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Summary

SIX-FOLD INCREASED RISK OF ACUTE PANCREATITIS IN ALCOHOL RELATED LIVER DISEASE COMPARED TO MATCHED CONTROLS: A NATIONWIDE POPULATION-BASED COHORT STUDY

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Pancreas

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A Swedish nationwide cohort study found that patients with alcohol-related liver disease have a 6-fold higher rate of acute pancreatitis than the general population, with the highest risk in the first year after diagnosis.

KEY POINTS

- Among 37,062 patients with alcohol-related liver disease matched to 352,931 reference individuals, 7% had experienced at least one episode of pancreatitis before liver disease diagnosis, representing 9-fold higher odds than controls
- During follow-up, the 10-year cumulative incidence of acute pancreatitis was 2.7% in patients with alcohol-related liver disease versus 0.6% in the general population, corresponding to an adjusted hazard ratio of 6.3
- The rate of acute pancreatitis was highest within the first year after alcohol-related liver disease diagnosis (adjusted HR 13.0) and declined over time but remained elevated even after 10 years (adjusted HR 3.1)
- Independent risk factors for developing acute pancreatitis in patients with alcohol-related liver disease included younger age, male sex, and history of alcohol and tobacco use, with continued drinking after diagnosis strongly associated with future acute pancreatitis risk (adjusted HR 8.6)
- Overall mortality was 74.7% in the alcohol-related liver disease group compared to 43.1% in the general population

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