

African Americans

EASY C FACTS

Hepatitis C (HCV or Hep C for short) affects some groups of people differently than others. There are differences in the number of people infected with hepatitis C and how well current HCV medicines will work in certain groups.

There are twice as many African Americans who are infected with HCV than whites who are infected with HCV. African Americans are also more likely to be infected with a certain strain of hepatitis C called genotype 1 – a strain that is more difficult to treat with

current HCV medications.

The good news is that many experts believe that hepatitis C disease may advance more slowly in African Americans than in whites. The reason for this is not clear and there needs to be more information to really confirm this fact.

In general, it is more difficult to treat or get rid of HCV in African Americans than it is for whites with current HCV medicines. However, the newer forms of medicines called pegylated interferons (once a week injection or shot) when taken with ribavirin (pill) are a great improvement over medicines in the past.

Remember.....

- ◆ Talk with your doctor about ways to stay healthy.
- ◆ Try to eat a healthy diet that includes a lot of fruits, vegetables, and lean meat.
- ◆ Talk with your doctor about an exercise program that is right for you.
- ◆ Find out whether HCV treatment is what you need.

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