

were randomly assigned to Group P (prednisone 40 mg/day + placebo) or Group T (prednisone 40 mg/day + Omega-5 (nano) at 1.28 g/day), administered for 28 days. Biochemical markers of liver function, nutritional evaluation, malondialdehyde (MDA), protein carbonyls (PC), reduced glutathione (GSH), oxidized glutathione (GSSG), and the GSH/GSSG ratio in blood were assessed. Additionally, cytokines, chemokines MCP-1, CXCL-8 and 10) and growth factors (IGFBP-1 to 7), were measured at baseline (day 0) and on days 7, 14, and 28.

Results: Both groups exhibited similar steroid responses with Lille scores ($p > 0.05$). Liver function tests revealed improved in Group T at day 28 ($p < 0.05$). Analysis for lipid peroxidation (MDA) was improved ($p = 0.001$) at 28 days in group T vs group P. The GSH/GSSG ratio also showed differences with the use of Omega-5. IL-10 levels (pg/mL) significantly increased in Group T, while MCP-1, CXCL-8 and CXCL10 levels (pg/mL) showed marked reduction by day 28 vs day 0. Additionally, IGFBP 1, 2, 3 and 7 levels (ng/mL) in Group T were significantly reduced.

Conclusions: Addition to Omega-5 fatty acid (nano) to prednisone strongly showed a beneficial effect in SAAH, promoting the reduction of oxidative stress, modulating cytokines and IGFBP levels. A phase 3 clinical trial is performed to further elucidate molecular mechanisms and explore the correct dosing regimens.

Conflict of interest: None

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#196

LAPAROSCOPIC LIVER RESECTION AS A TREATMENT FOR EARLY-STAGE HEPATOCELLULAR CARCINOMA IN PATIENTS WITH AND WITHOUT PORTAL HYPERTENSION: A CASE-CONTROL STUDY

Álvaro Urzúa Manchego¹, Deycies Gaete Letelier¹, Omar Orellana Espinoza¹, Hans Lembach Jahnsen¹, Carlos Mandiola Bunster¹, Jaime Castillo Koch¹, Juan Carlos Díaz Jeraldo¹, Alexandre Saure Maritano¹

¹ Hospital Clínico Universidad de Chile.

Introduction and Objectives: In patients with early-stage Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC), liver transplantation is the ideal treatment, but it is not universally available. Laparoscopic Liver Resection (LLR) offers comparable outcomes and is recommended for patients without clinically significant portal hypertension (CSPH). This study aimed to compare perioperative and short-term outcomes of LLR in cirrhotic patients with early-stage HCC, with and without CSPH.

Patients and Methods: This retrospective case-control study included 40 cirrhotic patients with early-stage HCC who underwent LLR between 2016–2023 at a university hospital. Clinical and demographic variables, indirect signs of portal hypertension and HVPG were recorded. Patients were divided into two groups, presence or absence of CSPH (HVPG > 10 mmHg or clinical signs of portal hypertension). The non-CSPH group included 15 patients (37.5%) and the CSPH included 25 patients (62.5%), with a median HVPG of 16 [11–26] mmHg. Median follow-up was 25 [2–89] months. Perioperative variables and outcomes up to 90 days post-surgery, as well as clinical follow-up data, were compared. Fisher's exact test and Kaplan-Meier survival analysis with the log-rank test were used for statistical analysis. A p -value < 0.05 was considered statistically significant.

Results: There were no differences in baseline characteristics or preoperative tumor size between the groups. A total of 78% of

LLRs were anatomical segmentectomies. Intraoperative variables showed no significant differences. No 90-day mortality was observed. No significant differences were found in postoperative rates of ascites (13% vs. 24%), post-hepatectomy liver failure (13% vs. 0%), encephalopathy (0 vs. 4%), decompensation (20% in both), or infections. The median ICU stay was 4 days for both groups. Positive surgical margins (R1) were also similar (7% vs. 12%). Overall survival rates at 1 and 3 years were 100% and 78%, respectively, with no significant differences ($p = 0.1448$).

Conclusions: In patients with CSPH, early postoperative outcomes and short-term survival were comparable to those patients without CSPH.

Conflict of interest: None

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#197

IGFBPS, MMPS, AND CYTOKINES IN LIVER FIBROSIS: COMPARATIVE NON-INVASIVE BIOMARKER ANALYSIS.

Abigail Hernández Barragán¹, Gabriela Gutiérrez Reyes², Marisela Hernández Santillan¹, Moisés Martínez Castillo¹, Paula Cordero Pérez³, Fátima Higuera de la Tijera⁴, Zaira Medina Avila¹, Linda Muñoz Espinosa³, Eduardo Montalvo Jave⁴, José Luis Pérez Hernández⁴, Aldo Torre Delgadillo⁵, Daniel Santana Vargas⁴

¹ Lab HIPAM, UIIME. Facultad de Medicina, UNAM, México.

² Lab. HIPAM, Facultad de Medicina, UNAM, México.

³ Facultad de Medicina, UANL, México.

⁴ Hospital General de México "Dr. Eduardo Liceaga".

⁵ Centro Médico ABC, México.

Introduction and Objectives: Identifying serum biomarkers capable of effectively distinguishing fibrosis stages is critical for early diagnosis and therapeutic monitoring in chronic liver disease. Objective: To evaluate the diagnostic performance of IGFBP proteins, cytokines, and matrix metalloproteinases (MMPs) across different fibrosis stages.

Patients and Methods: A prospective, cross-sectional, multicenter study was conducted. Untreated patients with chronic hepatitis C (cHC) were recruited and classified using FibroTest® and/or FibroScan®. Receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curves were analyzed to compare serum levels of IGFBP 1-7 (ng/ml), cytokines (IL-1a, IL-2, IL-10, IL-12p70; pg/ml), and MMPs (2, 7 and 9; ng/ml) between F0, F1F2, and F3F4 fibrosis groups. Statistical significance was set at $p < 0.05$, and area under the curve (AUC), sensitivity (Se), and specificity (Sp) were reported.

Results: A total of 461 cHC patients met inclusion criteria and were classified into F0 ($n = 130$), F1–F2 ($n = 55$), and F3–F4 ($n = 216$). For advanced fibrosis (F3F4 vs F0), IGFBP-4 had the highest performance, followed by IGFBP-5, IGFBP-2, and IGFBP-7, the latter with the highest specificity (91.4%). IGFBP-3 also reached significance. Among cytokines and MMPs, IL-10 and MMP-7 discriminated F1F2 vs F3F4 (Table).

Conclusions: IGFBP-4, IGFBP-5, IGFBP-7, and IL-10 showed significant accuracy in distinguishing fibrosis stages, particularly in identifying advanced fibrosis. Their high specificity and robust AUC values support their role as non-invasive biomarkers that may complement

or reduce the need for liver biopsy. These findings warrant further investigation in broader clinical settings.

Conflict of interest: None

	Comparison	AUC	p-value	Cut-off	Sensitivity	Specificity
IGFBP-6	F0 vs F1F2	0.756	0.001	6.515	0.848	0.886
IGFBP-2	F0 vs F3F4	0.711	0.003	47.56	0.747	0.857
IGFBP-3	F0 vs F3F4	0.66	0.023	25.89	0.739	0.8
IGFBP-4	F0 vs F3F4	0.754	0	8.4326	0.709	0.886
IGFBP-5	F0 vs F3F4	0.722	0.002	7.5211	0.788	0.886
IGFBP-6	F0 vs F3F4	0.689	0.007	6.515	0.848	0.886
IGFBP-7	F0 vs F3F4	0.714	0.002	3.665	0.65	0.914
MMP-7	F1F2 vs F3F4	0.72	0.006	0.8047	0.818	0.559
IL-10	F1F2 vs F3F4	0.679	0.009	5.5545	0.619	0.846

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#198

INFLUENTIAL VARIABLES FOR THE DIAGNOSIS OF HEPATOCELLULAR CARCINOMA IN HIGH-RISK PATIENTS.

Dayron Páez Suárez¹, Antonio Díaz Machado¹, Mayra Zoa Más Martínez¹, Kenia Yusnarkis Valenzuela Aguilera², Mirta Infante Velázquez³, Enrique Rogelio Arús Soler¹

¹ Hospital Clínico-Quirúrgico Hermanos Ameijeiras, Cuba.
² Centro de Investigaciones Médico Quirúrgicas, Cuba.
³ Instituto de Gastroenterología, Cuba.

Introduction and Objectives: Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) is a fearsome neoplasia with patients at well-identified risk who require surveillance.

To identify variables that are influential in the diagnosis of hepatocellular carcinoma in at-risk individuals.

Materials and Methods: A cross-sectional descriptive study with an analytical component was conducted across three tertiary care centers between July 2024 and April 2025. A total of 291 patients at risk for HCC were included; 11 were diagnosed with HCC. Independent variables assessed included age, sex, risk group, cirrhosis etiology, serum alpha-fetoprotein (AFP), and PIVKA-II levels. HCC diagnosis served as the dependent variable. Categorical variables were summarized as frequencies and percentages; continuous variables as means and standard deviations (SD). Univariate and multivariate logistic regression analyses were performed to identify factors significantly associated with HCC.

Results: The mean age was 62 ± 10.3 years, with a predominance of patients aged ≤62. The most common risk group was liver cirrhosis (91.1%), with a slight predominance of females. In univariate analysis, liver cirrhosis, AFP ≥ 20 ng/mL, and PIVKA-II ≥ 28.4 ng/mL were significantly associated with HCC diagnosis. Multivariate analysis showed that these same variables were statistically significantly associated with the diagnosis of hepatocellular carcinoma.

Conclusions: In at-risk patients, the presence of cirrhosis, elevated AFP (≥ 20 ng/mL) and elevated PIVKA-II (≥ 28.4 ng/mL) are strongly associated with the diagnosis of hepatocellular carcinoma.

Conflict of interest: None

Variables	Univariate analysis				Multivariate analysis			
	p-value	OR not adjusted	95% C.I. for OR		p-value	Adjusted OR	95% C.I. for OR	
			Lower	Superior			Lower	Superior
Age ≤ 62 y	0.894	0.960	0.524	1.757	0.512	0.755	0.325	1.751
Sex (female)	0.111	0.334	0.087	1.287	0.021	0.082	0.010	0.686
Cirrhosis	0.044	4.190	1.040	16.887	0.016	18.758	1.720	204.585
Alcohol-induced	0.786	1.336	0.166	10.775	0.996	0.993	0.050	19.837
MASLD	0.155	0.399	0.113	1.414	-	-	-	-
Chronic viral hepatitis	0.044	0.239	0.059	0.962	0.057	0.076	0.005	1.080
AFP ≥ 20 ng/L	<0.001	15.833	4.303	58.262	<0.001	34.059	4.973	233.255
PIVKA ≥ 28,4 ng/L	0.006	18.182	2.294	144.117	0.005	41.788	3.110	561.572

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#201

DIAGNOSTIC ACCURACY OF NON INVASIVE TESTS FOR FIBROSIS IN METABOLIC DYSFUNCTION ASSOCIATED STEATOTIC LIVER DISEASE

Fernando Javier Barreyro¹, Matias Bori², Domingo Balderramo³, Maria Del Valle Aubone⁴, Guillermo Fernandez⁵, Omar Soto Oca⁶, Sebastian Paredes⁷, Esteban Gonzalez Ballerga²

¹ CONICET, Argentina.
² Hospital de Clínicas, Argentina.
³ Hospital Privado, Argentina.
⁴ Hospital Dr. Guillermo Rawson, Argentina.
⁵ Hospital Teodoro J. Schestakow, Argentina.
⁶ Hospital José Ramón Vidal, Argentina.
⁷ Hospital de Alta Complejidad "Pte. Juan Domingo Perón", Argentina.

Introduction and Objectives: Metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD) is the most common chronic liver disorder. Fibrosis stage drives hepatic morbidity and mortality. Non-invasive tests (NITs) can replace liver biopsy (LB) in routine practice, yet their performance under the new MASLD terminology has not been assessed in Argentina. Thus, our aim was to assess the accuracy of six NITs for detecting significant fibrosis (SF ≥ F2) and advanced fibrosis (AF ≥ F3) in MASLD.

Materials and Methods: We carried out a cross-sectional multicenter study of 219 adults with MASLD who underwent liver biopsy (2019-2024). Secondary steatosis was excluded. Fibrosis was graded with the Kleiner system. APRI, FIB-4, NAFLD Fibrosis Score (NFS), SAFE, Forns, and transient elastography liver stiffness (TE; FibroScan®) were evaluated. Diagnostic accuracy was expressed as AUROC, sensitivity (Se), specificity (Sp), positive (PPV) and negative predictive value (NPV). Optimal cut-offs were derived with Youden's index; the two best AUROCs were compared using DeLong's test.

Results: Median age 54 years; 52 % women; BMI 31 kg/m²; diabetes 32 %; NASH 57 %. Fibrosis distribution: F0 18 %, F1 27 %, F2 24 %, F3 12 %, F4 19 %. For SF, TE and SAFE had the highest AUROCs (0.95 and 0.75). TE cut-off 7.8 kPa achieved Se 92 %, Sp 95 %, PPV 96 %, NPV 90 %. For AF, TE and SAFE again led (0.96 and 0.79); TE cut-off 8.9 kPa provided Se 96 %, Sp 90 %, PPV 81 %, NPV 98 % (DeLong p < 0.001) (Table).

Conclusions: In this Argentinian MASLD cohort, TE outperformed five serum-based NITs for identifying SF and AF, but required higher thresholds than those reported in Europe and the United States.