Review article

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Global epidemiology of cirrhosis – aetiology, trends and predictions

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Study	Study period	Location	Diagnosis of cirrhosis	Study population	Proportion of cirrhosis cases by aetiology
The Americas					
Flemming et al. ¹	2000–2017	Canada	OHIP or ICD codes	Population-based study of 159,549 individuals with an incident diagnosis of cirrhosis in Ontario, Canada	NASH: 52.7%; Alcohol: 24.4%; HCV: 12.3%; HBV: 5.6%
Orman et al. ²	2004–2014	USA	ICD codes	9,261 patients with newly diagnosed cirrhosis in the Indiana Network for Patient Care	Alcohol: 33.5%; viral: 39.0%; NAFLD/other: 24.9%; autoimmune/cholestatic: 2.6% <u>Trends</u> Alcohol: 0.8% increase per year NAFLD: 0.6% increase per year Viral hepatitis: 1.4% decrease per year
loannou et al. ³	2001–2014	USA	ICD codes	116,404 patients with cirrhosis in the Veterans Health Administration	HCV: 45%; Alcohol: 31%; NAFLD: 15%; Other aetiologies: 9%
Goldberg et al. ⁴	2006–2014	USA	ICD codes	24,258 patients with compensated cirrhosis and 14,971 with decompensated cirrhosis from the HealthCore Integrated Research Database	Compensated cirrhosis HCV: 23.9%; Alcohol: 23.5%; Possible NASH: 14.5% Decompensated cirrhosis HCV: 26.8%; Alcohol: 43.2%; Presumed NASH: 16.5%
El-Serag et al. ⁵	2016–2019	USA	Histology, radiographic features, elastography, or serum biomarkers	1,717 patients from 5 institutions in Texas, USA, with compensated cirrhosis	Cured HCV: 33.1%; Alcohol: 30.6%; NAFLD: 23.3%; Active HCV: 16.1%; Active HBV: 2.5%
Gonzalez-Chagolla et al. ⁶	2000–2019	Mexico	Clinical, laboratory, radiographic, and endoscopic features	4,584 patients with cirrhosis, 77% with previous decompensations from 6 tertiary hospitals in central Mexico	2000 HCV: 45%; Alcohol: 28%; MAFLD ^b : 14% 2019 HCV: 11%; Alcohol: 33%; MAFLD: 36%
Appel-da-Silva et al. ⁷	2005–2014	Brazil	Clinical, laboratory, radiographic, and endoscopic features	453 patients with cirrhosis that attended a specialist referral clinic	Among patients without HCC at baseline: HCV: 34.9%; Alcohol: 24.6%; HCV and alcohol: 19.6%; HBV: 0.8%; HBV and alcohol: 1.3%; NAFLD: 1.8%; Cryptogenic: 3.2%
Europe					
West et al. ⁸	1987–2006	UK	ICD codes	3,107 people with cirrhosis from the General Practice Research Database, a primary care database	Alcohol: 56.1%; Cryptogenic: 20.8%; Viral hepatitis: 12.0%; Autoimmune/metabolic: 11.0%

Supplementary Table 1 | Selected studies^a that provided data for the aetiology of cirrhosis

Ratib et al. 9	1998-2009	England	ICD and OPCS4 codes	5,118 patients with cirrhosis from the	Males
				Clinical Practice Research Datalink, a	Alcohol: 61.9%; Viral hepatitis: 11.3%;
				primary care database	Autoimmune/metabolic: 6.2%; Cryptogenic: 20.7%
					Females
					Alcohol: 42.8%; Viral hepatitis: 11.1%;
					Autoimmune/metabolic: 15.0%; Cryptogenic: 31.1%
Gu et al. ¹⁰	2005–2018	Germany	ICD codes	All hospital admissions in Germany	2005
				with a diagnosis code for cirrhosis	Alcohol: 51.0%; HCV: 7.0%; HBV: 2.5%; NAFLD:
					0.80%; NASH: 0.13%
					<u>2018</u>
					Alcohol: 52.3%; HCV: 2.7%; HBV: 1.6%; NAFLD:
					2.8%%; NASH: 0.8%
Javaud et al. ¹¹	2014–2015	France	Histology, portal	224 patients with cirrhosis who	Alcohol: 51%; HCV: 19%; Mixed viral and alcohol:
			hypertension, ascites, or	presented to the emergency	13%; HBV: 8%
			oesophageal varices	department of 3 university hospitals	
Hagstrom et al. ¹²	2004–2017	Sweden	Identified using ICD codes	2,609 patients with cirrhosis who were	<u>2004–2008</u>
			and validated by histology,	evaluated at a tertiary hospital	Viral hepatitis: 43.4%; NAFLD 5.7%
			elastography, radiography,		<u>2014–2017</u>
			or clinical findings		Viral hepatitis: 31.0%; NAFLD 14.5%
Olafsson et al. ¹³	2010–2015	Iceland	Histology, serum	A prospective, population-based study	Alcohol: 31%; NAFLD: 22%; Alcohol and HCV: 15%;
			biomarkers, radiological or	that included all newly diagnosed	HCV: 6%; Primary biliary cholangitis: 5%;
			endoscopic findings	patients with cirrhosis ($n = 157$)	Autoimmune hepatitis: 4%; Other: 12%; Unknown:
				diagnosed in Iceland	6%
Popescu et al. ¹⁴	2000–2017	Romania	Not specified	852 patients who received liver	HBV: 28.2%; HCV: 16.8%; Alcohol: 8.8% (of total
				transplantation in Romania, as part of	patients that received liver transplant)
				the national liver transplant program	
Stroffolini et al. ¹⁵	2014	Italy	Histology, clinical,	832 patients with cirrhosis from 16	2001
			biochemical, and ultrasound	hospitals in Italy; this study provided a	HBV: 13.0%; HCV: 69.9%; Alcohol: 31.9%; NAFLD:
			findings	comparison of trends in aetiology with	0.2%
				a historical cohort ¹⁶	<u>2014</u>
					HBV: 17.6%; HCV: 58.6%; Alcohol: 16.0%; NAFLD:
					7.3%
Eastern Mediterranean			-		
Elzouki et al. ¹⁷	2007–2012	Qatar	Not specified	109 patients were admitted to the	HCV: 33.9%; HBV: 21.1%; Alcohol: 25.7%;
				intensive care unit in a tertiary hospital	Cryptogenic: 23.9%
Pourafkari et al. ¹⁸	2011–2013	Iran	Clinical, biochemical, and	69 patients with cirrhosis admitted to	HBV: 40.6%; alcohol: 21.7%; unknown: 24.6%; HCV
	1		histology	a university hospital	7.2%

Tailakh et al. ¹⁹	2002–2019	Israel	Histology, portal hypertension, ascites, or oesophageal varices	953 Jewish patients and 95 Bedouin patients who attended a tertiary hospital	<u>Jewish patients</u> HCV: 39.2%; NAFLD: 17.2%; HBV: 8.9%; Alcohol: 14.4%; Cryptogenic: 8.8% <u>Bedouin patients</u> HCV: 14.7%; NAFLD: 21.1%; HBV: 17.9%; Alcohol: 2.1%; Cryptogenic: 20.0%
Africa					
Duah et al. ²⁰	2018–2020	Ghana	Histology, clinical, biochemical, and ultrasound findings	186 patients with cirrhosis admitted to a district hospital	HBV: 38.7%; Alcohol: 38.3%; HCV: 3.2%; NAFLD: 2.7%
Apica et al. ²¹	2010–2011	Uganda	Clinical, biochemical, and ultrasound findings	85 patients with decompensated cirrhosis were admitted to a referral hospital	Alcohol: 55.3%; HBV: 27.1%; HCV: 3.5%
South-East Asia					
Mukherjee et al. ²²	2010–2013	India	Histology, serum biomarkers, radiological or endoscopic findings	4,413 patients with cirrhosis from 11 hospitals across India	Alcohol: 34.3%; HBV: 18.1%; HCV: 17.3%; NAFLD: 1.7%
Alvi et al. ²³	2018–2019	Pakistan	Not specified	192 patients with cirrhosis that underwent endoscopic band ligation	HCV 63.4%; HBV: 18.8%; Alcohol: 13.9%
Niriella et al. ²⁴	2013–2014	Sri Lanka	Not specified	135 patients with cirrhosis presenting to a tertiary referral centre	Cryptogenic: 62.6; alcohol: 29.9%; HBV: 1.9%
Nawalerspanya et al. ²⁵	2014–2018	Thailand	Not specified	128 patients who underwent endoscopic variceal surveillance at a tertiary hospital	HBV: 32.8%; HCV: 37.5%; NAFLD: 5.5%; alcohol: 4.7%; others: 7.8%
Western Pacific					
Tan et al. ²⁶	2015–2017	Malaysia	Not specified	105 patients with cirrhosis that underwent endoscopy for variceal surveillance	HCV: 31.0%; HBV: 20.0%; cryptogenic: 23.6%; alcohol: 16.4%; NASH: 3.6%
Tan et al. ²⁷	2016–2020	Singapore	Histology, serum biomarkers, radiological or endoscopic findings	251 patients with cirrhosis listed for liver transplantation at a tertiary hospital	HBV: 28.8%; NAFLD: 18.8%; HCV 10.8%; Alcohol: 9.6%; Others: 32.0%
Huu et al. ²⁸	2014–2015	Vietnam	Elastography and features of portal hypertension	47 patients with cirrhosis who were admitted to a university hospital	HBV: 48.9%; HCV: 36.2%; alcohol: 10.6%
Xiong et al. ²⁹	2003–2013	China	Clinical and imaging features, and/or histology	1,582 patients with a new diagnosis of cirrhosis at a hospital	2003-2013 HBV: 59.3%; Alcohol: 9.9%; HCV: 1.0%; primary biliary cholangitis: 4.4%; NASH: 1.9% 2012-2013 NASH: 3.2%

Enomoto et al. ³⁰	2007–2016	Japan	Clinical, laboratory, and	48,621 patients with cirrhosis from 79	2007
			imaging features, and/or	hospitals in Japan	HCV: 58.6%; alcohol 13.7%; HBV: 13.6%; cryptogenic
			histology		5.6%; NASH 2.0%
					2014-2016
					HCV: 40.2%; alcohol 24.9%; HBV: 9.0%; cryptogenic
					7.5%; NASH: 9.1%
Tan et al. ²⁷	2016–2020	Hong Kong	Histology, serum	320 patients with cirrhosis listed for	HBV: 53.1%; NAFLD: 1.6%; HCV 7.5%; Alcohol: 7.2%;
			biomarkers, radiological or	liver transplantation at a tertiary	Others: 30.6%
			endoscopic findings	hospital	
Jang et al. ³¹	2000–2014	South	KCD-6 codes	15,716 patients with cirrhosis	2000-2004
		Korea		diagnosed at 5 university hospitals	HBV: 55.3%; HCV 6.3%; Alcohol 30.6%; NAFLD 1.8%
					2010-2014
					HBV: 41.2%; HCV: 8.5%; Alcohol 35.6%; NAFLD: 6.4%

^aStudies were selected to present data from diverse geographical locations; when multiple studies from the same country were available, studies that provided data for temporal trends in the aetiologies of cirrhosis were prioritized for selection. ^bDefinition for MAFLD as described by Eslam et al.³² HBV, hepatitis B virus; HCV, hepatitis C virus; NAFLD, non-alcoholic fatty liver disease; NASH, non-alcoholic steatohepatitis; MAFLD, metabolic associated fatty liver disease.

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