

DIAGNOSTIC ACCURACY OF NONINVASIVE SERUM MARKERS IN NON-ALCOHOLIC FATTY LIVER FIBROSIS IN OBESE CHILDREN

Oksana Petishko

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Poster

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A study of 94 children found that serum TGF- β 1 and glycosaminoglycans are elevated in obese children with NAFLD-related liver fibrosis and may serve as noninvasive screening markers.

KEY POINTS

- TGF- β 1 levels were significantly higher in obese NAFLD children with fibrosis (153.4 pg/ml median) compared to obese NAFLD children without fibrosis (72.4 pg/ml), obese children without NAFLD (74.0 pg/ml), and normal-weight controls (56.1 pg/ml).
- A TGF- β 1 cut-off of 96.8 pg/ml predicted liver fibrosis with 80.0% sensitivity and 65.7% specificity (AUROC 0.787, $p < 0.001$).
- Glycosaminoglycan levels were elevated in children with fibrosis (4.50 mmol/L median), with a threshold of 4.24 mmol/L achieving 70.6% sensitivity and 69.6% specificity (AUROC 0.743, $p < 0.01$).
- The authors conclude that TGF- β 1 and GAG are reliable noninvasive fibrosis markers allowing for liver fibrosis screening in pediatric NAFLD populations.

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