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AbbVie Launches QUREVO® for the treatment of chronic Hepatitis-C in Egypt

Egypt has the highest prevalence of the Hepatitis-C virus (HCV) worldwide, with 90% of HCV infected patients living with genotype 4

AbbVie, a global biopharmaceutical company, announced the launch of QUREVO [®] (ombitasvir/paritaprevir/ ritonavir tablets, an all-oral, interferonfree treatment) in combination with ribavirin (RBV) for patients living with chronic genotype 4 (GT4) Hepatitis-C virus (HCV) infection in Egypt.

The announcement comes under the patronage and presence of Minister of Health Ahmed Rady, Minister of Investment Ashraf Salman, and US Ambassador to Cairo Robert Stephen Beecroft. Professor of Medicine at the School of Medicine in San Diego, California, Tarek Hassanein, was also present. He also serves as the Director of Southern California GI & Liver Centers and is the Director of the ClinicalTrials Center, and the Co-Director of Liver Transplantation at Scripps Clinic. Also present were Chairman of the National Committee to Combat Viral Hepatitis (NCCVH), Wahid Doss, and Manal Hamdy B-Sayed, a member of the NCCVH.

The treatment has been approved for chronic genotype 4 HCV infections by the Egyptian health ministry less than a year after receiving approval from the European Commission and the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which makes Egypt one of the first countries in the Middle East to have access to this groundbreaking treatment. The treatment was also approved by the FDA for chronic genotype 1 HCV infection in December 2014.

Hepatitis-C represents a major global health problem, affecting more than 160 million worldwide. Egypt has the highest prevalence of HCV worldwide, with 6% of the country's population living with the disease, of whom it is estimated that 90% are infected with GT4. The health ministry has designated Hepatitis-C a national health priority and AbbVie is collaborating with government officials to help identify and address the diverse challenges and unmet needs across Egypt.

"HCV is a major health burden both at social and medical levels, significantly impacting patients' lives. The very high prevalence of the HCV infection among Egyptians leads to millions of HCV infected patients living in the country. This is why our government is committed to address this burden and advance with its HCV elimination plans," said Minister of Health Ahmed Rady.