

Treatment-Naive Genotype 5 or 6

Recommended and alternative regimens listed by pangenotypic, evidence level and alphabetically for:

Treatment-Naive Genotype 5 or 6 Patients With and Without Compensated Cirrhosis^a

RECOMMENDED	DURATION	RATING 
Daily fixed-dose combination of glecaprevir (300 mg)/pibrentasvir (120 mg) ^b	8 weeks	I, A ^c
Daily fixed-dose combination of sofosbuvir (400 mg)/velpatasvir (100 mg)	12 weeks	I, B
Daily fixed-dose combination of ledipasvir (90 mg)/sofosbuvir (400 mg) ^d	12 weeks	IIa, B

^a For [decompensated cirrhosis](#), please refer to the appropriate section.

^b Dosing is 3 coformulated tablets (glecaprevir [100 mg]/pibrentasvir [40 mg]) taken once daily. Please refer to the prescribing information.

^c For compensated cirrhosis, rating is I, B.

^d Not recommended for genotype 6e if subtype is known.

Recommended Regimens

Glecaprevir/Pibrentasvir

Based on favorable data for 12 weeks of treatment for noncirrhotic patients in the phase 2 SURVEYOR-2 study (100% SVR12 in 34 patients with genotype 4, 5, or 6) ([Kwo, 2017b](#)), ENDURANCE-4 enrolled 121 DAA-naïve or -experienced (sofosbuvir plus ribavirin ± peginterferon) genotype 4, 5, or 6 patients without cirrhosis to receive 12 weeks of the daily fixed-dose combination of glecaprevir (300 mg)/pibrentasvir (120 mg) administered as three 100 mg/40 mg pills ([Asselah, 2018b](#)). Of those enrolled, 86% had fibrosis stage F0 to F1 and 68% were treatment naïve. The genotype distribution was 63% genotype 4, 21% genotype 5, and 16% genotype 6. The overall SVR12 rate for the intention-to-treat population was 99% (120/121), including 99% (75/76) for genotype 4, 100% for genotype 5 (26/26), and 100% (19/19) for genotype 6.

Genotype 4, 5, and 6 patients were not included in the randomized study to compare an 8-week vs 12-week course for DAA-naïve, noncirrhotic patients. However, part 4 of the SURVEYOR-2 study investigated an 8-week course of glecaprevir/pibrentasvir in DAA-naïve patients without cirrhosis ([Asselah, 2018b](#)). In the intention-to-treat analysis, 2/2 with genotype 5 and 9/10 with genotype 6 achieved SVR12; there were no known virologic failures. Further, ENDURANCE-5,6 was a phase 3b, single-arm, open-label, multicenter study of the efficacy of glecaprevir/pibrentasvir among DAA-naïve patients with genotype 5 (n=23) or 6 (n=61) infection. Participants without cirrhosis received an 8-week regimen; those with cirrhosis (11% of patients) received 12 weeks of treatment ([Asselah, 2019](#)). Overall SVR was 98% with 2 virologic failures; treatment failed in a patient with genotype 6f and cirrhosis, and in another noncirrhotic participant with genotype 5a.

In addition, EXPEDITION-1 investigated the use of glecaprevir/pibrentasvir in DAA-naïve (75%) or -experienced (interferon or peginterferon ± ribavirin, or sofosbuvir plus ribavirin ± peginterferon) patients with compensated cirrhosis. Of 146 patients with genotype 1, 2, 4, 5, or 6 given 12 weeks of glecaprevir/pibrentasvir, 99% (145/146) achieved SVR12, including 100% (2/2) with genotype 5 and 100% (7/7) with genotype 6 ([Forns, 2017](#)). Based on these studies, glecaprevir/pibrentasvir was approved for an 8-week course (noncirrhotic) and 12-week course (cirrhotic) of treatment for people with genotype 5 or 6 infection.

EXPEDITION-8 evaluated 8 weeks of glecaprevir/pibrentasvir among 280 treatment-naïve patients with compensated cirrhosis and genotype 1, 2, 4, 5 (n=1) or 6 (n=9) infection. SVR12 was 99% with no virologic failures ([Brown, 2018](#)). Patients with a prior history of decompensation, hepatocellular carcinoma, and HIV or HBV coinfection were excluded from the study.

An integrated analysis of the 181 participants with genotype 5 or 6 from phase 2/3 studies including those above showed comparable response rates between 8 weeks and 12 weeks of treatment with no signal of poorer performance among cirrhotic patients with an 8-week regimen ([Yao, 2020](#)).

Sofosbuvir/Velpatasvir

The daily fixed-dose combination of sofosbuvir (400 mg)/velpatasvir (100 mg) for 12 weeks was approved by the FDA for the treatment of genotype 5 and 6 infection in patients with and without cirrhosis ([Feld, 2015](#)). ASTRAL-1 included 24 genotype 5 treatment-naïve participants with and without cirrhosis, 96% (23/24) of whom achieved SVR12. The study also included 38 genotype 6 treatment-naïve participants with and without cirrhosis, all of whom achieved SVR12. An additional 9 genotype 6 patients received sofosbuvir/velpatasvir in the POLARIS-2 phase 3 study, all of whom achieved SVR ([Jacobson, 2017](#)).

Two real-world cohort studies evaluated 12 weeks of sofosbuvir/velpatasvir among predominantly treatment-naïve patients with genotype 6 infection. SVR was 100% in a cohort of patients (n=23) from Southwest China, none of whom had clinical cirrhosis ([Wu, 2019](#)). SVR was also 100% in a cohort of predominantly Vietnamese patients (n=43) residing in the United States, 12% of whom had cirrhosis ([Nguyen, 2019](#)). A real-world, pooled analysis of 12 cohorts that evaluated adults treated with 12 weeks of sofosbuvir/velpatasvir demonstrated an SVR of 98.5% (67/68) among participants with genotype 5 or 6 infection; all 13 participants with compensated cirrhosis achieved SVR ([Mangia, 2020](#)).

Ledipasvir/Sofosbuvir

Although there are limited data on patients with genotype 5 infection, the in-vitro activity of sofosbuvir and ledipasvir are quite good with EC₅₀ of 15 nM and 0.081 nM, respectively. An open-label, single-arm study that included 41 genotype 5-infected patients demonstrated an overall SVR12 rate of 95% (39/41) ([Abergel, 2016](#)). The SVR12 rate was also 95% specifically among treatment-naïve patients (20/21), of whom only 3 had cirrhosis but all achieved SVR12.

Ledipasvir has in-vitro activity against most genotype 6 subtypes, except for 6e ([Wong, 2013](#)); ([Kohler, 2014](#)). A small, 2-center, open-label study (NCT01826981) investigated the safety and in vivo efficacy of ledipasvir/sofosbuvir for 12 weeks in treatment-naïve and -experienced patients with genotype 6 infection. Twenty-five patients (92% treatment-naïve) who were primarily Asian (88%) had infection from 7 different subtypes (32% 6a; 24% 6e; 12% 6l; 8% 6m; 12% 6p; 8% 6q; 4% 6r). Two patients (8%) had cirrhosis. The SVR12 rate was 96% (24/25), and the single patient who experienced relapse had discontinued therapy at week 8 because of drug use. No patient discontinued treatment owing to adverse events ([Gane, 2015](#)).

In the largest US study, 60 patients with genotype 6 infection were randomized to 8 weeks (treatment-naïve, no cirrhosis) or 12 weeks (treatment-naïve or -experienced, with or without cirrhosis) of ledipasvir/sofosbuvir; SVR rates were 95% in both treatment groups ([Nguyen, 2017](#)). A real-world cohort of 92 treatment-naïve patients with genotype 6 infection (predominantly Vietnamese patients residing in the United States, 51% with cirrhosis) was treated with 12 weeks of ledipasvir/sofosbuvir; SVR12 was 96.6% ([Nguyen, 2019](#)). Subtype data were not available.

A recent systematic review that examined the response to DAA therapy among persons with genotype 6 infection highlighted the heterogeneity of SVR rates in response to ledipasvir/sofosbuvir treatment across Asian countries (64% in Myanmar versus 100% in Vietnam) ([Mettikanont, 2019](#)). The reasons for this difference are likely multiple; the variable distribution of subtypes within the populations is a potential explanation. Pending more data, a conservative approach is recommended, with subtype 6e patients best treated with an alternative regimen.

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