

# CHILD OR ADULT?

Teens and Hepatitis C

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## *A Parent's Perspective*

### **The Loneliness of a Teen with Hepatitis C**

By Dorothy S.

It is hard to tell people your son is infected with the hepatitis C virus. They look at you like you're a leper. The only people I share that information with are the doctors.

My son is 17 years old. If he tells girls, they all of a sudden do not want to go out with him. The only people at his school who know are the counselors at his college. We are simply too scared to tell anyone else.

It is hard enough just dealing with hepatitis C, let alone having no friends who want to be around you. Teens need friends and people to talk to. We have no support group in our area for him to go to. All the groups are adults; there's no one in his age group.

The few people who know just say "do not worry, it will go away." The doctor my son sees does not want to do any treatments. My insurance will not let me change doctors. So every day I wonder how much longer do I have him before the disease takes over...

It seems people do not care or do not want to be bothered. This is the loneliest I have ever felt in my life. I try very hard to look up positive things to tell my son about hepatitis C, but I cannot answer his questions as to why the doctor refuses treatment.

My wish is for people to understand and be willing to listen to our fears, and maybe offer a shoulder to cry on.

