

Table 1. Characteristics of included studies¹.

Author, Year	Study Design	Study Location	Follow-up Duration	Intervention: N of patients	Control: N of patients	Concomitant Diet/Exercise	Concomitant Medications	Concern for conflict of interest
Aithal, 2008	RCT, MC	UK	52 Weeks	Pioglitazone 30 mg/d N: 37	Placebo N: 37	Hypocaloric diet (500 kcal less), 53/week exercise	None	Low
Armstrong MJ, 2016	RCT, MC	UK	48 Weeks	Liraglutide subcutaneously 1.8 mg daily N: 26	Placebo N: 26	NR	NR	High (partial funding by Novo Nordisk)
Belfort, 2006	RCT, MC	USA	26 Weeks	Pioglitazone 45 mg/d N: 26	Placebo N: 21	Hypocaloric diet (500 kcal less)	None	Low
Bril, 2019	RCT, MC	USA	78 Weeks	Intervention 1: Vitamin E 400 BID N: 36 Intervention 2: Vitamin E 400 BID plus pioglitazone 45 mg/d N:37	Placebo N: 32	Lifestyle modification education	NR	Low
Cusi, 2016	RCT, SC	USA	78 Weeks	Pioglitazone 30 mg/d (titrated after 2 months to 45 mg/d) N: 50	Placebo N: 51	Lifestyle counseling and a hypocaloric diet	NR	Low
Harrison, 2018 (a bridging fibrosis)	RCT, MC	USA, France, Switzerland and Spain	96 Weeks	Intervention 1: Simtuzumab 75mg /week subcutaneous injection N: 74 Intervention 2: Simtuzumab 125 mg/week subcutaneous injection N: 74	Placebo N: 74	NR	NR	High (Funded by Gilead Sciences)
Harrison, 2003	RCT, SC	USA	26 Weeks	Vitamin E (1000 IU/d) plus Vitamin C (1,000 mg/d) N: 25	Placebo N: 24	NHLBI 1,600 cal and written exercise plan	NR	Low
Harrison, 2019	RCT, MC	USA	36 Weeks	Resmetirom 80 mg daily N: 84	Placebo N: 41	NR	Intervention group: PPI 39%, Statin 23%, Metformin 33%, Insulin 8%, ACEI 19%, Platelet aggregation inhibitors 20% Placebo group: PPI 24%, Statin 10%, Metformin 24%, Insulin	High (Funded by Madrigal Pharmaceuticals)

¹ RCT: Randomized Controlled Trial; MC: Multicenter; SC: Single center; NR: Not reported; NHLBI: National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute; PPI: Proton Pump Inhibitors; ACEI: Angiotensin-converting-enzyme inhibitors; BID, Two Times a day; TID: Three Times a Day

Author, Year	Study Design	Study Location	Follow-up Duration	Intervention: N of patients	Control: N of patients	Concomitant Diet/Exercise	Concomitant Medications	Concern for conflict of interest
							7%, ACEI 24%, Platelet aggregation inhibitors 10%	
Harrison, 2020 (MSDC-0602K)	RCT, MC	USA	52 Weeks	Intervention 1: MSDC-0602K dose 62.5 mg daily N: 102 Intervention 2: MSDC-0602K dose 125 mg daily N: 99 Inter3: MSDC-0602K dose 250 mg daily N: 101	Placebo N: 100	None	None	High (Funded by Cirius Therapeutics)
Harrison, 2020 (Aldafermin)	RCT, MC	USA	24 Weeks	Aldafermin 1 mg daily by subcutaneous injection N:53	Placebo N:25	NR	Intervention group: Statin 20 (38%) Placebo group statin 5 (20%)	High (Funding for this study is provided by NGM Biopharmaceuticals)
Harrison, STELLAR 3 2020 (bridging fibrosis)	RCT, MC	26 countries	48 Weeks	Intervention 1: Selonsertib 18 mg daily N: 322 Intervention 2: Selonsertib 6 mg daily N: 321	Placebo N: 159	NR	NR	High (Funded by Gilead Sciences)
Loomba, 2018	RCT, MC	USA	24 Weeks	Selonsertib 18 mg daily +\ Simtuzumab self- subcutaneous injection once weekly N: 32	Simtuzumab self- subcutaneous injection once weekly N: 10	NR	NR	High (Multiple grants from pharmaceutical companies)
McPherson, 2017	RCT, MC	England	104 Weeks	Losartan 50 mg daily N: 24	Placebo N: 21	Standard advice with regard to diet, exercise and weight maintenance.	NR	Low
Navarro, 2019	RCT, MC	USA	48 Weeks	Silymarin TID N: 53 (26 pts 420 mg, 27 pts 700 mg)	Placebo N: 25	Education about healthy diet and lifestyle	NR	High (Some of the authors work in pharmaceutical companies)
Neuschwander-Tetri, 2015	RCT, MC	USA	72 Weeks	Obeticholic acid 25 mg daily N: 141	Placebo N: 142	Standardized recommendations on healthy eating habits, weight reduction, exercise,	None	Low
Newsome, 2020	RCT, MC	16 Countries	72 Weeks	Semaglutide 0.4 mg daily N: 82	Placebo N: 80	NR	NR	High (Sponsored by Novo Nordisk)

Author, Year	Study Design	Study Location	Follow-up Duration	Intervention: N of patients	Control: N of patients	Concomitant Diet/Exercise	Concomitant Medications	Concern for conflict of interest
Loomba (Phase 2b ATLAS trial), 2020	RCT, MC	Multiple Countries	48 Weeks	Intervention 1: Cilofexor 30 mg daily N: 40 Intervention 2: Firsocostat 20 mg daily N: 40 Inter3: Selonsertib 18 mg daily N: 39 Inter4: Cilofexor & Selonsertib N: 77 Inter5: Firsocostat & Selonsertib N: 79 Inter6: Cilofexor & Firsocostat N: 78	Placebo N: 39	NR	NR	High (Funded by Gilead Sciences)
Phase 2b NATIVE trial, 2020	RCT, MC	Multiple Countries	24 Weeks	Intervention 1: Lanifibranor 800 mg daily N: 83 Intervention 2: Lanifibranor 1200 mg daily N: 83	Placebo N: 81	NR	NR	High (Funded by Inventiva)
Ratziu, 2008	RCT, SC	France	52 Weeks	Rosiglitazone 4 mg/d for 1 month, then 8 mg/day N: 32	Placebo N: 31	Healthy eating and twice weekly exercise (details NR)	None	Low
Ratziu 2016	RCT, MC	USA and 8 European countries	52 Weeks	Intervention 1: Elafibranor 80 mg daily N: 93 Intervention 2: Elafibranor 120 mg daily N: 91	Placebo N: 92	NR	None	High (Funded by GENFIT)
Ratziu 2018	RCT, MC	11 countries from USA, Europe and Latin America	52 Weeks	Intervention 1: Aramchol 400 mg daily N: 101	Placebo N: 48	NR	NR	Unclear

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				Intervention 2: Aramchol 600 mg daily N: 98				
Ratziu, 2020 Friedman, 2018 ²	RCT, MC	81 sites across the United States, Australia, Hong Kong, and Europe	104 Weeks	Cenicriviroc (CVC) 150 mg daily N: 145	Placebo N: 72	NR	HMG CoA reductase inhibitors 35.4%, Biguanides 52.8 %, Angiotensin II inhibitors 22.9 %, Glucose lowering drugs excluding insulin 16.7%	High (Funded by tobira therapeutics)
Sanyal, 2010 (PIVENS)	RCT, MC	USA	96 Weeks	Intervention 1: Pioglitazone 30 mg/d N: 80 Intervention 2: Vitamin E daily N: 84	Placebo N: 83	Standardized diet and exercise	None	Low
Wah Kheong, 2017	RCT, SC	Malaysia	48 Weeks	Silymarin 700 mg TID N:49	Placebo TID N: 50	Lifestyle advice	NR	Low
Younossi, 2019	RCT, MC	20 Countries	78 Weeks (Interim analysis)	Obeticholic acid 25 mg daily N: 308	Placebo N: 311	NR	Intervention group: Lipid lowering 160 (52%) Statins 127 (41%) Antidiabetic medication 159 (52%) Thiazolidinediones 4 (1%) Vitamin E 32 (10%) Placebo group: Lipid lowering 175 (56%) Statins 144 (46%) Antidiabetic medication 167 (54%) Thiazolidinediones 5 (2%) Vitamin E 42 (14%)	High (Multiple grants from pharmaceutical companies)
Zein, 2011	RCT, MC	USA	52 Weeks	Pentoxifylline 400 mg TID N: 26	Placebo N: 29	Individualized nutritional counseling	None	Low

² Both studies have same population but reported different outcomes

Table 2. Patients' characteristics³

Study, year	Intervention	Age (Mean)	Sex (% male)	Diabetes n, %	NAFLD activity score (Mean)	Fibrosis score (Mean)	Advanced fibrosis n, %	BMI (Mean)	ALT (Mean)	AST (Mean)
Aithal, 2008	Pioglitazone	52	70%	0	NR	1.7	7, 19%	29.8	93.6	NR
	Placebo	55	51%	0	NR	2.3	11, 30%	30.8	84.1	NR
Armstrong MJ, 2016	Liraglutide	50	69%	9, 35%	4.9	2.3	12, 46%	34.2	77	51
	Placebo	52	50%	8, 31%	4.8	2.3	15, 58%	37.7	66	51
Belfort, 2006	Pioglitazone	51	54%	26, 100%	NR	1.75	2, 10%	33.5	67	47
	Placebo	51	33%	21, 100%	NR	1.25	7, 27%	32.9	61	42
Bril, 2019	Vitamin E	60	93%	36, 100%	3.9	1.6	NR	33.8	53	41
	Vitamin E plus pioglitazone	60	81%	37, 100%	3.7	1.4	NR	35.2	40	32
	Placebo	57	93%	32, 100%	4.2	1.5	NR	33.6	53	40
Cusi, 2016	Pioglitazone	52	72%	24, 48%	4.5	1.1	NR	34.3	62	47
	Placebo	49	69%	28, 55%	4.5	0.9	NR	34.5	57	43
Harrison, 2018 (a bridging fibrosis)	Simtuzumab 75mg	56	39%	48, 68%	4.6	2.8	70, 98.6%	34.2	47	41
	Simtuzumab 125 mg	55	36%	50, 68%	4.9	3	74, 100%	34.1	54	41
	Placebo	56	35%	49, 66%	4	3	74, 100%	32.7	50	42
Harrison, 2003	Vitamin E plus Vitamin C	52	39%	14, 61%	3.1	NR	4, 18%	35	92	63.2
	Placebo	50	50%	5, 23%	3	NR	6, 26%	30.8	109	80.2
Harrison, 2019	Resmetirom	51	45%	36, 43%	4.9		18, 21%	35.8	50	35.1
	Placebo	47.3	59%	13, 32%	4.8	NR	7, 17%	33.6	60.1	38
Harrison, 2020 (MSDC-0602K)	MSDC-0602K dose 62.5 mg	56.9	43%	57,55.6%	5.5	2.1	47, 46.5%	34.7	58.3	44.9
	MSDC-0602K dose 125 mg	56	35%	51, 52%	5.2	2.1	45, 45.9%	35.9	50.9	42.7
	MSDC-0602K dose 250 mg	56.8	43%	52,51.5%	5.4	2	44, 43.6%	35	59.3	46.4

³ Phase 2b NATIVE trial, 2020: Press release. Patients' characteristics and risk of bias assessment could not be abstracted

Study, year	Intervention	Age (Mean)	Sex (% male)	Diabetes n, %	NAFLD activity score (Mean)	Fibrosis score (Mean)	Advanced fibrosis n, %	BMI (Mean)	ALT (Mean)	AST (Mean)
	Placebo	54.6	43%	50, 50%	5.3	2.1	46, 45.7%	35.03	58.6	42.7
Harrison, 2020 (Aldafermin)	Aldafermin	53	51%	32, 60%	5.7	NR	24, 45%	35.8	73.3	54.5
	Placebo	54.1	36%	16, 64%	5.4	NR	10, 40%	36.8	55.1	44.3
Harrison, STELLAR 3 2020 (bridging fibrosis)	Selonsertib 18 mg	59	44%	224, 70%	NR	-0.2	322, 100%	32.4	56	48
	Selonsertib 6 mg	59	39%	223, 69%	NR	-0.13	321, 100%	32.4	52	46
	Placebo	59	52%	116, 73%	NR	-0.19	159, 100%	32.2	56	43
Loomba, 2018	Selonsertib 18 mg daily +\-\ Simtuzumab	55	31%	21, 66%	NR	NR	21, 66%	33	69	48
	Simtuzumab	57	40%	8, 80%	NR	NR	6, 60%	37	61	56
McPherson, 2017	Losartan	58	54.1%	15,62.50%	5.5	2.07	5/15, 33%	32.8	52.5	35
	Placebo	45	57.1%	12,57.14%	5.5	2.41	8/17, 47%	34.1	65	46
Navarro, 2019	Silymarin	48.2	67 %	14 (27%)	4.4	1.4	19%	33.5	61	46
	Placebo	49.5	56%	7 (28%)	4.4	1	16%	33.4	65	51
Neuschwander-Tetri, 2015	Obeticholic acid	52	30%	75, 53%	5.3	1.9	NR	35	83	64
	Placebo	51	37%	74, 52%	5.1	1.8	NR	34	82	58
Newsome, 2020	Semaglutide	54.3	43%	49, 60%	4.8	Enhanced liver fibrosis test score 9.9	42, 51%	35.2	54	44
	Placebo	52.4	45%	50, 62%	4.9	9.6	36, 45%	36.1	55	42
Loomba (Phase 2b ATLAS trial), 2020	Cilofexor	59	27%	27, 68%	NR	NR	39, 98%	32	50	49
	Firsocostat	63	37%	30, 75%	NR	NR	38, 95%	33	47	41
	Selonsertib	60	38%	26, 67%	NR	NR	39, 100%	32	42	44
	Cilofexor & Selonsertib	61	34%	58, 75%	NR	NR	75, 98%	33	45	41
	Firsocostat & Selonsertib	59	38%	57, 72%	NR	NR	78, 99%	35	43	44
	Cilofexor & Firsocostat	62	38%	57, 73%	NR	NR	76, 98%	34	42	46
	Placebo	59	31%	27, 69%	NR	NR	39, 100%	35	44	41
Ratziu, 2008	Rosiglitazone	53	19%	9, 28%	4	NR	5, 16%	31.5	69	46
	Placebo	54	18%	11, 35%	3	NR	15, 48%	30.5	84	61
Ratziu 2016	Elafibranor 80 mg	52.7	53%	37, 40%	5	1.5	23, 24.7%	31.8	60.7	40.9

Study, year	Intervention	Age (Mean)	Sex (% male)	Diabetes n, %	NAFLD activity score (Mean)	Fibrosis score (Mean)	Advanced fibrosis n, %	BMI (Mean)	ALT (Mean)	AST (Mean)
	Elafibranor 120 mg	52.4	53%	37, 42%	4.9	1.7	20, 22.5%	31	63.8	41.7
	Placebo	52.4	60%	33, 36%	5	1.5	20, 21.7%	30.9	63.8	44.5
Ratziu 2018	Aramchol	53.9	35%	All patients are either prediabetic or diabetic	5.06	NR	47.5%	32.4	68.1	NR
	Aramchol	54.9	35%		5.21	NR	36.7%	33	55.9	NR
	Placebo	54.4	47.9%		5.06	NR	33%	32.6	67.7	NR
Ratziu, 2020 Friedman, 2018	CENICRIVIROC	54.9	55.4%	73, 60%	≥5: 85 (70.2%)	2	46, 38%	33.32	58.9	42.49
	Placebo	52	48.3%	25, 41.7%	≥5: 45 (75.0%)	2.1	24, 40%	34.47	64.15	47.04
Sanyal, 2010 (PIVENS)	Pioglitazone	47	38%	0	5.1	1.4	NR	34	82	54
	Vitamin E	46.6	38%	0	5.1	1.5	NR	34	86	59
	Placebo	45	42%	0	4.8	1.6	NR	35	81	55
Wah Kheong, 2017	Silymarin	49.6	49%	23, 46.9%	5	1	14, 28.6%	30	88	52
	Placebo	50.1	44%	30, 60%	5	1	10, 20%	31	73	46
Younossi, 2019	Obeticholic acid	55	43%	171, 56%	NAS ≥6: 68%	NR	NR	NR	80.2	57.0
	Placebo	55	40%	175, 56%	NAS ≥6: 70%	NR	NR	NR	79.6	58.9
Zein, 2011	Pentoxifylline	50.5	69.2%	1, 3.8%	5.7	NR	5, 19.2%	32.9	81.5	58
	Placebo	49.6	69%	4, 13.8%	5.4	NR	9, 31%	34	55	43

Table 3. Risk of bias assessment

Study, year	Adequacy of sequence generation	Allocation concealment	Blinding of patients or personnel	Blinding of outcome assessors	Incomplete outcome data	Selective reporting	Others
Aithal, 2008	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Armstrong MJ, 2016	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Belfort, 2006	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Bril, 2019	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Cusi, 2016	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Harrison, 2018 (a bridging fibrosis)	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Harrison, 2003	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Harrison, 2019	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Harrison, 2020 (MSDC-0602K)	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Harrison, 2020 (Aldofermin)	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Harrison, STELLAR 3 2020 (bridging fibrosis)	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Loomba, 2018	Low	Unclear	high	Low	Low	Low	Low
Loomba, 2020 ATLAS	Unclear	Low	Unclear	Low	High	High	Low
McPherson, 2017	Low	Low	Low	Low	High (26%)	Low	Low
Navarro, 2019	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Neuschwander-Tetri, 2015	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Newsome, 2020	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Ratziu, 2008	Unclear	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Ratziu 2016	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Ratziu 2018	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Low	Low	Low
Ratziu, 2020	Low	Unclear	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Friedman, 2018	Low	Unclear	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Sanyal, 2010 (PIVENS)	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Wah Kheong, 2017	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Younossi, 2019	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Zein, 2011	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low