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Summary

The future of MASLD

Herbert Tilg

UEG Week Berlin 2025 | Presentation

Digestive Oncology | Hepatobiliary | Immunology | Mechanisms & Personalised Medicine | Small Intestine & Nutrition

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The speaker reviewed emerging therapies for MASH, reporting that resmetirom, GLP-1 receptor agonists including semaglutide, and DGAT2 inhibitors have met primary endpoints in phase 3 studies for NASH resolution and fibrosis improvement.

KEY POINTS

- Resmetirom, a liver-specific thyroid hormone receptor beta agonist, showed significant effectiveness for NASH resolution and fibrosis improvement in phase 3 trials and was stated to be approved in the European Community in August 2025.
- Semaglutide demonstrated effectiveness in a phase 3 study for resolution of steatohepatitis and reduction in liver fibrosis, and also improved liver stiffness, blood pressure, glycated hemoglobin, CRP levels, and lipid profile.
- A DGAT2 antisense oligonucleotide inhibitor met its primary endpoint in a recently published phase 3 study, improving MASH inflammation and fibrosis, which the speaker stated proves the concept of lipotoxicity.
- GLP-1 receptor agonists work outside the liver—affecting the brain, intestines, adipose tissue, and pancreas—supporting the speaker's hypothesis that extrahepatic signals are the most important drivers of MASH.
- The speaker noted that 20% of MASLD patients develop MASH, with cardiovascular disease as the leading cause of death, followed by extrahepatic malignancy and liver-related complications.
- The speaker stated that when and whom to treat remains very challenging, histology is still needed but biopsies cannot be done in all patients, and a good non-invasive approach is required.

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