

OPERATOR VARIABILITY IN TRANSIENT ELASTOGRAPHY ANALYSIS OF OVERWEIGHT/OBESE PATIENTS WITH NONALCOHOLIC FATTY LIVER DISEASE: A REAL CHALLENGE

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UEG Week Copenhagen 2023

Poster

Hepatobiliary

October 15, 2023

A cross-sectional study of 68 overweight and obese NAFLD patients found substantial interobserver variability in transient elastography, with 16.2% discordance in fibrosis risk classification and 44.1% showing LSM differences of at least 2 kPa between experienced operators.

KEY POINTS

- Among patients classified as high risk for advanced fibrosis by one operator, 60% were reclassified as low risk by the second operator, and 8.7% of low-risk patients were reclassified as high risk
- Interobserver agreement was poor for fibrosis risk categories with kappa values of 0.32 for low risk, 0.12 for indeterminate risk, and 0.16 for high risk
- LSM discrepancy between operators was significantly associated with higher LSM values, higher BMI, and greater waist circumference
- Despite moderate intraclass correlation coefficients for LSM (0.860) and CAP (0.710), clinical risk classification discordance was substantial, particularly in severely obese patients
- The study highlights the need for careful expert interpretation of transient elastography results in obese populations with NAFLD

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