Elbasvir + grazoprevir (50 mg + 100 mg tablet)

MSF supports the inclusion of the fixed-dose combination elbasvir + grazoprevir (50 mg/100 mg tablet) in the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines, for the treatment of chronic hepatitis C (HCV) genotypes 1 and 4 in adults. Worldwide, approximately 80 million people are living with chronic hepatitis C virus. The number of deaths attributable to hepatitis HCV has been increasing over the past decades from around 330,000 in 1990 to over 700,000 deaths per year in 2013.

This fixed-dose combination contains elbasvir, an NS5A inhibitor, preventing HCV viral RNA replication and virion assembly and grazoprevir, a protease inhibitor of HCV NS3/4A. Elbasvir + grazoprevir is included in current European and US guidelines as a first-line option for the treatment of HCV genotype 1 or 4 treatment-naïve and treatment-experienced patients. It may also be used in patients with HIV co-infection and those with severe renal impairment.

The once-daily tablet intake increases ease of administration and therefore adherence to treatment.

Elbasvir + grazoprevir has received recent approval from US FDA, EMA, Australia and Canada Health.

As there is no known market availability of individual formulations of grazoprevir and elbasvir, it is important to include this fixed-dose combination in the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines to allow for competition between originator direct-acting antivirals (DAAs) to reduce price and improve accessibility in markets where generics are not a feasible option. Ideally, resistance testing should be done to determine duration of treatment with this combination, making it a less ideal alternative for low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), due to increased complexity of lab resources required.

MSF urges the 21st Expert Committee on the Selection and Use of Essential Medicines to include the fixed-dose combination elbasvir + grazoprevir (50 mg/100 mg) in the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines.

For Médecins Sans Frontières

Myriam Henkens, MD, MPH
International Medical Coordinator