

## Hepatitis C treatment: Genes found that calibrate how our immune system affects virus

A big data study of hepatitis C and more than 500 patients with the virus has opened the way for a better understanding of how the virus interacts with its human hosts.

Researchers at the University of Oxford have for the first time developed a method for analyzing and comparing the genetic makeup of the hepatitis C virus (HCV), as well as that of more than 500 patients with the virus.

Viral hepatitis is one of the leading causes of death and disability worldwide, with 2-3% of the world's population thought to be infected with HCV, which left untreated can lead to liver disease and cancer.

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Professor Ellie Barnes from the Nuffield Department of Medicine, who led the study with Dr Chris Spencer, said: "We identified two places in the human genome where the genetic variation that calibrates our immune system affects the genetic diversity of the virus...Within 15 years, DNA sequencing of disease-causing bugs like HCV will become a routine part of healthcare."

[Read the original source [here](#)]

**The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion, and analysis. Read full, original post: [Genetic study reveals how hepatitis C interacts with humans](#)**

**For more background on the Genetic Literacy Project, read [GLP on Wikipedia](#)**