

RISK ASSESSMENT OF HEPATOCELLULAR CARCINOMA BY ELASTOGRAPHYHY: A SYSTEMIC REVIEW

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A systematic review of 46 studies found that transient elastography liver stiffness measurement is associated with hepatocellular carcinoma risk in chronic liver disease patients, with each unit increase in stiffness conferring an 11% higher HCC risk.

KEY POINTS

- Forty-six studies were analyzed to assess the ability of transient elastography to detect liver fibrosis and hepatocellular carcinoma in patients with chronic liver disease, searching MEDLINE, Cochrane, and EMBASE databases through 2019.
- Eighteen studies evaluated liver stiffness measurement in predicting HCC, 6 studies assessed prediction of hepatic decompensation, 1 study examined a composite outcome of HCC and decompensation, and 4 studies evaluated mortality prediction.
- Each unit increase in liver stiffness measurement was associated with an 11% higher risk of hepatocellular carcinoma.
- The authors concluded that liver stiffness measurement may be a useful method to identify chronic liver disease patients at risk for HCC, offering advantages over liver biopsy which is limited by invasiveness, poor acceptance, cost, and observer variability.
- This material is most relevant to hepatologists and gastroenterologists managing patients with chronic liver disease and cirrhosis who require risk stratification for hepatocellular carcinoma.

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