

PROGNOSTIC SIGNIFICANCE OF ELF TEST COMPARED TO LIVER BIOPSY IN PATIENTS WITH METABOLIC DYSFUNCTION-ASSOCIATED STEATOTIC LIVER DISEASE (MASLD)

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In a retrospective cohort of 289 MASLD patients, the enhanced liver fibrosis (ELF) score predicted clinical outcomes comparably to liver histology and outperformed FIB4.

KEY POINTS

- Over 41 months median follow-up, 11.8% of patients experienced a composite outcome of mortality, hepatocellular carcinoma, transplantation, or cirrhosis complications.
- ELF score showed stepwise risk stratification with primary outcome frequency of 0.5% for ELF less than 9.8, 14.5% for ELF 9.8 to 11.2, and 69.7% for ELF greater than 11.2.
- In multivariate analysis adjusting for gender, diabetes, age, and BMI, both ELF and liver histology were significant independent predictors of outcome, with ELF greater than 11.2 versus less than 9.8 showing HR 132.7 (95%CI 15.6-1127.4, p less than 0.01).
- Liver stiffness measurement also predicted outcomes with significant hazard ratios, while intermediate-risk FIB4 did not significantly predict outcomes compared to low-risk (HR 2.87, p equals 0.22).
- The authors conclude ELF should be regarded as a viable alternative to liver biopsy for prognostic assessment in MASLD patients.

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