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I recently found out that i was one of the unfortunate baby boomers with hepatitis c.It seems,from the information on the internet,that there are tens of thousands of us with little or no idea how we caught this infection.I read that the nasty effects of hepatitis c start to really hit home as people get older and from my experience i know this to be very true.The severe fatigue and aches and pains get progressively worse.

I have been told that the numbers of people taking treatment is quite low due to the side effects,cure rates and length of treatment.Their are many horror stories of treatment with interferon and ribavirin,especially depression and physical collapse.Now we hear of the new wonder drugs being produced in the United States with fantastic cure rares and easily tolerated side effects.Great news for all sufferers except for one thing,the cost of these drugs is very high.

I hope that the committee will concentrate on making these new drugs available to ordinary Australians using what ever methods they have at their disposal.The drug companies have to make a profit but with tens of millions of hepatitis c sufferers around the world a wider net would surely reap enough money.If the state of a persons life expectancy depends on their bank balance then we are not yet truly civilised.

The hepatitis australia website thinks that hepatitis c can be virtually eliminated in the near future.I hope they are right.Best of luck,Gerry Butler.