



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

# Annals of Hepatology

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.es/annalsofhepatology](http://www.elsevier.es/annalsofhepatology)

## News

## ALEH Newsletter

### ARTICLE INFO

#### Article history:

Received 28 April 2020

Accepted 28 April 2020

#### **ALEH invites investigators from Latin America to participate in a multicenter study to evaluate the prevalence of liver injury in hospitalized patients with COVID-19 and to identify risk factors associated with worse prognosis.**

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is struggling the World. The infection is caused by the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). In a certain group of patients it manifests as severe pneumonia, respiratory distress syndrome, multiple organ dysfunction and death. The factors associated with a worse prognosis are older than 60 years, the presence of diabetes, cardiovascular disease and obesity. According to studies carried out in the Eastern world, the prevalence of liver injury in patients with COVID-19 disease varies between 14% and 53%, being more prevalent in patients with severe symptoms of COVID-19 disease. It is not really known whether the liver involvement of patients with SARS-CoV-2 infection is secondary to the direct effect of the virus on the liver or due to the immune response generated in the body by the virus with systemic inflammatory response syndrome.

In order to get a better understanding of SARS-CoV-2 impact in the liver, ALEH has created a Special Interest Group on COVID-19. Therefore, this group has designed a cross-sectional study to estimate the prevalence of liver complications (liver injury, decompensation of cirrhosis) in patients hospitalized with COVID-19 in Latin America. Furthermore, the study will describe the clinical characteristics of COVID-19 disease and identify risk factors associated with poor prognosis,

This project has been evaluated by ALEH board, which has considered it of high interest and will promote its dissemination among partners and related Associations with the aim of obtaining the greatest participation from the centers in the region.

ALEH invites everybody to be part of this study. The protocol has IRB approval and it has been registered in Clinical Trials Identifier: NCT04358380. Those investigators who are interested in participating in this study please contact [info@alehlatam.org](mailto:info@alehlatam.org) for more information.