

Sovaldi Treatment Gastroenterology Outpatient

Gastroenterology Outpatient Department
Lincoln County Hospital

www.ulh.nhs.uk

Aim of the leaflet

This leaflet aims to tell you about treatment for chronic hepatitis C. Hepatitis C is a virus that infects your liver. This medicine works by lowering the amount of hepatitis C virus in your body. The virus is then removed from your body over a period of time.

What is Sovaldi?

Sovaldi is a new type of treatment for adult patients with chronic hepatitis C. Sovaldi is always taken with other medicines. It will not work on its own. It is very important that you read the leaflets for the other medicines that you will be taking with Sovaldi.

Sovaldi combination can boost the chance of clearing the virus from your body up to 100% in some cases.

How is Sovaldi taken?

Sovaldi comes as one tablet and is taken by mouth, **once a day with food**. The type of food is not important. The tablet must be swallowed whole, not crushed, split or chewed.

You will receive up to 24 weeks of treatment with Sovaldi combination.

What should I do if I miss a dose?

It is important not to miss a dose of this medicine.

If you do miss a dose and you notice within 18 hours of the time you usually take Sovaldi, you must take the tablet as soon as possible.

OR

If you miss a dose and you notice 18 hours or more after the time you usually take Sovaldi, wait and take the next dose at the usual time. **Do not take two doses together.**

Can I take Sovaldi with other medicines?

It is important to let us know what medication you are taking or have recently taken. This includes medicines that you have bought without a prescription and herbal remedies.

Sovaldi should not be taken with:

Modafinil, Rifampicin, Rifabutin, Rifapentine, Tipranavir, Ritonavir, St John's Wort, Phenobarbital, Oxcarbamazepine and Phenytoin. This is because they make Sovaldi work less effectively. Sovaldi can be taken with Methadone.

Common side effects of Sovaldi

The standard treatment for hepatitis C is with Ribavirin and Pegylated Interferon. Sovaldi has mainly been studied in combination with Ribavirin, with or without Pegylated Interferon.

The most commonly experienced side effects of Sovaldi and Ribavirin are:

- Tiredness
- Headache
- Nausea (feeling sick)
- Insomnia (not sleeping)

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Blood tests may also show:

- Low red blood cell count causing anaemia. The signs may include feeling tired, headaches and shortness of breath when exercising.
- Low blood platelet count causing abnormal bleeding.
- Changes in your liver (as shown by a rise in a substance called bilirubin in the blood).

If you get any side effects, tell your doctor or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in leaflets about treatment for your hepatitis C.

How do I store Sovaldi?

The tablets should be stored in their original bottle. Keep the bottle tightly closed in order to protect tablets from moisture. The bottle contains a pouch of desiccant to keep the tablets dry.

Driving and using machines

When taking Sovaldi together with other medicines for the treatment of hepatitis C, patients have reported tiredness, dizziness, blurred vision and reduced attention. If you have any of these side effects, do not drive or use any tools or machines.

Pregnancy and contraception

Sovaldi should not be taken during pregnancy or by women of child bearing potential who are not using contraception. Since your treatment for hepatitis C includes Ribavirin, it is very important that you (or your partner) **do not become pregnant** during treatment and for seven months afterwards. Ribavirin is cleared slowly from the body. Therefore, patients should use 2 effective contraceptive methods in sexual activity during treatment with Sovaldi and afterwards.

Breast-feeding

You should not breast-feed during treatment with Sovaldi. It is not known whether Sovaldi passes into human breast milk.

If you have any worries or need any more information please do not hesitate to discuss these concerns with your doctor or nurse.

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For further information, support, advocacy and representation for people affected by hepatitis C please contact: **The Hepatitis C Trust.**

Helpline: 0845 223 4424. **Website:** www.hepctrust.org.uk.

Helpline email: helpline@hepctrust.org.uk.

References

If you require a full list of references for this leaflet please email patient.information@ulh.nhs.uk

The Trust endeavours to ensure that the information given here is accurate and impartial.

If you require this information in another language, large print, audio (CD or tape) or braille, please e-mail the Patient Information team at patient.information@ulh.nhs.uk