



Hepatitis C

Council of NSW

Prezista and hepatitis C

Further to the warning by the National Association of People with HIV/AIDS (NAPWA) and Tibotec that the HIV antiretroviral drug Darunavir, brand name Prezista, can cause serious liver damage for people with HIV, we wish to highlight the importance of this fact for another group of people. People with HIV and hepatitis C and/or hepatitis B co-infection who are taking Prezista should speak to their doctors urgently.

Reports from Canada note that people with advanced HIV disease and who are taking other drugs as well as Prezista or, who had illnesses such as hepatitis B or C co-infections, are at greater risk of side effects from the drug.

Any people taking Prezista should contact their doctor immediately if they have any of these symptoms: dark urine, yellowing of the eyes or skin (if they have white skin), abdominal pain (especially on the right side below the ribs), general itchiness, decreased appetite, nausea or vomiting or tiredness. People taking Prezista should not stop taking it without consulting their doctor.

People with HIV and hepatitis C or B co-infection are at greater risk of enhanced liver damage in any event, so it is important to reduce the risk of progression of liver damage by finding out what pharmaceutical drugs can cause liver inflammation and by cutting back on alcohol consumption.

For further information call the NSW *Hep C Helpline* on 1800 803 990.

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