

SPLEEN STIFFNESS IN CRITICALLY ILL PATIENTS WITH LIVER CIRRHOSIS: A WINDOW INTO HEPATIC AND EXTRAHEPATIC DYSFUNCTION

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Poster

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A prospective study of 44 ICU patients with chronic liver disease found that serial spleen stiffness measurement by ARFI elastography is feasible and correlates with organ failure severity.

KEY POINTS

- Spleen stiffness was successfully measured in all 44 patients using ARFI elastography performed every 2–4 days during ICU admission.
- Higher spleen stiffness values were significantly associated with renal replacement therapy ($p < 0.001$) and need for invasive mechanical ventilation ($p < 0.001$).
- An inverse relationship was observed between airway pressures during ventilation and spleen stiffness values ($p = 0.017$).
- Spleen stiffness did not correlate with patient age, BMI, or vasopressor requirement, but showed dynamic changes over time corresponding to clinical progression or improvement.
- The authors conclude that spleen stiffness may serve as a non-invasive bedside biomarker integrating hepatic and extrahepatic dysfunction in critically ill patients with liver cirrhosis.

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