

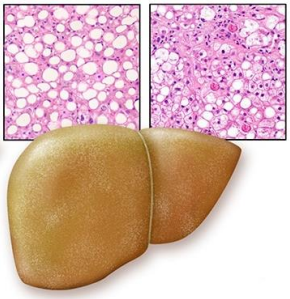


Fatty Liver Disease *for GPs*



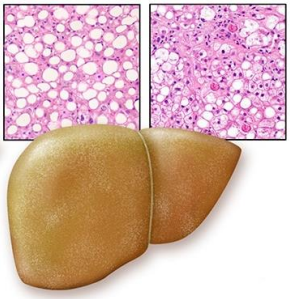
Dr Richard Skoien – Staff Hepatologist
Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital,
UQ Medical School & QIMR-Berghofer
GP Workshop – 25 March 2023

Disclosures



- Speaker's Honoraria, Advisory Board appearances
 - AbbVie, Bayer, BMS, Chiesi Australia, Eisai, MSD
- Principal Investigator for multi-centre NASH Trials
 - Gilead Sciences, Intercept Pharmaceuticals, Inventiva Pharma, Madrigal Pharmaceuticals, Tobira/Allergan
- Travel/conference subsidies and project grants
 - AbbVie, Bayer, BMS, Cromwell Property Trust, Gilead, Roche
- My talk: Published data only
Summarises current professional guidelines (AASLD, EASL)
Reflects my own personal assessment of that literature

What Do You Need to Know?



What is
NAFLD?

Who is at
risk of
cirrhosis?

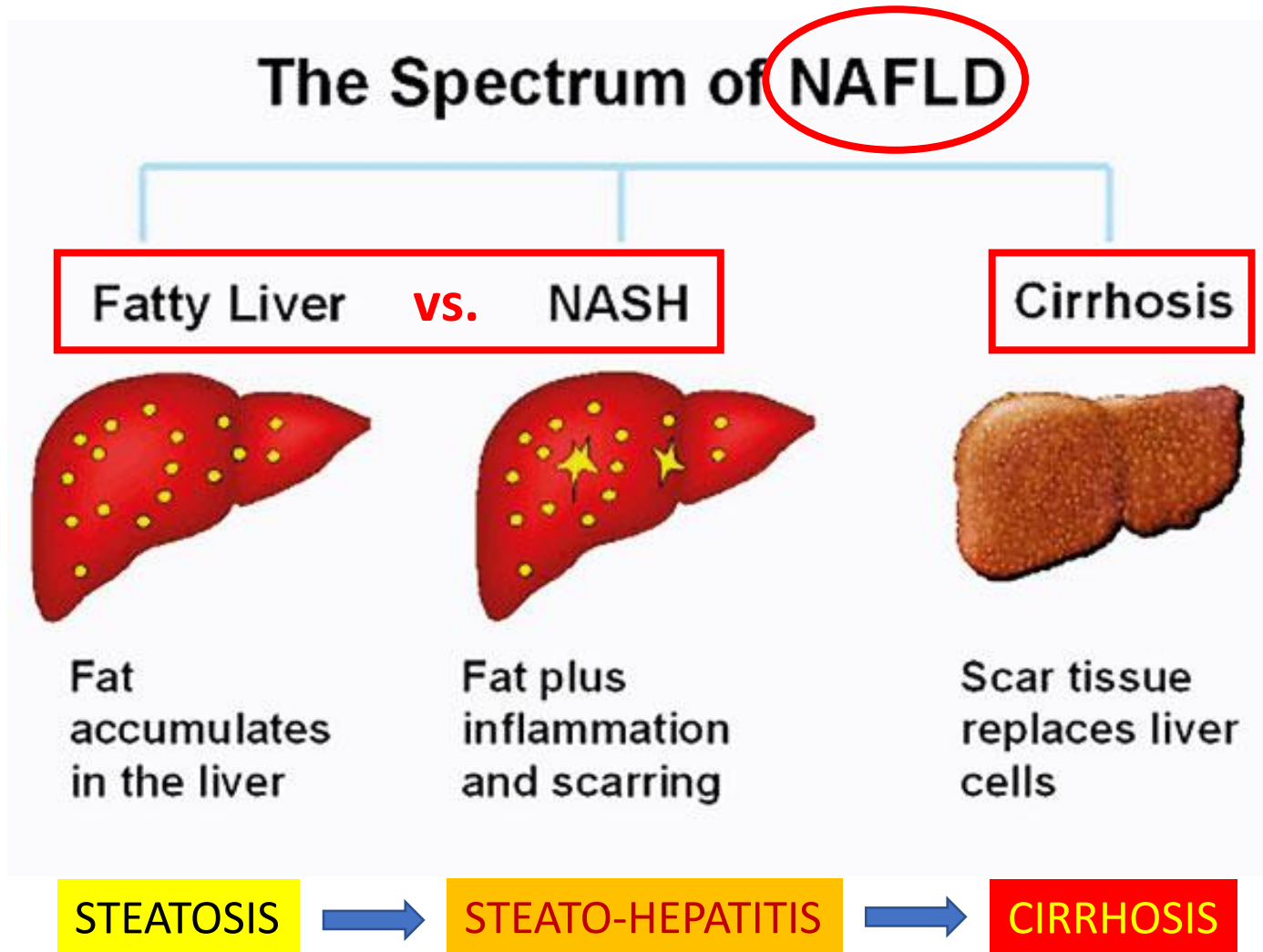
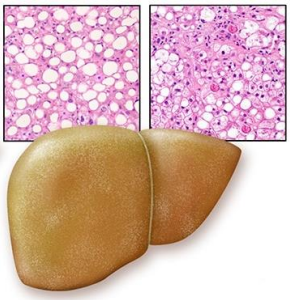
How do I
stage FLD?

Who do
I need to
refer?

Are
there new
treatments?

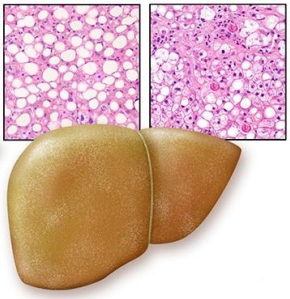


What is NAFLD?

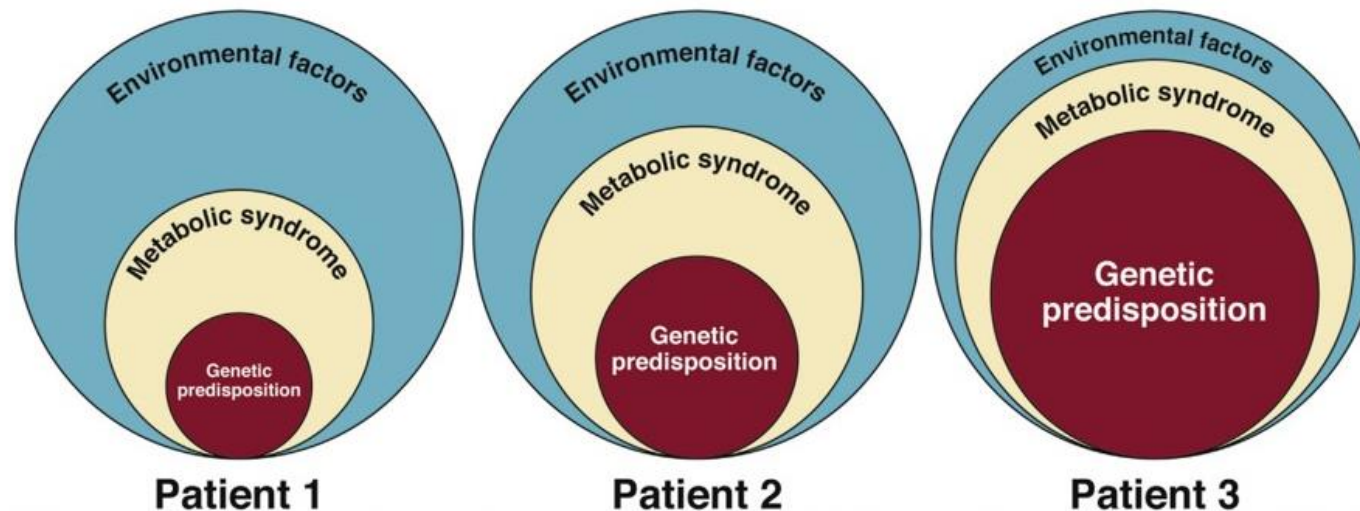


- Steatosis affecting $\geq 5\%$ of hepatocytes
 - USS may not pick up $< 30\%$
- No alternative cause for hepatic steatosis
 - $< 20-30\text{g}$ alcohol per day
- Steatohepatitis = inflammation + ballooning
- Progressive fibrosis → nodule formation/cirrhosis

What About “MAFLD”?

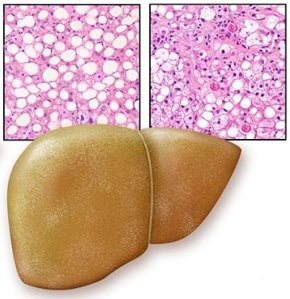


- Consensus amongst experts that the name should change:
 - Not a diagnosis of exclusion
 - Importance of metabolic dysfunction
 - Name should encompass heterogeneity of NAFLD
- Proposed “Metabolic-Associated Fatty Liver Disease” (MAFLD)
- Recognised that MAFLD may co-exist with other CLDs
 - Progressive disease may be due to both MAFLD and ARLD



Eslam et al. Gastroenterology
2020;158:1999–2014

Who is at Risk of NAFLD and NASH?



- Seen in association with obesity, T2 DM, hypertension, dyslipidaemia
- Prevalence (25-30%) increasing with obesity/metabolic disease

Younossi et al. Hepatology 2016;64:73–84

- Higher prevalence of NASH with DM (and duration of DM) + vice versa

Mantovani et al. Diabetes Care 2018;41:372–82

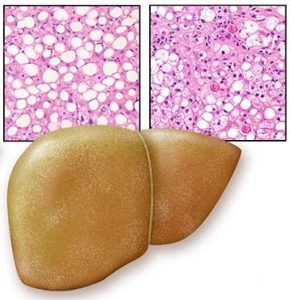
- Presence of NAFLD/NASH = higher incidence of HT and dyslipidaemia
- Statins are safe in NASH, use with caution in decompensated cirrhosis

Abdallah et al. Ann Hepatol 2022;27:100738

- Prevalence of stage 2 (of 4) fibrosis had doubled from 2011 to 2021
 - NASH cirrhosis complications (HCC, death) to increase 2-3 fold by 2030

Estes et al. Hepatology 2018;67:123– 33

How Quickly Does NAFLD/NASH Progress?



- Fatty Liver: progresses 1 stage of fibrosis per 14 yrs follow-up
- NASH: progresses 1 stage of fibrosis per 7 yrs follow-up

Singh et al. Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol 2015;13:643–54

- “Significant fibrosis” (F2 – F4) = “at risk” population
- “Advanced fibrosis” (F3 – F4) have approx. 3x all-cause mortality risk

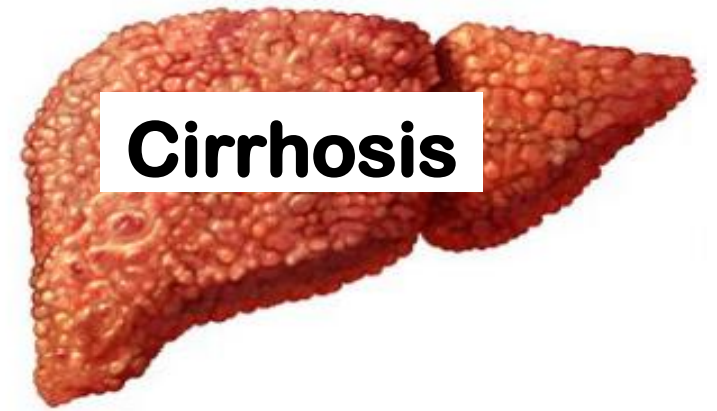
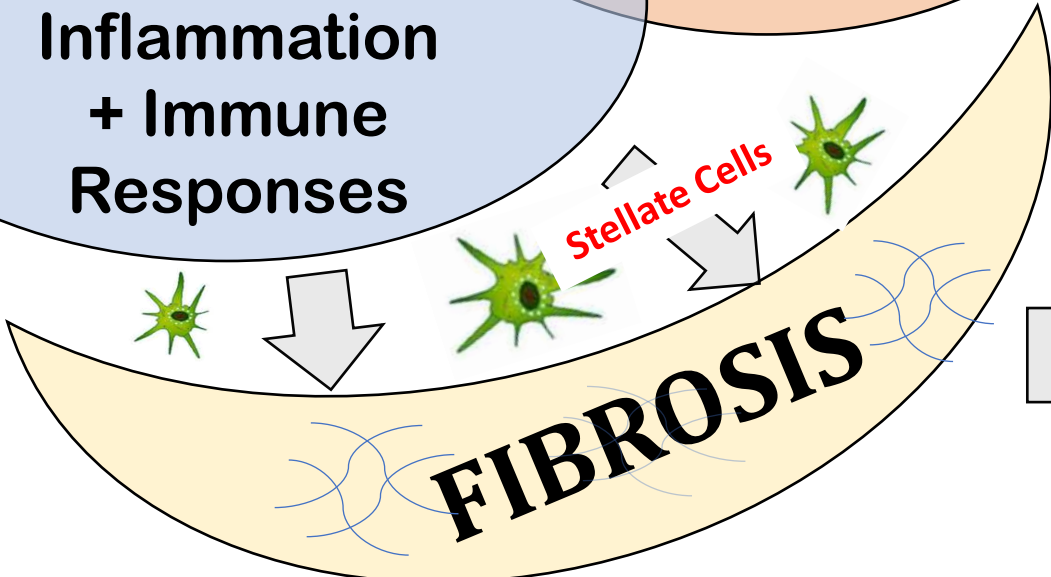
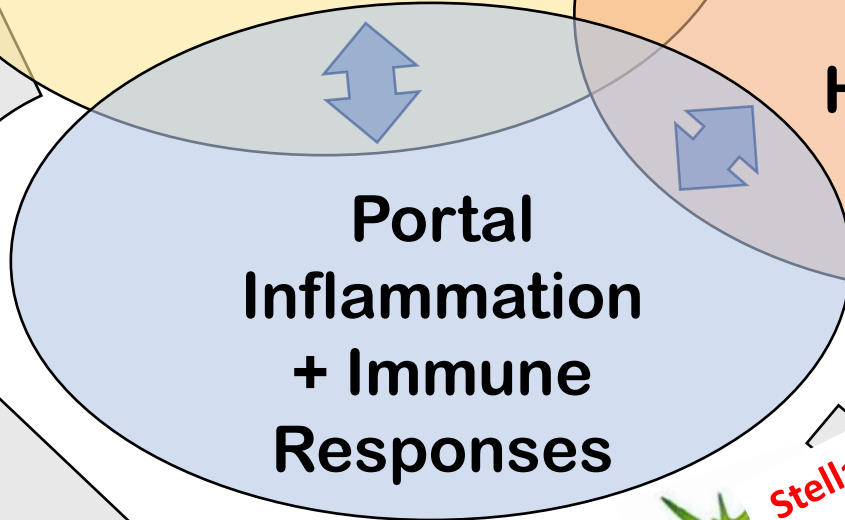
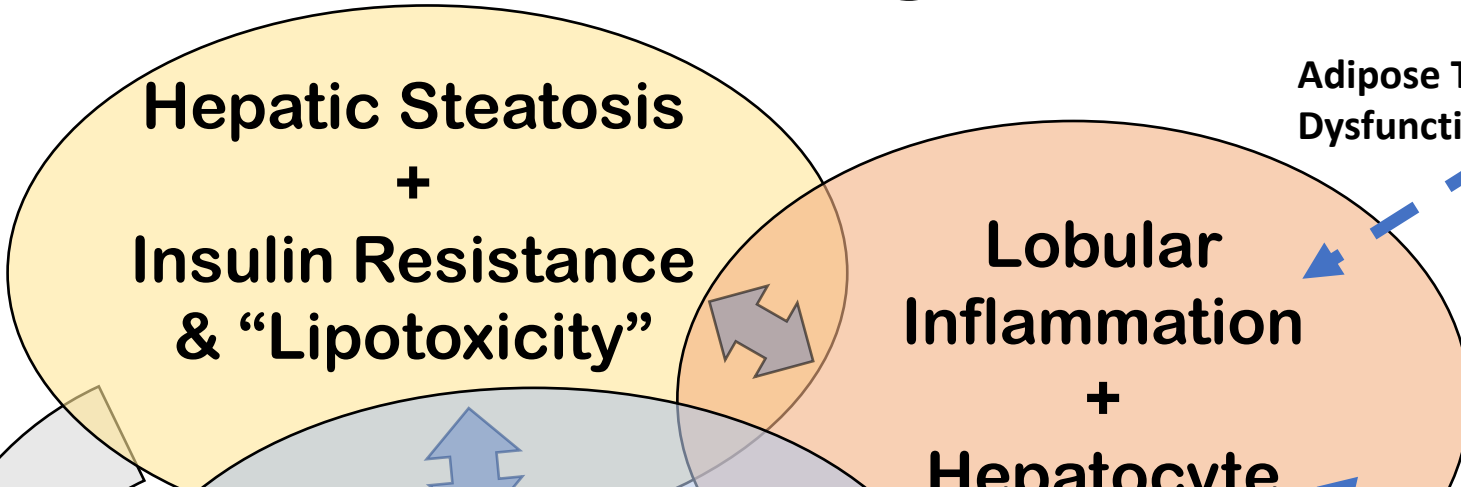
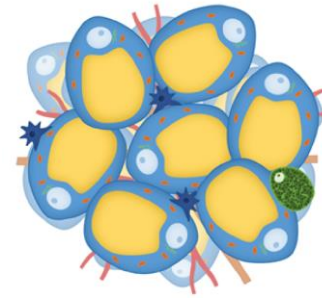
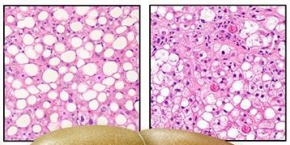
Sanyal et al. N Engl J Med 2021;385:1559–69

- Steatohepatitis is the major prerequisite of disease progression

BUT **fibrosis** is the major determinant of poor outcomes

Hagstrom et al. J Hepatol 2017;67:1265–73

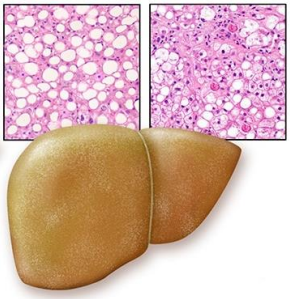
What is the Pathogenesis of NASH?



Stellate Cells

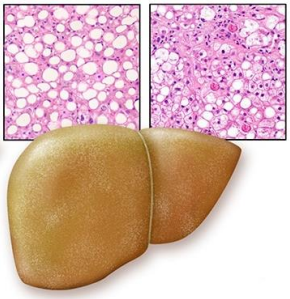
Cirrhosis

Question #1



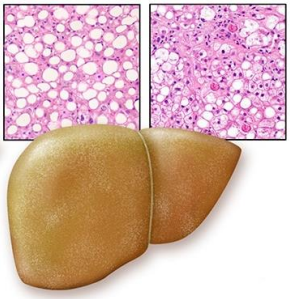
- If I could reduce or limit one feature of NASH, it would be?
 - A. Hepatic steatosis
 - B. Lobular inflammation
 - C. Insulin resistance
 - D. Hepatic stellate cell activation
 - E. Obesity

Question #1



- If I could reduce or limit one feature of NASH, it would be?
 - A. Hepatic steatosis
 - B. Lobular inflammation
 - C. Insulin resistance
 - **D. Hepatic stellate cell activation**
 - E. Obesity

What Conditions are Associated with NAFLD?



- Obstructive Sleep Apnoea (OSA)
 - Studies suggest OSA is a risk factor for more advanced NASH histology
 - NAFLD patients who are obese should be screened for OSA

Rinella et al. AASLD Practice Guidelines in NAFLD. Hepatology 2023;DOI:10.1097

- Cardiovascular Disease (CVD)
 - Optimising management of CVD risk factors is critical to reducing CV events

Duell et al. Arterioscler Thromb Vasc Biol 2022;42:e168–85

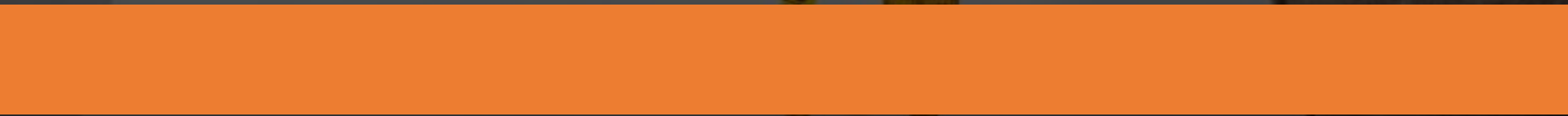
- Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD)
 - NAFLD associated with 2-fold increase in CKD (met-analysis of 28,000 patients)

Musso et al. PLOS Med 2014;11:e1001680

- See higher prevalence of CKD in NASH with advanced fibrosis
- For most of these conditions, extent to which NAFLD is *causative* is unclear



How do I Evaluate a Patient with NAFLD?





How Do I Evaluate a Patient with NAFLD?

- Screen for metabolic comorbidities
- Assess alcohol intake
- Physical exam (signs of CLD, portal HT)
- Exclude other CLD causes (CLD screen)
- *Consider secondary causes of steatohepatitis*

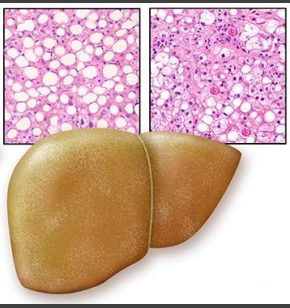
What Other Causes of FLD Should I Consider?

Consider drugs that can cause steatosis or exacerbate NAFLD:

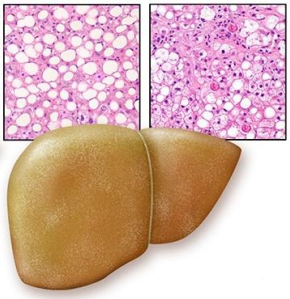
- Amiodarone
- Methotrexate
- Corticosteroids
- 5-FU, irinotecan
- Tamoxifen
- Valproic acid

Consider rare causes of FLD:

- Hypobetalipoproteinaemia
- LAL deficiency
- Nutrient deficiency
 - e.g. carnitine, choline
- Wilson's disease
- Coeliac disease
- Environmental toxins



What is Lean Fatty Liver Disease?



- NAFLD where BMI < 25 (< 23 in Asian population)
- Prevalence varies according to geography (up to 19% in Asia)

Ye et al. Lancet Gastroenterol Hepatol 2020;5:739–52

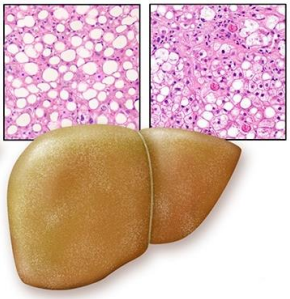
- More likely to be of Hispanic or Asian ethnicity → impact of Western diet?
- Lean NAFLD: More IR, metabolic comorbidities, visceral adiposity
- Lean NAFLD: 40-50% have NASH, 30% have significant fibrosis (F2+)

Ye et al. Lancet Gastroenterol Hepatol 2020;5:739–52

- Lean NAFLD: Similar prevalence of CVD as obese population with NAFLD
 - Slightly higher risk of CV mortality (OR 1.50) vs. non-lean NAFLD

Bisaccia et al. Curr Probl Cardiol 2023;48(6):101643

Should I Screen Patients for NAFLD/NASH?

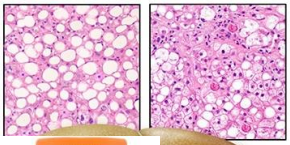


- Patients are largely asymptomatic or have vague symptoms (e.g. fatigue)
- Targeted screening is recommended:
 - Type 2 DM
 - Obesity with metabolic comorbidities
 - Family history of NASH cirrhosis (12-fold higher risk of advanced fibrosis)

Caussy et al. J Clin Invest 2017;127:2697–704

- Identifying candidates for intervention: NASH with F2+ fibrosis:
 - Referral to Hepatology services for further stratification (biopsy?)
 - More aggressive management, enrolment in clinical trials?
 - Diagnosis of cirrhosis → surveillance for HCC and cirrhosis complications

What Does Eating & Drinking in NAFLD Look Like?



- Studies of diet and MAFLD:

- Over-feeding is a consistent issue
- Soft drinks: 1 can/day increases risk of NAFLD by 50%

Abdelmalek et al. Hepatology 2010;51(6):1961-71

- Lower satiety with soft drinks vs. solid form fructose
 - Reduced fibre intake in MAFLD (fibre increases satiety)
- Artificially-sweetened beverages are still a problem
 - Can induce obesity, increase risk of DM

Muraki et al. BMJ 2013 Aug 28;347:f5001

- Increased mortality (esp. CV) with sweetened drinks

Anderson et al. BMC Med 2020;18(1):97

- Fructose promotes SIBO

- High prevalence in NASH (up to 40%)
- Activation of inflammatory CKs
- Role of intestinal dysbiosis in NAFLD remains unclear

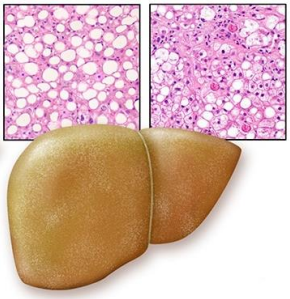
Gudan et al. Nutrients 2022 Dec 9;14(24):5261



PORTION SIZES : THEN & NOW

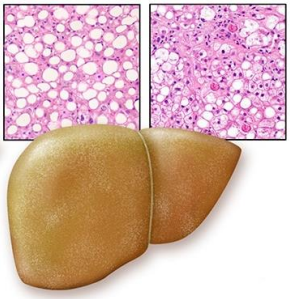
Item	Then	Now
FRIES	Side of french fries 75 gms, 230 calories	Side of french fries 155 gms, 500 calories
POPCORN	Bucket of movie popcorn 5 cups, 270 calories	Bucket of movie popcorn 11 cups, 630 calories
COLA	200 ml, 85 Calories	950 ml, 310 Calories
BURGERS	330 Calories	590 Calories

Question #2



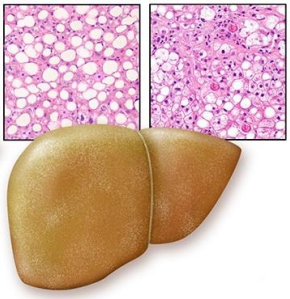
- Martha is a 48 year old woman who is new to your practice
- She has a history of:
 - Mild obesity (BMI 32)
 - GORD (on daily PPI)
 - Hypertension
 - DVT (2020 – 6 months of rivaroxaban)
- Her fasting bloods are as follows:
 - Cr 85, eGFR (87), Glucose 5.2, **ALT 115, AST 62**
 - Hb 140, WCC 6.2, Plts 275
 - **Chol 5.2, HDL 1.1, TG 2.3**
- Her ultrasound shows evidence of “severe steatosis”
- She does not drink alcohol

Question #2



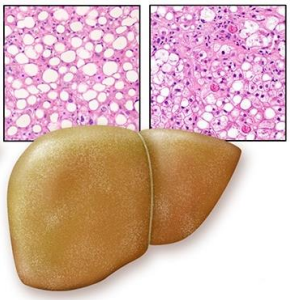
- Which of the following approaches is best in Martha's case?
 - A. Referral to RBWH Hepatology for specialist opinion regarding fatty liver
 - B. Commence a statin and re-test fasting lipids in 4 weeks
 - C. Lifestyle advice (dietary changes, exercise) to achieve weight loss
 - D. Referral for liver biopsy
 - E. Referral for non-invasive fibrosis assessment (eg. ARFI, Shearwave, FibroScan)

Question #2



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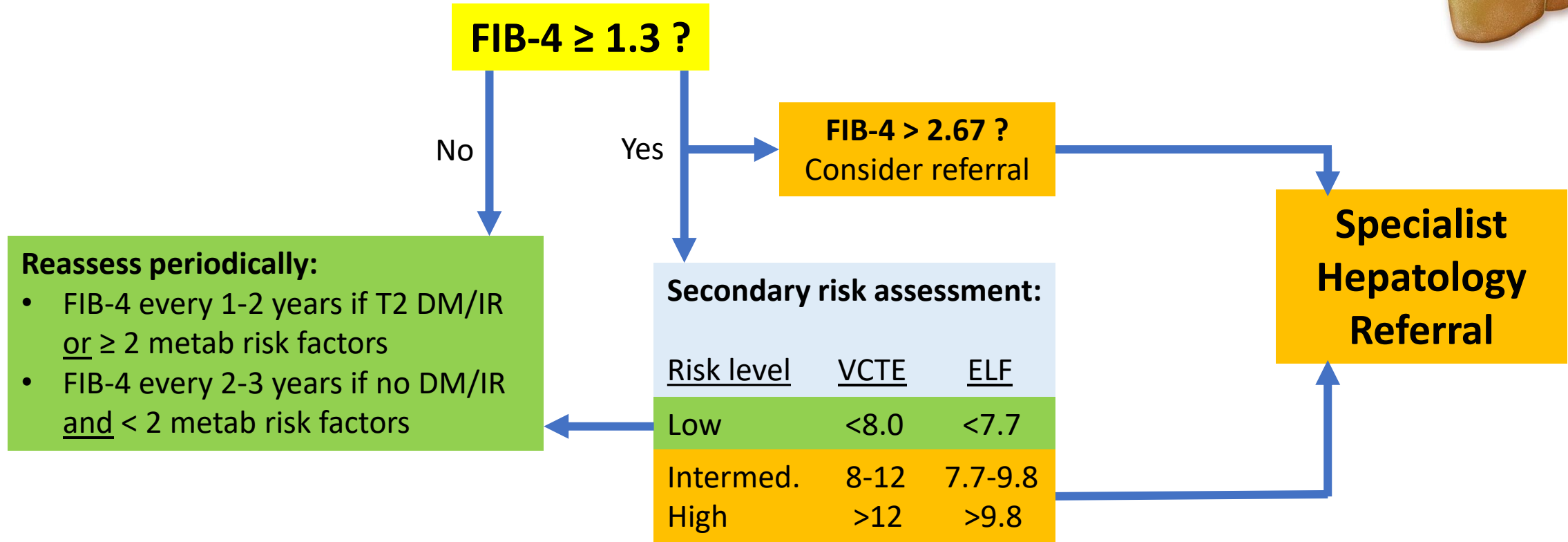
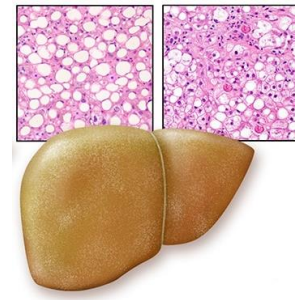
How do I Risk Stratify NASH as a GP?



- Primary Objective is to identify patients who are low risk
- Use of **FIB-4 Score < 1.3**: Excludes advanced fibrosis with high NPV
- If **moderate or high risk (FIB-4 ≥ 1.3)**:
 - Access to non-invasive liver stiffness measurement?
 - Referral for blood tests that stratify risk of fibrosis (e.g. ELF test)
- If still consistent with intermediate or high risk of fibrosis:
 - Referral to Hepatology services for specialty evaluation
- Basic blood tests can give an indication of advanced fibrosis
 - AST ≥ ALT is a **red flag** for advanced fibrosis/cirrhosis
 - Low platelets (< 180) is another **red flag** (esp. if falling over time)
- FIB-4 Score uses these parameters + age $(Age \times AST) \div (Plts \times \sqrt{ALT})$
 - Remember that normal transaminases do not exclude advanced fibrosis

If High FIB-4 (>2.67)
then can refer
immediately as
high risk of cirrhosis

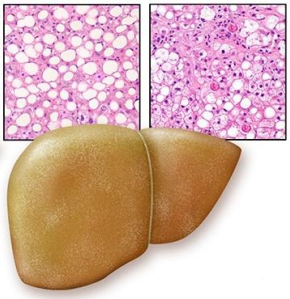
Staging Algorithm for GPs



- All patients:**
- CV risk factor reduction
 - Preferential use of meds with potential NAFLD benefit
 - Lifestyle modification: weight reduction, diet, exercise

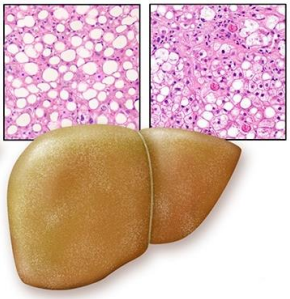
Adapted from Rinella et al. AASLD Practice Guidelines in NAFLD. Hepatology 2023;DOI:10.1097

When Should a Patient with NAFLD be Biopsied?



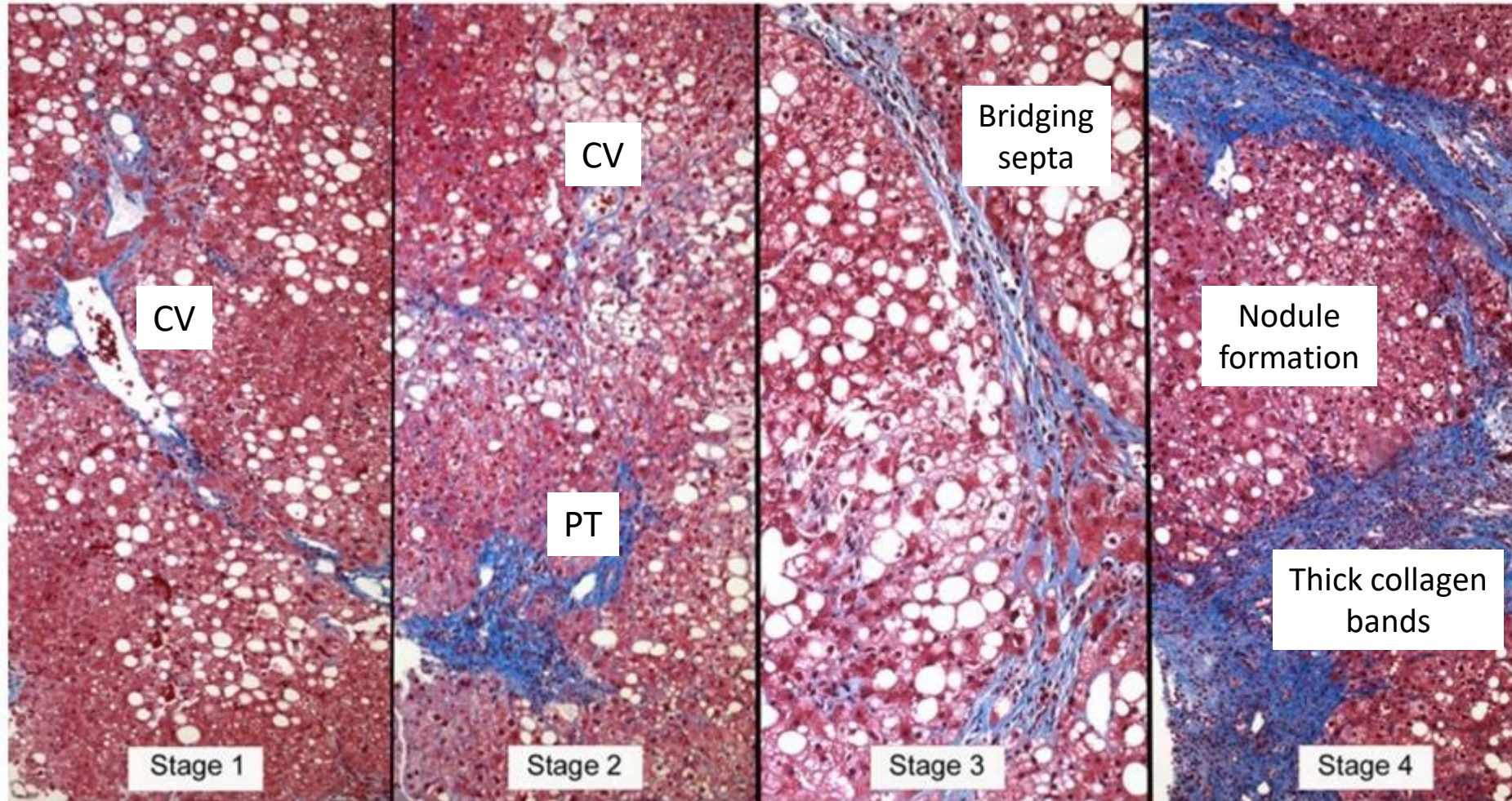
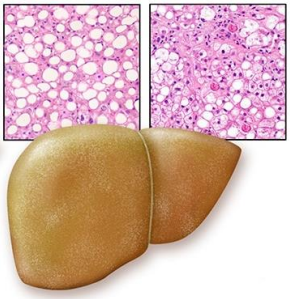
- Biopsy is the Gold Standard diagnostic test
 - Quality parameters:
 - specimen length $\geq 15\text{mm}$ (preferably $20\text{mm}+$)
 - specimen contains ≥ 11 complete portal tracts
 - specimen is not fragmented (continuous portal tracts)
 - Recommend 16GA cutting needle obtaining core biopsy specimen
- Generally indicated where there is diagnostic uncertainty:
 - Discordant non-invasive test results (ie. conflicting F-stages or unexpected imaging)
 - Accurate staging required for other treatment (e.g. chemotherapy, surgery, etc)
 - Aetiology of CLD (or the primary cause) remains unclear
 - Persistent unexplained elevation of LFTs (usually > 6 months)
- Hazards of liver biopsy: Severe pain (1 in 4)
Significant bleeding (1 in 500-1,000)

How is NAFLD Graded and Staged?



- Typically graded according to parameters of steatohepatitis:
 - Steatosis (< 5% → 5-33% → 34-66% → > 66%)
 - Inflammation (none → 1 focus per HPF → 2-4 foci per HPF → > 4 foci per HPF)
 - Ballooning (none → few → many)
- Kleiner et al. Hepatology 2005;41:1313–21
- NAFLD Activity Score (NAS): used in clinical trials and research
 - 0-3 = not NASH 4 = borderline NASH 5-8 = definite NASH
 - Common endpoints include:
 - ≥ 2 point improvement in NAS
 - ≥ 1 stage improvement in F-stage w/o NAS increase
 - Fibrosis stage is the key clinical parameter
 - Major determinant of liver-related outcomes (eg. cirrhosis, HCC, mortality)

NASH CRN (Brunt) Stages of Fibrosis



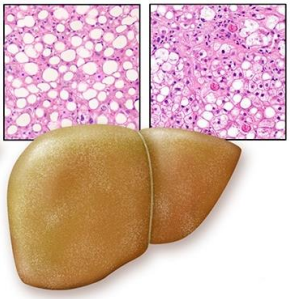


How Do I Treat NAFLD?

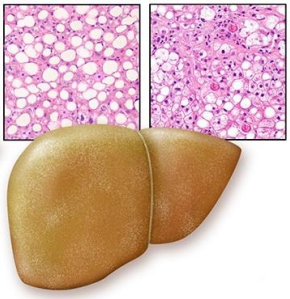


How Do I Treat NAFLD?

- Lifestyle modification
 - Weight loss
 - Dietary modification
 - Exercise
- Bariatric surgery
- Currently available medications
- Emerging medications
- Venesection

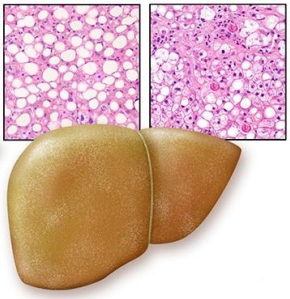


Question #3



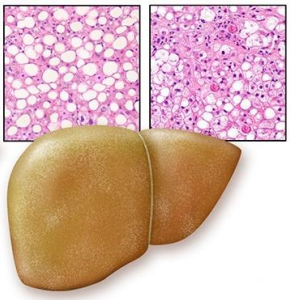
- There is reliable evidence that all of the following treatments can improve NASH histology except:
 - A. GLP-1-receptor agonists (e.g. semaglutide, liraglutide)
 - B. Weight loss (diet and exercise)
 - C. Vitamin E
 - D. Venesection
 - E. Bariatric surgery

Question #3



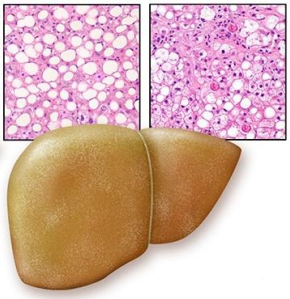
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 - **D. Venesection**
 - E. Bariatric surgery

How do I Assess Response to Treatment?



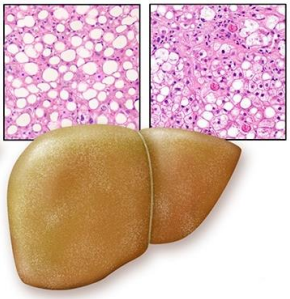
- Histological response:
 - Repeat liver biopsy = gold standard, not practical in real world
- Surrogate markers of histological response: thresholds to be validated
 - Improved ALT correlates with clinical outcomes
Loomba et al. Gastroenterology 2019;156:88–95
 - FIB-4, ELF, liver stiffness: correlate with improvements in fibrosis
Rinella et al. J Hepatol 2022;76:536–48
 - Imaging: $\geq 30\%$ reduction in MRI-PDFF associated with resolution of NASH
Tamaki et al. Gut 2022;71:983-90
 - Other markers of disease: improved insulin resistance (IR), obesity, dyslipidaemia
- Liver-related outcomes: cirrhosis, PHT, ascites, varices, HCC
 - Clinically defined endpoints where patient's prognosis changes

Question #4



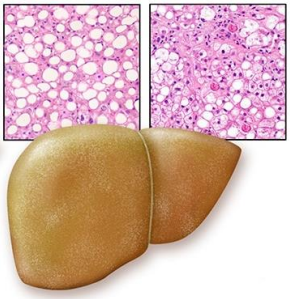
- Regarding my personal approach to lifestyle modification for NAFLD:
 - A. I think it is a useful intervention for all forms of fatty liver disease
 - B. I think it may help treat steatosis but will not reverse NASH
 - C. I think it may help steatohepatitis but will not reverse fibrosis
 - D. It is effective but has no role in patients with a normal BMI
 - E. I never recommend it as weight loss is rarely sustained

Question #4



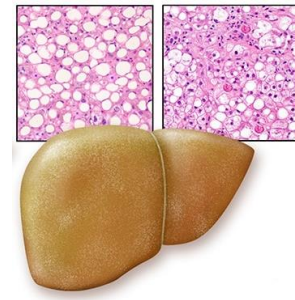
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Question #4



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 - **C. I think it may help steatohepatitis but will not reverse fibrosis**
 - **D. It is effective but has no role in patients with a normal BMI**
 - E. I never recommend it as weight loss is rarely sustained

How Effective is Weight Loss in NAFLD?



- Amount of weight loss correlates with response:
 - 5% = improvement in steatosis
 - 7% = improvement in steatohepatitis
 - 10% = improvement in fibrosis

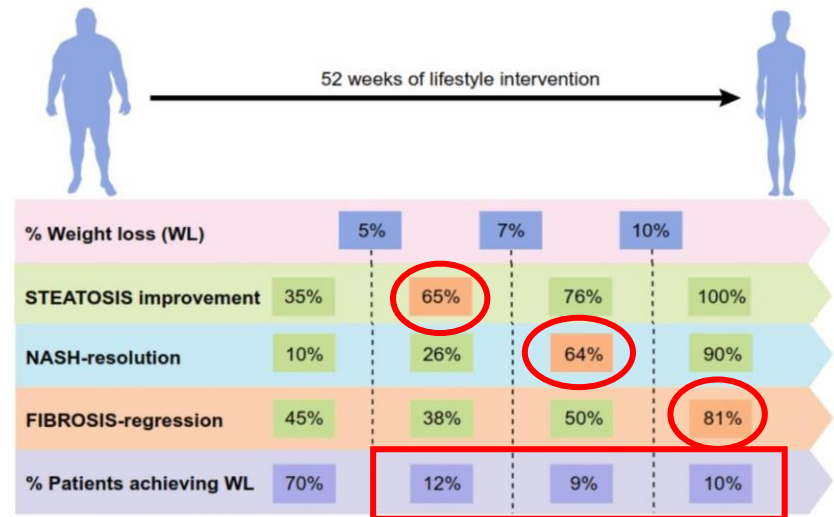
Long et al. Gastroenterology 2022;163:764-74

- Sustained weight loss is difficult
 - ≤ 10% achieve significant weight loss at 1 year
 - < 25% of these maintain weight loss at 5 years

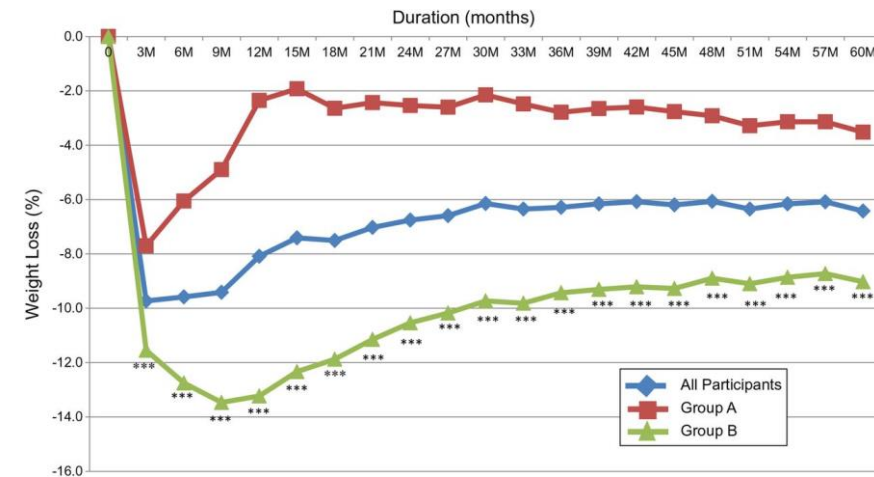
Malespin et al. Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol 2022;20:2393-5

- Optimal model of care still to be defined
 - Reduced calories → Reduced metabolic rate
 - Psychological barriers to engagement
 - MDT approach probably best (incl. psychology)

Stewart et al. Liver Int 2015;35:936-43



Adapted from www.foodasprevention.com/liverpatient



Hamdy et al. BMJ Open Diabetes Res Care. 2017;5(1):e000259.

What Diet Should I Recommend?

- Obesity = excess calories & saturated fats
refined carbs
- Many approaches: comparable efficacy
 - Low-carb vs low-fat diets
 - Unsaturated vs Saturated fat diets
 - Intermittent fasting vs Mediterranean diets
 - Different intensities of calorie restriction

Pugliese et al. Eur J Clin Invest 2022;52:e13659

- Mediterranean diet: improves CV health

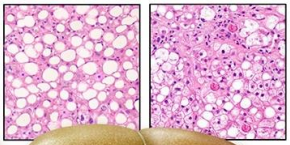
Kouvari et al. Clin Nutr 2021;40:3314-24

- Coffee beneficial?

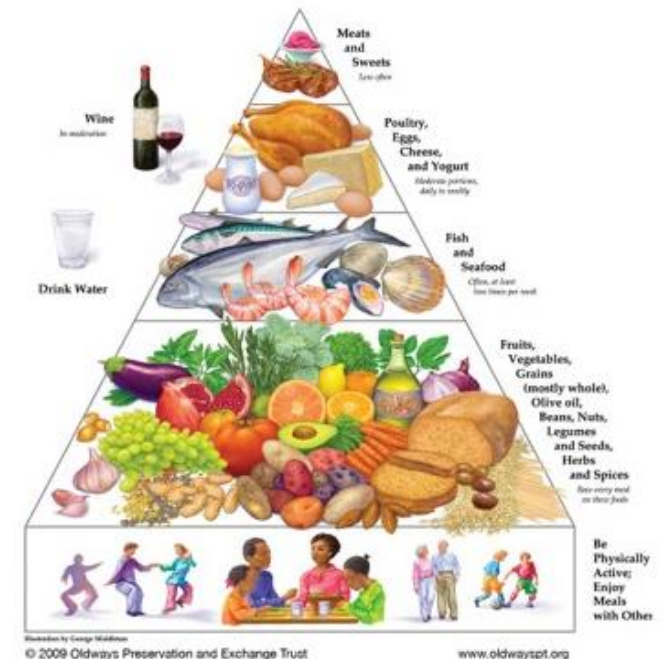
- ≥ 3 cups per day, independent of caffeine

Chen et al. Clin Nutr 2019;38:2552-7

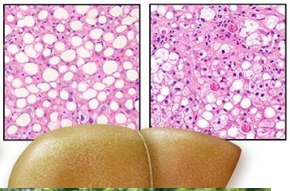
- Cirrhosis: \uparrow protein, \downarrow calories judiciously



Mediterranean Diet Pyramid



How Important is Exercise to Response?



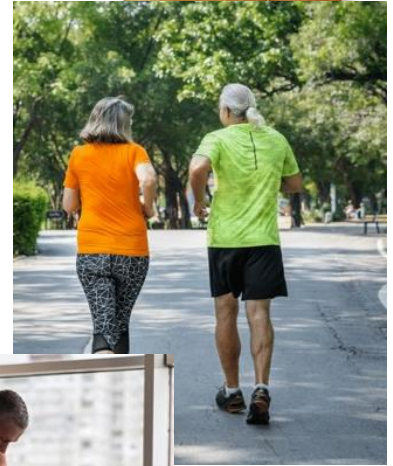
- Exercise = Liver and CV benefits independent of weight loss
- How much is enough?
 - Regular exercise: ≥ 5 times per week, total of ≥ 150 mins per week
 - Increased exercise: doing ≥ 60 mins more per week than usual
 - Higher intensity: \uparrow vigorous exercise = \downarrow severity of NASH

Semmler et al. Liver Int 2021;41:2249–2268
Kistler KD. Am J Gastroenterol 2011;106:460-8

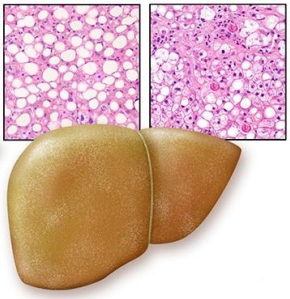
- Encourage patients to exercise as much as possible
 - Type + intensity + duration tailored to individual's ability

- Combining diet + exercise consistently reduces steatosis

Franco et al. Nutrients 2021;13:66



Should I Recommend Bariatric Surgery?



- Usual criteria for bariatric surgery: BMI \geq 40
BMI \geq 35 with comorbidities
 - NASH being increasingly accepted as an important comorbidity
- Can resolve NASH and improve fibrosis in up to 30% of patients
 - See improvements in IR and all-cause morbidity and mortality

Wiggins et al. PLOS Med 2020;17:e1003206

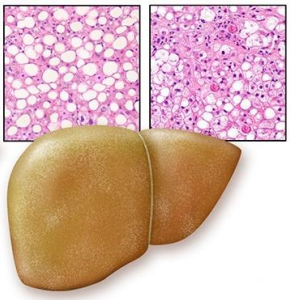
- Long-term follow-up data: maintenance of response at 5 yrs
 - Treatment failure associated with failure to achieve substantial weight loss

Lassailly et al. Gastroenterology 2015;149:379-88

- Malabsorptive procedures generally more effective than restrictive surgery
- Cirrhosis: limited data on safety and efficacy
 - Safe in selected patients: no decompensation or clinically significant PHT

Jirapinyo et al. Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol 2022;20:511-24

What Medical Treatment is Currently Available?



- Vitamin E: 800mg/d improves histology vs. placebo over 2 years (PIVENS)

- ALT reduction associated with response

Sanyal et al. N Engl J Med 2010;362:1675–85; Hoofnagle et al. APT 2013;38:134–43

- Retrospective study (n=236): ↓ decompensation and ↑ Tx-free survival

Vilar-Gomez et al. Hepatology 2020;71:495-509

- Pioglitazone: Improves NAS and IR with trend towards improved fibrosis

Cusi et al. Ann Intern Med 2016;165:305–15

- Concerns re: weight gain, osteoporosis, bladder cancer, worsening CCF

- Metformin: Extensively studied but does not improve NASH histology

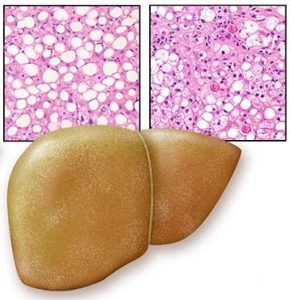
- Natural therapies: (e.g. *Silymarin* – milk thistle)

- Well tolerated but evidence of efficacy in NAFLD remains inconclusive

- No evidence of improvement of NASH histology, some improvement in non-invasive scores?

Wah et al. Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol 2017;15:1940–9

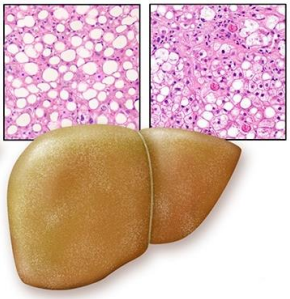
What Medical Treatment is Currently Available?



- **GLP-1-receptor agonists:** Approved for T2 DM and used in obesity
 - Liraglutide: improved steatosis, resolved NASH and reversed fibrosis
 - Semaglutide: dose-dependent reversal of NASH, trend towards improved fibrosis
 - Tirzepatide (GLP-1/GIP): significant reductions in ALT and liver fat, no NASH studies

Muzurovic et al. J Cardiovasc Pharmacol Ther 2022;27:10742484221126371
- **SGLT-2 inhibitors:** Approved for T2 DM, induce weight loss (2-3% BW)
 - Improve hepatic steatosis but small sample sizes and lack of histological outcomes
- **DPP-4 inhibitors:** not efficacious in the treatment of NAFLD
- **Glycaemic control:** no evidence that glycaemic control itself impacts NASH

What Medical Treatments are on the Horizon?



- **Obeticholic acid:** FXR agonist (\downarrow *de novo* lipogenesis and bile acid synthesis)
 - REGENERATE Ph3 Study: 931 patients with NASH and F2-3 on biopsy, 2 doses vs placebo
 - 22.4% showed ≥ 1 stage improvement in fibrosis (vs. 9.6% with placebo)
 - Major adverse effects were pruritus and biliary events (incl. gallstone disease)

REGENERATE Press Release 7 July 2022 (available at <https://ir.interceptpharma.com/news-releases>)

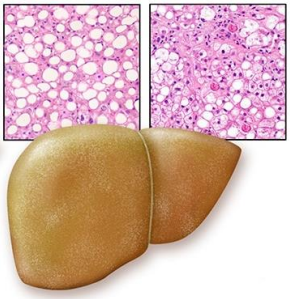
- **Resmetirom:** thyroid hormone receptor- β agonist (\downarrow lipotoxicity, \uparrow fat metabolism)
 - MAESTRO Ph3 Study: 966 patients with NASH and F2-3 on biopsy, 2 doses vs placebo
 - 24-26% showed ≥ 1 stage improvement in fibrosis (vs. 14% with placebo)
 - 26-30% showed ≥ 2 point improvement in NAS (vs. 10% with placebo)
 - Well tolerated with mildly increased rates of diarrhoea and nausea with Resmetirom

MAESTRO Press Release 19 Dec 2022 (available at <https://ir.madrigalpharma.com/news-releases>)

- **Lanifibranor:** Pan-PPAR agonist (improves insulin sensitivity, reduces fibrosis)
 - NATIVE Ph2b Study: 247 patients with NASH and F1-3 on biopsy, 76% with F2-3 (Ph3 study underway)
 - 49% (vs. 22%) showed ≥ 1 stage improvement in fibrosis without worsening of NASH
 - 55% (vs. 33%) showed improvement in NASH activity without worsening of fibrosis
 - 35% (vs. 9%) showed resolution of NASH and ≥ 1 stage improvement in fibrosis

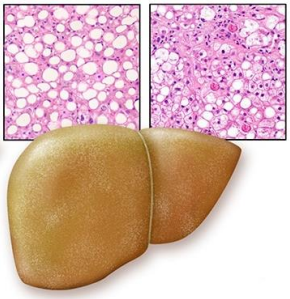
Francque et al. N Engl J Med 2021; 385:1547-1558

My Take on Emerging Therapies?

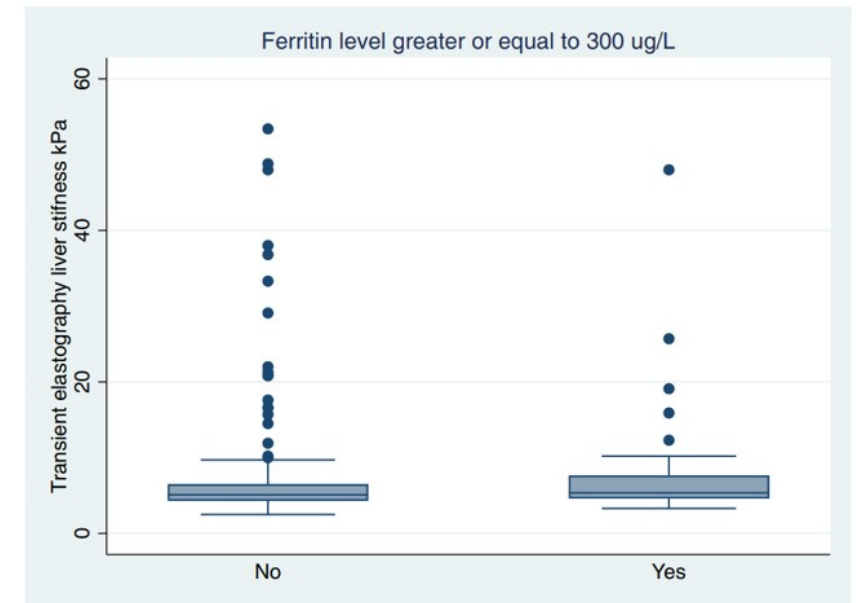


- Multiple targets being studied
 - NASH is heterogeneous → combination/tailored regimens?
- Generally targeting F2-3 (esp. F3)
 - Likely to be hard to show reversal of fibrosis in F4
 - Treatment of F0-1 very unlikely to be cost-effective
- Generally show promising results:
 - Improved/resolved NASH without worsening fibrosis
 - Improved fibrosis without worsening of NASH
- All trials tend to have high placebo responses
 - NASH is a variable disease, progresses and regresses
 - Effect of intervention not as great in absolute terms
- Biomarkers of response are still imperfect

Should I Offer Venesection?

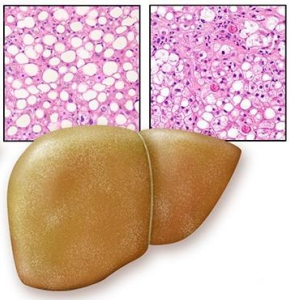


- Dysmetabolic hyperferritinaemia (DHF): raised ferritin without iron overload
 - Caused by the metabolic syndrome and commonly seen in NAFLD
 - Ferritin may be high (can be > 1000) but transferrin saturation is usually normal
- Level of ferritin does not correlate with degree of fibrosis
 - Similar liver stiffness if Ferr > 300 or < 300
- Systematic review of venesection in DHF:
 - No impact on IR, AST in dysmetabolic HF
 - Minimal improvement in ALT (range 2-11)
- Systematic review of venesection in NAFLD:
 - No impact on IR, insulin levels, ALT or AST
 - No effect on liver inflammation or fibrosis



Trasolini et al. Can Liver J 2022;5(2):152-159

Should I Offer Venesection?



- Dysmetabolic hyperferritinaemia (DHF): raised ferritin without iron overload
 - Caused by the metabolic syndrome and common in NAFLD
 - Ferritin may be high (can be > 1000) but transferrin saturation is usually normal
- Level of ferritin does not predict liver damage
 - Similar liver damage in NAFLD
- Systematic review of venesection in DHF
 - No impact on liver damage
 - Minimal improvement in ALT (range 2-11)
- Systematic review of venesection in NAFLD:
 - No impact on IR, insulin level, ALT or AST
 - No effect on liver inflammation or fibrosis

Venesection only indicated if hyperferritinaemia reflects true iron overload

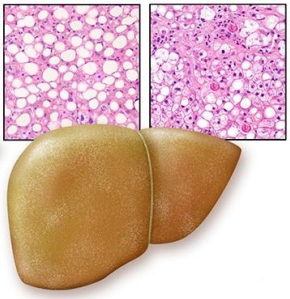


Trasolini et al. Can Liver J 2022;5(2):152-159

A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a white pen over a lined notebook. The hand is positioned as if about to write. In the background, a laptop is visible, slightly out of focus. The overall scene suggests a professional or educational setting.

Take Home Messages & Discussion

Take Home Messages



- NAFLD is a highly prevalent disease
 - CV and metabolic consequences = “bread and butter” for GPs
- Serious consequences if progressive disease
 - Cirrhosis-related complications, decompensation, HCC
- Work-up of NAFLD is simple (Clinical Assessment + Bloods + USS + FIB-4 Score)
 - Majority of cases will have “benign” NAFLD (F0-1 → no need to refer, manage co-morbidities)
 - Some patients will have “significant” NAFLD (F2+) → need further intervention
- Lifestyle modification is effective for all forms of NAFLD
 - Target “obesity” diet + significant weight loss (5%, 7%, 10%)
 - Assess response to treatment using basic blood tests and improvements in cardiac risk profile
- Currently-available drugs are effective in NAFLD
 - Use these medications to manage co-existing CV risk factors
- New therapies are emerging but not here yet + unlikely to be widely available?

Thank you

Key References: This presentation has borrowed heavily from the most recent (2023) professional guidelines

- Rinella et al. AASLD Practice Guidance on the Clinical Assessment and Management of Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Disease. Hepatology 2023. DOI:10.1097/HEP.0000000000000323.
- EASL-EASD-EASO Clinical Practice Guidelines for the management of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease. J Hepatol 2016;64:1388-1402.
- Bahirwani and Griffin. The diagnosis and management of nonalcoholic fatty liver disease: A patient-friendly summary of the 2018 AASLD guidelines. Clinical Liver Disease 2022;19:222-226.
- Francque et al. Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease: A patient guideline. JHEP Reports 2021;3:100322.

