



YOU ARE CORDIALLY  
INVITED

# Hepatitis C: What You Need To Know

AN UPDATE ON PEGASYS® & COPEGUS®

Roche is presenting a free informational seminar  
for patients, family members and health educators

- Meet a local expert in hepatitis C
- Gain the tools to be an informed patient
- Learn about the latest treatment options

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED

## FEATURED PRESENTER

Julie E. Spivack, M.D.

Gastroenterology Associates of Fairfield  
Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup> 6:00PM  
Fairfield Public Library  
1080 Old Post Rd.  
Rotary Room

Please RSVP: 1-800 353-7896 by 9/19/2005

Please see important safety information about PEGASYS (Peginterferon alfa-2a)  
and COPEGUS (Ribivirin, USP) on the back of this invitation.

PEGASYS and COPEGUS are registered trademarks of Roche.

NOTE: Any personal information obtained by Roche  
or its agents will be held in confidence and only used for  
registration purposes at this meeting



PEGASYS is a medication used to treat adults who have a lasting (chronic) infection with hepatitis C virus and who show signs that the virus is damaging the liver. Patients with hepatitis C have the virus in their blood and in their liver. PEGASYS reduces the amount of virus in the body and helps the body's immune system fight the virus. The medication COPEGUS is a tablet that may be taken with PEGASYS to help fight the virus. **Do not take COPEGUS by itself.**

**Alpha interferons, including PEGASYS® (Peginterferon alfa-2a), may cause or worsen fatal or life-threatening mental, immune system, heart and infectious disorders. Patients should be monitored closely with regularly scheduled doctor visits and laboratory tests. Therapy should be stopped in patients with continuing severe or worsening signs or symptoms of these conditions. In many, but not all cases, these disorders resolve after stopping PEGASYS therapy (see medication guide for more information and warnings).**

**Use with COPEGUS (Ribavirin, USP). Ribavirin, including COPEGUS®, may cause birth defects and/or death of an unborn baby. Extreme care must be taken to avoid pregnancy in female patients and the female partners of male patients. Ribavirin causes a type of blood disorder called hemolytic anemia. The anemia associated with ribavirin therapy may result in a worsening of heart disease. Ribavirin can be harmful to a person's DNA or cause it to mutate. Ribavirin should also be considered a potential cancer-producing substance (see medication guide for more information and warnings).**

Do not take PEGASYS or PEGASYS with COPEGUS if you are pregnant, planning to get pregnant during treatment or during the 6 months after treatment, or are breast-feeding, or if you are a male patient with a female sexual partner who is pregnant or plans to become pregnant at any time while you are being treated or during the 6 months after your treatment with COPEGUS has ended. In addition, do not take PEGASYS or PEGASYS with COPEGUS if you have hepatitis caused by your immune system attacking your liver (autoimmune hepatitis), if you have unstable liver disease before or during treatment, if you have had an allergic reaction to another alpha interferon or are allergic to any of the ingredients in PEGASYS or COPEGUS, or if you have abnormal red blood cells because of a condition such as sickle-cell anemia or thalassemia major.

**If you are a woman of childbearing age, you must have negative pregnancy tests just before beginning treatment, during treatment, and for 6 months after you have stopped treatment. You must use two forms of birth control during treatment and for the 6 months after treatment is completed. If you are a male patient, one of the two forms of birth control must be a condom with spermicide. If you or your partner becomes pregnant during or within 6 months after treatment with COPEGUS, immediately report the pregnancy to your doctor. You or your doctor should also call the Ribavirin Pregnancy Registry at 1-800-593-2214.**

The most common side effects of PEGASYS and COPEGUS combination treatment include flu-like symptoms such as fever, chills, muscle aches, joint pain and headaches; extreme fatigue (tiredness); upset stomach (including related events such as nausea, taste changes, and diarrhea); blood sugar problems which may lead to diabetes; skin reactions such as a rash, dry or itchy skin, and redness and swelling at the site of injection; temporary hair loss; and trouble sleeping.

The most serious possible side effects of treatment with PEGASYS and COPEGUS combination therapy include risks to pregnancies, mental health problems (including irritability, depression, anxiety, aggressive behavior, suicidal behavior including thoughts about suicide and suicide attempts, and trouble with drug addiction or overdose), blood problems (including a drop in various blood cells which can lead to an increased risk for infections, bleeding, and/or heart or circulatory problems), infections (which have sometimes caused death), lung problems (including trouble breathing and pneumonia), eye problems (including blurred vision or loss of vision), autoimmune problems (where the body's own immune system attacks itself including psoriasis and thyroid problems), and heart problems (including chest pain and, rarely, a heart attack).

**For information about PEGASYS and/or COPEGUS, please visit [www.Pegasys.com](http://www.Pegasys.com) or call 1-877-PEGASYS.**



**Pharmaceuticals**

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