Treatment of Hepatitis Viruses; Costly and Inaccessible

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Hepatitis viruses B (HBV) and C (HCV) are major causes of liver diseases worldwide generally and in developing countries specifically. More than 70 million of the world population is estimated to be infected with hepatitis C virus. The World Health organization (WHO) has planned to eliminate HCV from the globe by the year 2030 [1]. Similarly estimated 240 million people were infected by HBV by 2005 globally [2].

With the advent of direct acting antiviruses it is possible to cure hepatitis C virus [3]. The aforementioned WHO plan can only be achieved if the effective direct acting antiviruses are distributed in an equitable and affordable ways. Though there is no cure to hepatitis B virus currently its untoward consequences can be significantly alleviated by using effective antiviruses in those who require treatment [4].

The treatment cost of the anti-hepatitis C virus medications varies depending on the manufacturer. Treatment of HCV is believed to be cost effective [5,6]. However, if one from a developing country agrees to take the HCV eradication therapy he or she may be obliged to sell important personal assets [7]. This is an obstacle for the poor as selling an asset could compromise the basic needs of the individual and the family.

Similarly, there are various options for the treatment of hepatitis B virus infection. Tenofovir is one of the drugs used in the treatment of hepatitis B virus; however it too is costly and difficult to access especially in developing countries.

To halt the untoward consequences of these deadly hepatitis viruses, their treatment shall be made available in affordable prices for those who require it. Likewise, if the WHO is to achieve its goal the treatments shall be made available to the poor on a reasonable price.

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