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Summary

PLIN2 EXPRESSION IN MONOCYTES AS A NON-INVASIVE BIOMARKER FOR AT-RISK MASH: A COMPARATIVE EVALUATION AGAINST FIB-4, FNI AND MAF-5

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Immunology | Pancreas | Mechanisms & Personalised Medicine | Histopathology | Hepatobiliary | Digestive Oncology

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PLIN2 expression in monocytes is a novel non-invasive biomarker for MASH that outperforms FIB-4 (AUROC 0.70 vs 0.58) in patients with severe obesity.

KEY POINTS

- In 190 individuals (114 with MASH, 76 without), PLIN2 measured by flow cytometry had better discriminatory power than FIB-4 for identifying at-risk MASH, with AUROC 0.70 versus 0.58.
- PLIN2 combined with ALT achieved AUROC 0.78, while PLIN2 alone was comparable to FNI; MAF-5 showed the highest discriminatory power at AUROC 0.83.
- A PLIN2 cutoff of 2.07 was identified as a practical threshold for distinguishing low-risk from high-risk individuals.
- The study included subjects with severe obesity (mean BMI 42.06 kg/m^2) and controls without MASH or type 2 diabetes (BMI 21.78 kg/m^2).
- Further validation in larger, more heterogeneous cohorts is warranted to confirm diagnostic utility.

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