charles Gore, Camilla Graham, Mauro Guarinieri, Marianna Iwulska, Robert James, Maxime Journiac, Svilen Konov, Luis Mendão, Silvia Petretti, David Pieper, Jack Summerside, Joan Tallada, Carmen Tarrades and Kate Thomson. Pictures by Beth Higgins and Simon Grindrod.

Additional thanks to the Hepatitis C Trust UK for permission to use text from their website.

Funding for the publication was provided by Monument Trust.

Disclaimer: Information in this booklet is not intended to replace information from your doctor or other healthcare workers. Decisions relating to your treatment should always be taken in consultation with your doctor.