150 million people have chronic hepatitis C, more than the population of Russia. 500,000 die per year from hepatitis C-related liver diseases.

Hepatitis C is curable! Few patients can access treatment.

Global prices vary sharply.

In the 1980s, interferon was used for hepatitis C treatment. It had a 40-80% cure rate, but the treatment lasted for half a year and had many side effects. In 2011, direct-acting antivirals were introduced, offering 95% cure rates in just 12 weeks, with fewer side effects.

Most patients do not know they have hepatitis C, and only 42 million patients out of 150 million are treated. R&D is focused on genotypes 1 & 2, which are common in Europe and America, while genotypes 3, 4, 5, and 6, common in Africa, Asia, and Southeast Asia, receive less R&D.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RESTRICTS GENERICS

The lack of screening leads to a gap in hepatitis C treatment, with 73% of patients living in countries where treatment is not available. Only 0.5% of chronic hepatitis C patients are treated.

INEXPENSIVE TREATMENTS: New treatments, such as those developed by DNDi, could improve access for patients in low-income countries.

The price for one treatment in the US is $84,000, whereas in Africa, Asia, and South America, the price is only $300. The price varies sharply globally, with profits maximized by charging the most possible in each market.