**Name of Journal:** ***World Journal of*** ***Gastroenterology***

**Manuscript NO: 39364**

**Manuscript Type: REVIEW**

**Role of microRNAs in alcohol-induced liver disorders and non-alcoholic fatty liver disease**

Torres JL *et al*. miRNAs in ALD and NAFLD

Jorge-Luis Torres, Ignacio Novo-Veleiro, Laura Manzanedo, Lucía Alvela-Suárez, Ronald Macías, Francisco-Javier Laso, Miguel Marcos

**Jorge-Luis Torres, Laura Manzanedo, Ronald Macías, Francisco-Javier Laso, Miguel Marcos,** Department of Internal Medicine, University Hospital of Salamanca, Institute of Biomedical Research of Salamanca-IBSAL, Salamanca 37007, Spain

**Francisco-Javier Laso, Miguel Marcos,** Department of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Salamanca, Salamanca 37007, Spain

**Ignacio Novo-Veleiro,** Department of Internal Medicine, University Hospital of Santiago de Compostela, A Coruña 15706, Spain

**Lucía Alvela-Suárez,** Department of Internal Medicine, HM Rosaleda Hospital, Compostela de Compostela, A Coruña 15701, Spain

**Jorge-Luis Torres, Ignacio Novo-Veleiro**, **Francisco-Javier Laso, Miguel Marcos,** Spanish Working Group on Alcohol and Alcoholism, Spanish Society of Internal Medicine, Madrid 28016, Spain

**ORCID number:** Jorge-Luis Torres (0000-0001-6853-9115); Ignacio Novo-Veleiro (0000-0003-0948-2440); Laura Manzanedo (0000-0001-8394-5218); Lucía Alvela-Suárez (0000-0001-6106-2174); Ronald Macías (0000-0001-8734-7872); Francisco-Javier Laso (0000-0003-0945-5186); Miguel Marcos (0000-0003-1269-4487).

**Author contributions:** Torres JL and Novo-Veleiro I contributed equally as first authors of this manuscript; Torres JL, Novo-Veleiro I, Manzanedo L, Alvela-Suárez L, Macías R and Marcos M carried out the literature research and drafted the manuscript; Torres JL, Novo-Veleiro I, Laso FJ and Marcos M contributed to manuscript conception and design; all authors approved the final version of the manuscript.

**Supported by** the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation, Instituto de Salud Carlos III and the European Union FEDER funds, *Una manera de hacer Europa*, (grant numbers PI16/01548 to Miguel Marcos and RD16/0017/0023 to Francisco-Javier Laso) and Junta de Castilla y León GRS 1362/A/16 and INT/M/17/17 to Miguel Marcos and GRS 1587/A/17 to Jorge-Luis Torres).

**Conflict-of-interest statement:** No potential conflicts of interest.

**Open-Access:** This article is an open-access article which was selected by an in-house editor and fully peer-reviewed by external reviewers. It is distributed in accordance with the Creative Commons Attribution Non Commercial (CC BY-NC 4.0) license, which permits others to distribute, remix, adapt, build upon this work non-commercially, and license their derivative works on different terms, provided the original work is properly cited and the use is non-commercial. See: http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/

**Manuscript source:** Invited manuscript

**Correspondence to:** **Miguel Marcos, MD, PhD, Associate Professor, Doctor, Professor, Research Scientist,** Department of Internal Medicine, University Hospital of Salamanca, Paseo de San Vicente 182, Salamanca 37007, Spain. mmarcos@usal.es

**Telephone:** +34-923-291100-55437

**Fax:** +34-923-294739

**Received:** April 14, 2018

**Peer-review started:** April 14, 2018

**First decision:** May 21, 2018

**Revised:** June 25, 2018

**Accepted:** June 27, 2018

**Article in press:**

**Published online:**

**Abstract**

MicroRNAs (miRNAs) are small non-coding RNAs that regulate multiple physiological and pathological functions through the modulation of gene expression at the post-transcriptional level. Accumulating evidence has established a role for miRNAs in the development and pathogenesis of liver disease. Specifically, a large number of studies have assessed the role of miRNAs in alcoholic liver disease (ALD) and non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD), two diseases that share common underlying mechanisms and pathological characteristics. The purpose of the current review is to summarize and update the body of literature investigating the role of miRNAs in liver disease. In addition, the potential use of miRNAs as biomarkers and/or therapeutic targets is discussed. Among all miRNAs analyzed, miR-34a, miR-122 and miR-155 are most involved in the pathogenesis of NAFLD. Of note, these three miRNAs have also been implicated in ALD, reinforcing a common disease mechanism between these two entities and the pleiotropic effects of specific miRNAs. Currently, no single miRNA or panel of miRNAs has been identified for the detection of, or staging of ALD or NAFLD. While promising results have been shown in murine models, no therapeutic based-miRNA agents have been developed for use in humans with liver disease.

**Key words:** Alcohol use disorder; Alcoholic liver disease; Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease; Steatosis; Obesity; miRNA; Biomarkers

**© The Author(s) 2018.** Published by Baishideng Publishing Group Inc. All rights reserved.

**Core tip:** MicroRNAs (miRNAs) are small RNAs that regulate gene expression at a post-transcriptional level. Altered miRNA expression has been found in a variety of liver diseases, including non-alcoholic fatty liver disease and alcoholic liver disease. A group of miRNAs (miR-155, miR-122 and miR-34a) contributes to the pathogenesis of these two diseases and these miRNAs have potential use as biomarkers or therapeutic targets. Several technical limitations and a lack of clinical studies, however, preclude their clinical use.

Torres JL, Novo-Veleiro I, Manzanedo L, Alvela-Suárez L, Macías R, Laso FJ, Marcos M.Role of microRNAs in alcohol-induced liver disorders and non-alcoholic fatty liver disease. *World J Gastroenterol* 2018; In press

**INTRODUCTION**

MicroRNAs (miRNAs), small non-coding RNAs, can modulate gene expression at the post-transcriptional level by targeting messenger RNAs and inhibiting their translation or promoting their degradation[1,2]. Since the discovery of the first miRNA in 1993, lin-4[3], more than 2000 miRNAs have been described in humans and they are believed to regulate up to 60% of protein-coding genes in the human genome[4].

Human miRNAs are involved in virtually all physiological and pathological processes, including cell differentiation and proliferation, signal transduction, inflammation and immune response, metabolism, viral-host interaction, and oncogenesis[1,2]. The expression of a wide variety of miRNAs is potentially regulated by many factors, such as alcohol, but also diet, cigarette smoking and other drugs[5]. Therefore, it is not surprising that miRNAs have been increasingly recognized as key actors in the pathogenesis of a variety of diseases and as potential biomarkers for diagnosis or therapeutic targets[2]. The role of miRNAs in liver inflammation, fibrosis and cirrhosis has been widely described in the last twenty years[6-8]. The current paper reviews the existing literature pertaining to miRNA alteration, function, and the potential clinical application of miRNAs in alcoholic liver disease (ALD) and non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD). While ALD and NAFLD differ in some aspects, they also share common features, including underlying mechanisms and clinical and histopathological characteristics[9]. Given the rapid expansion of research in miRNAs in recent years, an updated review on the topic will first be presented, followed by a summary of miRNA alterations that are common to both ALD and NAFLD.

**ROLE OF MIRNAS IN ALD**

***Pathogenic role of miRNAs in ALD***

The development of the different forms of ALD (steatosis, alcoholic hepatitis and cirrhosis) requires prolonged and heavy alcohol consumption along with susceptibility to the disease. Pathophysiological mechanisms of ALD are based both on the direct toxic effect of alcohol and also on ethanol-induced alterations in the inflammatory response[10]. A variety of enzymes, such as alcohol dehydrogenase (ADH) and the cytochrome P450 2E1 (CYP2E1), contribute to alcohol metabolism[11], leading to oxygen free radicals, nitric oxide and acetaldehyde, which ultimately can cause cellular damage and liver inflammation[12]. In addition, the toxic effect of acetaldehyde increases intestinal permeability to bacterial lipopolysaccharide (LPS)[13], which binds to toll-like receptors 4 (TLR4) and activates Kupffer and stellate cells through pro-inflammatory cytokines, such as tumour necrosis factor (TNF)-α, production[14]. This inflammatory signal is transmitted *via* the nuclear factor-κB (NF-κB) pathway, ultimately leading to liver damage[14].

While most immune mechanisms involved in ALD development are related to the TLR4-NF-κB pathway, the activation of TLR4 also triggers the transmission of pro-inflammatory stimuli through other signaling pathways, such us mitogen-activated protein kinases (MAPK) or TIR-domain-containing adapter-inducing interferon-β (TRIF)[14]. miRNAs can regulate this complex interplay between inflammatory signals *via* the regulation of cytokines and other components of the pathways[15]. Oxidative stress and free oxygen radicals generation involved in ALD development are also regulated by miRNAs through different pathways like Kelch-like ECH-associated protein 1 Kelch-like ECH-associated protein 1 (Keap1) / Nuclear factor-erythroid-2-related factor 2 (Nrf2) pathway[16-20]. In addition to this, miRNAs have also been shown to exert an important modulatory function on macrophage activation and differentiation[21,22]. Moreover, recent studies have shown even broader effects of miRNAs in ALD development, including a role in intercellular communication, in secretion in exosomes[23], in the expression of enzymes directly linked to alcohol metabolism *(e.g.*, regulation of CYP2E1 by miR-214[24]) and in the modulation of pro-inflammatory pathways such as the B-cell translocation gene 2/Yin-yang 1 (BTG2/YY1) signaling pathway by miR-497[25]. Finally, alcohol consumption, with or without concurrent ALD, has also been linked to altered expression of several miRNAs[5,26].

Numerous studies, therefore, have addressed the relationship between ALD development and miRNAs. While animal models have been used in the majority of these studies, there is an increasing number of studies in human cells, tissues and serum, confirming the key role of miRNAs in ALD[27-30]. A summary of all available studies is shown in Table 1. In addition, a summary of the regulatory actions of miRNAs in the inflammatory response according to the different cell types involved, is displayed in Figure 1.

**Hepatocytes:**Some miRNAs (*e.g.*, miR-34a and miR-200a) are responsible for the induction of hepatocytic apoptosis during ALD development[29,31]. In addition, secretion of miRNAs in exosomes (*e.g.*, miR-122) can cause an increase in inflammatory response by targeting monocyte/macrophage cells[32], ultimately leading to hepatocytic injury. MiRNAs action and pleiotropic effects could be different depending on the cell in which they act; thus, miR-122 could have a protective role inside the hepatocyte during alcohol-induced liver damage[33]. Increase in oxidative stress and alterations of enzymatic function in hepatocytes are also regulated by miRNAs[24,34]. Conversely, miRNAs may also have a protective role in ALD. For example miR-26a can increase autophagy[35] and miR-21 can inhibit alcohol-induced apoptosis[36,37].

**Kupffer cells (KCs):** miR-155, which is increased by chronic alcohol consumption through NF-κB induction, has been shown to be the main regulator of KC activation and function[38]. miR-155 inhibits the expression of multiple TLR4/NF-κB inhibitory regulators such as Src homology 2 domain-containing inositol phosphatase 1 (SHIP1) and Suppressor of cytokine signaling 1 (SOCS1)[38,39] leading to an increase in KC response to LPS and ultimately the development of liver fibrosis[39]. The Keap1/Nrf2 pathway could also be involved in miR-155 role in ALD development and KCs regulation[17]. Other miRNAs, such as miR-181b-3p, are also linked to increased LPS-sensitivity through the TLR4-NF-κB pathway[40]. In addition, miRNAs have been shown to regulate Sirtuin-1-Lipin-1, an inflammatory response mediator, leading to the down-regulation of the NF-κB pathway *via* de-acetylation. Alcohol consumption increases miR-217 expression, which in turn down-regulates sirtuin-1-Lipin-1[41], consequently leading to more hepatic inflammation[41]. Toll Interacting Protein (Tollip), another down-regulator of the TLR4-NF-κB pathway, is inhibited by miR-291b[42].

**Hepatic stellate cells (HSCs):** HSCs, responsible for the development of liver fibrosis, are regulated by several miRNAs, including let-7. The downregulation of let-7 by LPS and alcohol use causes an increase in HSCs activation[27]. In addition, chronic alcohol consumption has been linked to an overexpression of miR-34a, which increases the expression of proteins such as transforming growth factor-β1 (TFG- β1), leading to a higher survival of HSCs through apoptosis inhibition[43].

**Other cell types**: In addition to the cell types described above, other cells involved in ALD development, such as circulating monocytes (by miR-27a[44]), and circulating neutrophils, (by miR-223[45]) are regulated by miRNAs. In addition, miR-212 has been shown to increase permeability to LPS by altering cells of the intestinal mucosa[46].

Due to the role of miRNAs in ALD and the modulatory effects of alcohol consumption on miRNA expression, it is plausible to hypothesize that genetic variations in certain miRNAs may lead to altered miRNA function and an increased risk of liver damage. Consequently, we and others have analyzed the relationship of alcohol-related diseases and polymorphisms within miRNA genes or miRNA targets[47,48]. Interestingly, the miR-146a C > G rs2910164 variant is linked to a susceptibility to alcohol use disorder[47] and the pre-miR-27a A > G rs895819 polymorphism is linked to a higher alcohol intake[49], suggesting a potential relationship between these genetic variants and alcohol-related diseases. The lack of replication studies precludes any conclusions regarding these SNPs, and to date, only rs738409 polymorphism within the *PNPLA3* gene is clearly linked to a higher susceptibility to ALD[50].

***miRNAs as a target for diagnosis and treatment of ALD***

The clinical use of miRNAs as a diagnostic tool or therapeutic agent in ALD has not been well studied[51]. However, over the last years, an increasing number of miRNAs have been proposed as potential biomarkers of ALD. The following is a review of the most promising results.

**miR-192 and miR-30a:** It has been shown that serum levels of miR-192 and miR-30a are significantly correlated with the diagnosis of alcoholic hepatitis. Therefore, these miRNAs may be useful in the diagnosis, staging, and monitoring of patients with this specific form of ALD[23].

**miR-27a**: miR-27a has been linked to monocyte differentiation and is increased in extracellular plasmatic vesicles of patients with alcoholic hepatitis, making it a potentially useful diagnostic tool[52].

**miR-182:** An elevated level of miR-182 has been linked to greater disease severity and liver injury in alcoholic hepatitis. The correlation between miR-182 and disease severity, however, has only been shown in liver biopsies, limiting its application as a diagnostic tool[30].

**miR-103 and miR-107:** A prior study found that miR-103 and miR-107 were increased in liver from patients with ALD and with NAFLD, but not in healthy livers or in subjects with viral hepatitis[53].

**miR-155 and miR-122:** Increased blood levels of miR-155[32,54] and miR-122[55] have been found in healthy individuals after binge drinking and in a murine model of liver damage. While these miRNAs could be potential biomarkers of alcohol intake or alcohol liver damage, they are increased in several types of liver disease and therefore are unlikely to be specific to ALD[54].

***Therapeutic application of miRNAs in ALD***

There are no studies to date supporting a therapeutic role for miRNAs in ALD. Available data, however, suggest a potential role for the inhibition or activation of some miRNAs in the treatment of liver disease. A recent study found that treatment with hyaluronic acid normalized miR-181b-3p and Importin α5 levels in ethanol-fed mice, protecting them from ethanol-induced liver and intestinal damage[40]. In addition, hyaluronic acid normalized the miR-291b/Tollip pathway, leading to a lower sensitization of monocytes/macrophages to ethanol-induced activation *via* TLR4[42]. While both studies were performed in animal models, taken together they suggest a potential role for hyaluronic acid as a therapeutic regulator of the KC response to ethanol *via* miRNA modulation.

The role of miR-155 in KC and miR-122 in hepatocytes suggest that these miRNAs may serve as potential targets for treatment of ALD. Miravirsen, an miR-122 inhibitor, has shown promising results in chronic hepatitis C treatment[56,57], suggesting its potential usefulness in ALD. A recent study showed that the restoration of miR-122 in hepatocytes could have a protective role against ALD development[33]. These apparently contradictory results could reflect the ability of miRNAs to develop different actions in different cells and also its relevance in inter-cellular communications[32]. In this sense, the therapeutic action of Miravirsen over viral replication could be explained by the interruption of these communications[57]. In addition, other potential therapeutic miRNAs currently under development for other diseases, such as cardiac fibrosis and remodeling or vascular disease[58], could serve as potential targets for ALD. There is indirect data that inhibition of miR-155, may lead to decreased sensitivity of KC to LPS-mediated activation[39].

In addition to the inhibition of detrimental miRNAs, stimulation of protective miRNAs could also serve as a potential therapeutic target. For example, miR-21, which aids hepatocyte regeneration[36]; miR26a, which protects hepatocytes from fibrosis development[35]; miR-223, which inhibits neutrophil activation and liver infiltration[45]; and miR-378, which exerts a stop-signaling action in HSC[59], are all potential targets for treatment. There are no clinical trials to date involving these miRNAs as therapeutic targets in ALD and further studies will be necessary before clinical application.

**ROLE OF MIRNAS IN NAFLD**

NAFLD is defined as the accumulation of fat in the liver in the absence of alcohol intake, viral infection or other specific causes of liver disease. NAFLD represents a spectrum of disorders ranging from the simple accumulation of triglycerides in hepatocytes (hepatic steatosis) to steatosis with inflammation [non-alcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH)], fibrosis and cirrhosis[60]. NAFLD and NASH have rapidly become the most common cause of chronic liver disease worldwide in recent decades. The prevalence of these diseases has been estimated between 25% to 45% of the general population[61] with a greater prevalence in patients with obesity, diabetes mellitus or metabolic syndrome, in which case, the prevalence of NAFLD can reach 70% to 90%[62-64]. It is estimated that by 2020 cirrhosis related to NAFLD will be the first indication for liver transplantation[65].

***Pathogenic role of miRNAs in NAFLD***

The pathogenesis of NAFLD, along with the underlying mechanisms of progression from steatosis to steatohepatitis, has not been fully elucidated. Traditionally, the “two hit” theory[66] has been upheld. The “first hit”, which includes insulin resistance leading to the accumulation of fat in the liver, is followed by a “second hit”, consisting of the interaction of inflammatory cytokines, mitochondrial dysfunction and oxidative stress, leading to hepatocellular injury, inflammation and fibrosis[67]. However, more recently, multiple factors have been implicated in the pathogenesis of NAFLD, such that the “two hit” theory has been replaced by a “multiple-hit” hypothesis[68]. The “multiple-hit” theory includes the involvement of insulin resistance, adipose tissue dysfunction, mitochondrial dysfunction, endoplasmic reticulum stress, dietary factors, fatty acids, iron overload, inflammatory activation, LPS produced by gut microbiota, a chronic inflammatory state, and genetic and epigenetic factors in the pathogenesis and progression of NAFLD[68-70]. Accordingly, the following is a summary of the research implicating several miRNAs in the regulation of key targets in the development of NAFLD[8]. It is of special interest that recent studies have reported differences in miRNA expression between liver samples from patients with NAFLD and controls. Specifically, livers from patients with NAFLD express an upregulation of miR-31, miR-33a, miR-34a, miR-144, miR-146b, miR-150, miR-182, miR-183, miR-200a, miR-224, and miR-301a and a down regulation of miR-17, miR-122, miR-296, miR-373, miR-375 and miR-378c[71-76]. Among these miRNAs, miR-34a, miR-122, and miR-155 have been most often associated with the pathogenesis of NAFLD and as such, the following is a review of these miRNAs in detail. Table 2 displays a list of all miRNAs that have been associated with NAFLD through February 2018.

**miR-122:** miR-122 is the most abundant miRNA in the liver and plays a fundamental role in liver physiology[77-79] and lipid metabolism[80]. miR-122 interacts with multiple important lipogenic factors in human NAFLD, such as acetyl coA carboxylase-2 (ACC2) and the sterol regulatory element binding protein (SREBP)[71,81,82]. miR-122 is decreased in liver samples[83-85] but increased in serum[84,86,87] from patients with NAFLD compared to healthy controls. Despite this somewhat paradoxical finding, the association of miR-122 with NAFLD pathogenesis is well established. Inhibition of miR-122 in high-fat fed mice is associated with a significant reduction in hepatic steatosis and plasma cholesterol levels, which was associated with a reduction in hepatic sterol and fatty acid synthesis rates and stimulation of hepatic fatty-acid oxidation mediated by activation of adenosine 5'-monophosphate-activated protein kinase (AMPK)[80]. Moreover, the relationship of miR-122 with the development and progression of hepatic fibrosis has been demonstrated *in vitro*, through the regulation of HSC proliferation and production of collagen by targeting prolyl 4-hydroxylase subunit α-1 (P4HA1)[88].

**miR-34a:** miR-34a is overexpressed in both murine models of NAFLD (*e.g.*, mice fed a high-fat diet) and liver and serum from patients with NAFLD[81,87,89,90]. The main target of miR-34a is Sirtuin 1 (SIRT1), which regulates energy homeostasis by activating transcription factors such as peroxisome proliferator activated receptors (PPAR) α and liver X receptor (LXR). In addition, SIRT1 inhibits the co-activator 1α of the PPAR-γ (PGC1-α), the SREBP-1c and the farnesoid X receptor (FXR). SIRT1 is downregulated in the liver of NAFLD patients[91] and the inhibition of miR-34a restores the expression of SIRT1 and PPAR-α, leading to the activation of AMP-activated protein kinase (AMPK) and several target genes of PPAR-α. These findings suggest a fundamental role for miR-34a in the dysregulation of lipid metabolism associated with NAFLD[92].

**miR-155:** miR-155 is an important regulator of immune cells in both humans and mice and is involved in several inflammatory processes, such as rheumatic diseases[93], lipid metabolism[94] and in ALD (as described above). In patients with NAFLD, miR-155 is dysregulated by adipogenic transcription factors CCAAT/enhancer binding protein (C/EBP)-α, C/EBP-β, PPAR-γ and LXRα[95,96], fibrosis targets platelet derived growth factor (PDGF), Smad3 and C/EBP-β[97], and a tumor suppressor in the liver, SOCS-1[90,98]. However, animal models of NAFLD show contradictory results. For example, miR-155 deficient mice fed a high-fat diet showed a significant increase in hepatic steatosis[98], while miR-155 KO mice fed a methionine-choline-deficient diet showed a decrease in steatosis and expression of genes involved in fatty acid metabolism and fibrosis, with no concomitant liver injury or inflammation[97]. In addition, miR-155 may also be involved in hepatocarcinoma development[99]. These findings suggest that miR-155 may have different roles in fat storage and lipid accumulation in liver diseases and healthy subjects. However, additional research is warranted[97].

***miRNAs as biomarkers in the diagnosis of NAFLD***

As shown in Table 2, many miRNAs are differentially expressed in patients with NAFLD compared to healthy controls. These miRNAs may serve as potential biomarkers in the diagnosis and staging of NAFLD.

**miR-122**: Several studies have found that miR-122 is elevated in serum in NAFLD patients[81,86,100-102], even long before an alteration in transaminase levels occurs[103]. The diagnostic potential of miR-122 may extend to an indicator of disease severity and as a predictor of hepatic fibrosis[82,84,87,104].

**miR-34a:** Similar to miR-122, miR-34a has also been shown to have potential as a biomarker of diagnosis and severity of NAFLD. Several studies have shown that miR-34a is upregulated in the liver and serum of patients with NAFLD[71,81,82,104]. Additionally, elevated serum levels of miR-34a correlate with disease severity from simple steatosis to steatohepatitis, with liver enzyme levels, with fibrosis stage and with inflammation activity[82,104,105].

**miR-192:** Serum miR-192 levels are positively correlated with the severity of NAFLD-specific liver pathomorphological changes in mice fed a choline and folate deficient diet[82] and miR-192 upregulation in human serum has been demonstrated[82,84,86,102,106]. Interestingly, serum levels of miR-122 and mir-192 have been shown to be strongly correlated[84,86].

**Panels:** In addition to individual miRNAs, a serum panel comprised of hsa-miR-122-5p, hsa-miR-1290, hsa-miR-27b-3p, and hsa-miR-192-5p has shown high NAFLD diagnostic accuracy, regardless of NAFLD activity score (NAS) status[102]. Another research group found that NAFLD was associated with an miRNA signature based on up-regulation of miR-122, miR-192, miR-19a, miR-19b, miR-125b, and miR-375[84].

It is important to mention that most studies have compared patients with NAFLD to healthy controls or patients with chronic viral hepatitis B[105] or C[104]. However, no comparisons have been performed, to our knowledge, between patients with NAFLD and patients with ALD.

***Therapeutic application of miRNAs in NAFLD***

As previously mentioned, miRNAs are involved in several stages of NAFLD development (from lipid metabolism or diabetes to liver inflammation), and are therefore potential therapeutic targets[7,107]. The expression of miR-103 and miR-107 is upregulated in obese mice[53,89]. Inactivation of miR-103/107 in murine adipocytes upregulates caveolin-1 (a critical mediator of the insulin receptor) leading to enhanced insulin signaling, decreased adipocyte size and enhanced insulin-stimulated glucose uptake[53,108]. An N-acetylgalactosamine (GalNAc)-conjugated anti-miR-103/107 (RG-125/AZD4076, Regulus Therapeutics) has been developed for the treatment of NAFLD and type 2 diabetes or pre-diabetes[108-110]. Currently, two clinical trials are registered using this drug in patients with NAFLD (ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT02826525 and NCT02612662), although Regulus has acknowledged that AstraZeneca intends to terminate the clinical development of RG-125/AZD4076[108,111].

miR-122 has also shown promising results as a treatment for NAFLD. There is a high concentration of miR-122 in liver tissue[112] and this miRNA plays an important role in liver development, differentiation, homeostasis and functioning[113]. Over-expression of miR-122 may affect the Ying Yan 1 and Farnesoid X Receptor (YY1-FXR-SHP) regulatory axis leading to a reduction in hepatic triglyceride levels, potentially serving as a target for NAFLD treatment[114]. miR-122 is also an essential host factor for hepatitis C virus (HCV) replication and anti-miR-122 efficiently reduces viral load in chronically infected HCV patients without detectable resistance[108]. The fact that miR-122 has protective effects on NAFLD, while imposing a deleterious impact on HCV infection, emphasizes the importance of cautious targeting of miRNAs therapy since the role of miRNAs can be highly context dependent[115].

circRNA\_0046366 antagonizes miR-34a and normalizes PPARα signaling, leading to the amelioration of liver steatosis in a murine model[116]. However, a phase I study on the effects of a miR-34 mimic (MRX34) on primary liver cancer and advanced or metastatic cancer with liver involvement (ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT01829971) was prematurely terminated due to serious immune-related adverse events[108], highlighting the potential risks of miRNA based-therapies.

**CONCLUSION**

All except four (miR-199, miR-212, miR-214 and miR-497) of the 21 miRNAs associated with ALD, listed in Table 1, are also related to NAFLD or lipid metabolism (although the four have been associated with other diseases, such as cancer[117]). Conversely, miRNAs that are related to the pathogenesis of NAFLD (miR-122, miR-34a and miR-155) are also clearly linked to ALD. These results reflect the common mechanisms between NAFLD and ALD and also the pleiotropic effects of any particular miRNA.

Due to the lack of specificity of miRNAs, the development of a biomarker or treatment specific to ALD or NAFLD is difficult. It is more feasible that individual miRNAs or a panel of miRNAs would be useful in the staging of liver disease (*e.g.*, distinguishing simple steatosis in ALD or NAFLD from steatohepatitis)[118]. miR-122 is the most promising candidate as a biomarker due to its liver specificity. It is clear however, that miR-122 is also a marker of liver damage regardless of etiology[119]. Technical limitations, such as standardization of techniques and potential costs, add to the difficulties inherent to the development of a validated diagnostic biomarker. Circulating miRNAs are promising as biomarkers due to their stability and potential ability to detect advanced liver disease without a biopsy. However, rigorously validated studied are needed before they can be brought to the clinic[119].

The development of miRNA-targeted interventions for ALD and NAFLD is an intriguing area of research. However, despite the success in animal models and the potential targets described in this review, to the best of our knowledge there are no current clinical trials for miRNA interventions in ALD or NAFLD. The few studies that are being conducted on miRNA treatment in other diseases are phase 1 studies in the field of cancer research (*e.g.*, assessing the activity of miRNA-loaded minicells or TargomiRs in malignant pleural mesothelioma[120]). Theoretical miRNA-based therapies are pharmacologically complex and include miRNA inhibition (*e.g.*, synthetic anti-miRNAs) or miRNA replacement therapy (*e.g.*, lipid vesicles or gold nanoparticles)[121]. One major challenge to the development of miRNA-based therapies is the improvement of drug delivery systems. Due to the biochemical instability of unmodified miRNAs and potential immunogenicity, specific delivery to target organs should be achieved. The high degree of redundancy among miRNAs and the multiple binding sites for any given miRNA must also be taken into account when designing efficacious and safe miRNA-based therapies[122].

To sum up, there is a large body of literature regarding miRNAs in NAFLD and ALD at various stages of the disease. These studies include expression data from microarrays and next generation sequencing from animal models and human studies, and cell-specific data from in situ hybridization and sensor constructs. The role of miRNAs in pathogenesis is well-documented and as such, their potential value as biomarkers or therapeutic targets is warranted. However, most miRNA modifications have a modest phenotypic effect, since miRNAs are unlikely to be the single key factor in chronic and multifactorial diseases such as liver steatosis[123]. Instead, most miRNAs act as fine-tuners in disease pathways and this characteristic, along with their lack of specificity must be considered before use in the clinic. To this end, we must improve our understanding of the interaction of different miRNAs in the development of advanced liver disease.

**REFERENCES**

1 **Ambros V**. The functions of animal microRNAs. *Nature* 2004; **431**: 350-355 [PMID: 15372042 DOI: 10.1038/nature02871]

2 **Hammond SM**. An overview of microRNAs. *Adv Drug Deliv Rev* 2015; **87**: 3-14 [PMID: 25979468 DOI: 10.1016/j.addr.2015.05.001]

3 **Lee RC**, Feinbaum RL, Ambros V. The C. elegans heterochronic gene lin-4 encodes small RNAs with antisense complementarity to lin-14. *Cell* 1993; **75**: 843-854 [PMID: 8252621]

4 **Friedman RC**, Farh KK, Burge CB, Bartel DP. Most mammalian mRNAs are conserved targets of microRNAs. *Genome Res* 2009; **19**: 92-105 [PMID: 18955434 DOI: 10.1101/gr.082701.108]

5 **Dolganiuc A**, Petrasek J, Kodys K, Catalano D, Mandrekar P, Velayudham A, Szabo G. MicroRNA expression profile in Lieber-DeCarli diet-induced alcoholic and methionine choline deficient diet-induced nonalcoholic steatohepatitis models in mice. *Alcohol Clin Exp Res* 2009; **33**: 1704-1710 [PMID: 19572984 DOI: 10.1111/j.1530-0277.2009.01007.x]

6 **Szabo G**, Bala S. MicroRNAs in liver disease. *Nat Rev Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2013; **10**: 542-552 [PMID: 23689081 DOI: 10.1038/nrgastro.2013.87]

7 **Bala S**, Marcos M, Szabo G. Emerging role of microRNAs in liver diseases. *World J Gastroenterol* 2009; **15**: 5633-5640 [PMID: 19960558]

8 **Szabo G**, Csak T. Role of MicroRNAs in NAFLD/NASH. *Dig Dis Sci* 2016; **61**: 1314-1324 [PMID: 26769057 DOI: 10.1007/s10620-015-4002-4]

9 **Sanyal AJ**, Mathurin P, Nagy LA. Commonalities and Distinctions Between Alcoholic and Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Disease. *Gastroenterology* 2016; **150**: 1695-1697 [PMID: 27155520 DOI: 10.1053/j.gastro.2016.04.038]

10 **Laso FJ**, Pastor I, Orfao A. Immune system and alcoholic liver disease. *Medic Clin* 2005; **125**: 263-269

11 **Lieber CS**. Hepatic and metabolic effects of ethanol: pathogenesis and prevention. *Ann Med* 1994; **26**: 325-330 [PMID: 7826592]

12 **Mello T**, Ceni E, Surrenti C, Galli A. Alcohol induced hepatic fibrosis: role of acetaldehyde. *Mol Aspects Med* 2008; **29**: 17-21 [PMID: 18164754 DOI: 10.1016/j.mam.2007.10.001]

13 **Gao B**, Bataller R. Alcoholic liver disease: pathogenesis and new therapeutic targets. *Gastroenterology* 2011; **141**: 1572-1585 [PMID: 21920463 DOI: 10.1053/j.gastro.2011.09.002]

14 **Mandrekar P**, Szabo G. Signalling pathways in alcohol-induced liver inflammation. *J Hepatol* 2009; **50**: 1258-1266 [PMID: 19398236 DOI: 10.1016/j.jhep.2009.03.007]

15 **O'Neill LA**, Sheedy FJ, McCoy CE. MicroRNAs: the fine-tuners of Toll-like receptor signalling. *Nat Rev Immunol* 2011; **11**: 163-175 [PMID: 21331081 DOI: 10.1038/nri2957]

16 **Boccuto L**, Abenavoli L. Genetic and Epigenetic Profile of Patients With Alcoholic Liver Disease. *Ann Hepatol* 2017; **16**: 490-500 [PMID: 28612750 DOI: 10.5604/01.3001.0010.0274]

17 **Wan C**, Han R, Liu L, Zhang F, Li F, Xiang M, Ding W. Role of miR-155 in fluorooctane sulfonate-induced oxidative hepatic damage via the Nrf2-dependent pathway. *Toxicol Appl Pharmacol* 2016; **295**: 85-93 [PMID: 26844784 DOI: 10.1016/j.taap.2016.01.023]

18 **Kurinna S**, Werner S. NRF2 and microRNAs: new but awaited relations. *Biochem Soc Trans* 2015; **43**: 595-601 [PMID: 26551699 DOI: 10.1042/BST20140317]

19 **Yang JJ**, Tao H, Hu W, Liu LP, Shi KH, Deng ZY, Li J. MicroRNA-200a controls Nrf2 activation by target Keap1 in hepatic stellate cell proliferation and fibrosis. *Cell Signal* 2014; **26**: 2381-2389 [PMID: 25049078 DOI: 10.1016/j.cellsig.2014.07.016]

20 **Shi L**, Wu L, Chen Z, Yang J, Chen X, Yu F, Zheng F, Lin X. MiR-141 Activates Nrf2-Dependent Antioxidant Pathway via Down-Regulating the Expression of Keap1 Conferring the Resistance of Hepatocellular Carcinoma Cells to 5-Fluorouracil. *Cell Physiol Biochem* 2015; **35**: 2333-2348 [PMID: 25896253 DOI: 10.1159/000374036]

21 **O'Connell RM**, Rao DS, Baltimore D. microRNA regulation of inflammatory responses. *Annu Rev Immunol* 2012; **30**: 295-312 [PMID: 22224773 DOI: 10.1146/annurev-immunol-020711-075013]

22 **Wu XQ**, Dai Y, Yang Y, Huang C, Meng XM, Wu BM, Li J. Emerging role of microRNAs in regulating macrophage activation and polarization in immune response and inflammation. *Immunology* 2016; **148**: 237-248 [PMID: 27005899 DOI: 10.1111/imm.12608]

23 **Momen-Heravi F**, Saha B, Kodys K, Catalano D, Satishchandran A, Szabo G. Increased number of circulating exosomes and their microRNA cargos are potential novel biomarkers in alcoholic hepatitis. *J Transl Med* 2015; **13**: 261 [PMID: 26264599 DOI: 10.1186/s12967-015-0623-9]

24 **Wang Y**, Yu D, Tolleson WH, Yu LR, Green B, Zeng L, Chen Y, Chen S, Ren Z, Guo L, Tong W, Guan H, Ning B. A systematic evaluation of microRNAs in regulating human hepatic CYP2E1. *Biochem Pharmacol* 2017; **138**: 174-184 [PMID: 28438567 DOI: 10.1016/j.bcp.2017.04.020]

25 **Kim YD**, Hwang SL, Lee EJ, Kim HM, Chung MJ, Elfadl AK, Lee SE, Nedumaran B, Harris RA, Jeong KS. Melatonin ameliorates alcohol-induced bile acid synthesis by enhancing miR-497 expression. *J Pineal Res* 2017; **62** [PMID: 28095641 DOI: 10.1111/jpi.12386]

26 **Dippold RP**, Vadigepalli R, Gonye GE, Patra B, Hoek JB. Chronic ethanol feeding alters miRNA expression dynamics during liver regeneration. *Alcohol Clin Exp Res* 2013; **37** Suppl 1: E59-E69 [PMID: 22823254 DOI: 10.1111/j.1530-0277.2012.01852.x]

27 **McDaniel K**, Huang L, Sato K, Wu N, Annable T, Zhou T, Ramos-Lorenzo S, Wan Y, Huang Q, Francis H, Glaser S, Tsukamoto H, Alpini G, Meng F. The let-7/Lin28 axis regulates activation of hepatic stellate cells in alcoholic liver injury. *J Biol Chem* 2017; **292**: 11336-11347 [PMID: 28536261 DOI: 10.1074/jbc.M116.773291]

28 **Brandon-Warner E**, Feilen NA, Culberson CR, Field CO, deLemos AS, Russo MW, Schrum LW. Processing of miR17-92 Cluster in Hepatic Stellate Cells Promotes Hepatic Fibrogenesis During Alcohol-Induced Injury. *Alcohol Clin Exp Res* 2016; **40**: 1430-1442 [PMID: 27291156 DOI: 10.1111/acer.13116]

29 **Meng F**, Glaser SS, Francis H, Yang F, Han Y, Stokes A, Staloch D, McCarra J, Liu J, Venter J, Zhao H, Liu X, Francis T, Swendsen S, Liu CG, Tsukamoto H, Alpini G. Epigenetic regulation of miR-34a expression in alcoholic liver injury. *Am J Pathol* 2012; **181**: 804-817 [PMID: 22841474 DOI: 10.1016/j.ajpath.2012.06.010]

30 **Blaya D**, Coll M, Rodrigo-Torres D, Vila-Casadesús M, Altamirano J, Llopis M, Graupera I, Perea L, Aguilar-Bravo B, Díaz A, Banales JM, Clària J, Lozano JJ, Bataller R, Caballería J, Ginès P, Sancho-Bru P. Integrative microRNA profiling in alcoholic hepatitis reveals a role for microRNA-182 in liver injury and inflammation. *Gut* 2016; **65**: 1535-1545 [PMID: 27196584 DOI: 10.1136/gutjnl-2015-311314]

31 **Zhao YX**, Sun YY, Huang AL, Li XF, Huang C, Ma TT, Li J. MicroRNA-200a induces apoptosis by targeting ZEB2 in alcoholic liver disease. *Cell Cycle* 2018; **17**: 250-262 [PMID: 29251244 DOI: 10.1080/15384101.2017.1417708]

32 **Momen-Heravi F**, Bala S, Kodys K, Szabo G. Exosomes derived from alcohol-treated hepatocytes horizontally transfer liver specific miRNA-122 and sensitize monocytes to LPS. *Sci Rep* 2015; **5**: 9991 [PMID: 25973575 DOI: 10.1038/srep09991]

33 **Satishchandran A**, Ambade A, Rao S, Hsueh YC, Iracheta-Vellve A, Tornai D, Lowe P, Gyongyosi B, Li J, Catalano D, Zhong L, Kodys K, Xie J, Bala S, Gao G, Szabo G. MicroRNA 122, Regulated by GRLH2, Protects Livers of Mice and Patients From Ethanol-Induced Liver Disease. *Gastroenterology* 2018; **154**: 238-252.e7 [PMID: 28987423 DOI: 10.1053/j.gastro.2017.09.022]

34 **Dong X**, Liu H, Chen F, Li D, Zhao Y. MiR-214 promotes the alcohol-induced oxidative stress via down-regulation of glutathione reductase and cytochrome P450 oxidoreductase in liver cells. *Alcohol Clin Exp Res* 2014; **38**: 68-77 [PMID: 23905773 DOI: 10.1111/acer.12209]

35 **Han W**, Fu X, Xie J, Meng Z, Gu Y, Wang X, Li L, Pan H, Huang W. MiR-26a enhances autophagy to protect against ethanol-induced acute liver injury. *J Mol Med* (Berl) 2015; **93**: 1045-1055 [PMID: 25877859 DOI: 10.1007/s00109-015-1282-2]

36 **Dippold RP**, Vadigepalli R, Gonye GE, Hoek JB. Chronic ethanol feeding enhances miR-21 induction during liver regeneration while inhibiting proliferation in rats. *Am J Physiol Gastrointest Liver Physiol* 2012; **303**: G733-G743 [PMID: 22790595 DOI: 10.1152/ajpgi.00019.2012]

37 **Francis H**, McDaniel K, Han Y, Liu X, Kennedy L, Yang F, McCarra J, Zhou T, Glaser S, Venter J, Huang L, Levine P, Lai JM, Liu CG, Alpini G, Meng F. Regulation of the extrinsic apoptotic pathway by microRNA-21 in alcoholic liver injury. *J Biol Chem* 2014; **289**: 27526-27539 [PMID: 25118289 DOI: 10.1074/jbc.M114.602383]

38 **Bala S**, Marcos M, Kodys K, Csak T, Catalano D, Mandrekar P, Szabo G. Up-regulation of microRNA-155 in macrophages contributes to increased tumor necrosis factor {alpha} (TNF{alpha}) production via increased mRNA half-life in alcoholic liver disease. *J Biol Chem* 2011; **286**: 1436-1444 [PMID: 21062749 DOI: 10.1074/jbc.M110.145870]

39 **Bala S**, Csak T, Kodys K, Catalano D, Ambade A, Furi I, Lowe P, Cho Y, Iracheta-Vellve A, Szabo G. Alcohol-induced miR-155 and HDAC11 inhibit negative regulators of the TLR4 pathway and lead to increased LPS responsiveness of Kupffer cells in alcoholic liver disease. *J Leukoc Biol* 2017; **102**: 487-498

40 **Saikia P**, Bellos D, McMullen MR, Pollard KA, de la Motte C, Nagy LE. MicroRNA 181b-3p and its target importin α5 regulate toll-like receptor 4 signaling in Kupffer cells and liver injury in mice in response to ethanol. *Hepatology* 2017; **66**: 602-615 [PMID: 28257601 DOI: 10.1002/hep.29144]

41 **Yin H**, Liang X, Jogasuria A, Davidson NO, You M. miR-217 regulates ethanol-induced hepatic inflammation by disrupting sirtuin 1-lipin-1 signaling. *Am J Pathol* 2015; **185**: 1286-1296 [PMID: 25797648 DOI: 10.1016/j.ajpath.2015.01.030]

42 **Saikia P**, Roychowdhury S, Bellos D, Pollard KA, McMullen MR, McCullough RL, McCullough AJ, Gholam P, de la Motte C, Nagy LE. Hyaluronic acid 35 normalizes TLR4 signaling in Kupffer cells from ethanol-fed rats via regulation of microRNA291b and its target Tollip. *Sci Rep* 2017; **7**: 15671 [PMID: 29142263 DOI: 10.1038/s41598-017-15760-4]

43 **Wan Y**, McDaniel K, Wu N, Ramos-Lorenzo S, Glaser T, Venter J, Francis H, Kennedy L, Sato K, Zhou T, Kyritsi K, Huang Q, Annable T, Wu C, Glaser S, Alpini G, Meng F. Regulation of Cellular Senescence by miR-34a in Alcoholic Liver Injury. *Am J Pathol* 2017; **187**: 2788-2798 [PMID: 29128099 DOI: 10.1016/j.ajpath.2017.08.027]

44 **Saha B**, Bruneau JC, Kodys K, Szabo G. Alcohol-induced miR-27a regulates differentiation and M2 macrophage polarization of normal human monocytes. *J Immunol* 2015; **194**: 3079-3087 [PMID: 25716995 DOI: 10.4049/jimmunol.1402190]

45 **Li M**, He Y, Zhou Z, Ramirez T, Gao Y, Gao Y, Ross RA, Cao H, Cai Y, Xu M, Feng D, Zhang P, Liangpunsakul S, Gao B. MicroRNA-223 ameliorates alcoholic liver injury by inhibiting the IL-6-p47 phox -oxidative stress pathway in neutrophils. *Gut* 2017; **66**: 705-715 [PMID: 27679493 DOI: 10.1136/gutjnl-2016-311861]

46 **Tang Y**, Banan A, Forsyth CB, Fields JZ, Lau CK, Zhang LJ, Keshavarzian A. Effect of alcohol on miR-212 expression in intestinal epithelial cells and its potential role in alcoholic liver disease. *Alcohol Clin Exp Res* 2008; **32**: 355-364 [PMID: 18162065 DOI: 10.1111/j.1530-0277.2007.00584.x]

47 **Novo-Veleiro I**, González-Sarmiento R, Cieza-Borrella C, Pastor I, Laso FJ, Marcos M. A genetic variant in the microRNA-146a gene is associated with susceptibility to alcohol use disorders. *Eur Psychiatry* 2014; **29**: 288-292 [PMID: 24630744 DOI: 10.1016/j.eurpsy.2014.02.002]

48 **Novo-Veleiro I**, Cieza-Borrella C, Pastor I, González-Sarmiento R, Laso FJ, Marcos M. Analysis of the relationship between interleukin polymorphisms within miRNA-binding regions and alcoholic liver disease. *Rev Clin Esp* 2018; **218**: 170-176 [PMID: 29566963 DOI: 10.1016/j.rce.2018.02.005]

49 **Barragán R**, Coltell O, Asensio EM, Francés F, Sorlí JV, Estruch R, Salas-Huetos A, Ordovas JM, Corella D. MicroRNAs and Drinking: Association between the Pre-miR-27a rs895819 Polymorphism and Alcohol Consumption in a Mediterranean Population. *Int J Mol Sci* 2016; **1** [PMID: 27537871 DOI: 10.3390/ijms17081338]

50 **Chamorro AJ**, Torres JL, Mirón-Canelo JA, González-Sarmiento R, Laso FJ, Marcos M. Systematic review with meta-analysis: the I148M variant of patatin-like phospholipase domain-containing 3 gene (PNPLA3) is significantly associated with alcoholic liver cirrhosis. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2014; **40**: 571-581 [PMID: 25060292 DOI: 10.1111/apt.12890]

51 **Afonso MB**, Rodrigues PM, Simão AL, Castro RE. Circulating microRNAs as Potential Biomarkers in Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease and Hepatocellular Carcinoma. *J Clin Med* 2016; **5** [PMID: 26950158 DOI: 10.3390/jcm5030030]

52 **Saha B**, Momen-Heravi F, Kodys K, Szabo G. MicroRNA Cargo of Extracellular Vesicles from Alcohol-exposed Monocytes Signals Naive Monocytes to Differentiate into M2 Macrophages. *J Biol Chem* 2016; **291**: 149-159 [PMID: 26527689 DOI: 10.1074/jbc.M115.694133]

53 **Trajkovski M**, Hausser J, Soutschek J, Bhat B, Akin A, Zavolan M, Heim MH, Stoffel M. MicroRNAs 103 and 107 regulate insulin sensitivity. *Nature* 2011; **474**: 649-653 [PMID: 21654750 DOI: 10.1038/nature10112]

54 **Bala S**, Petrasek J, Mundkur S, Catalano D, Levin I, Ward J, Alao H, Kodys K, Szabo G. Circulating microRNAs in exosomes indicate hepatocyte injury and inflammation in alcoholic, drug-induced, and inflammatory liver diseases. *Hepatology* 2012; **56**: 1946-1957 [PMID: 22684891 DOI: 10.1002/hep.25873]

55 **McCrae JC**, Sharkey N, Webb DJ, Vliegenthart AD, Dear JW. Ethanol consumption produces a small increase in circulating miR-122 in healthy individuals. *Clin Toxicol* (Phila) 2016; **54**: 53-55 [PMID: 26574140 DOI: 10.3109/15563650.2015.1112015]

56 **Janssen HL**, Reesink HW, Lawitz EJ, Zeuzem S, Rodriguez-Torres M, Patel K, van der Meer AJ, Patick AK, Chen A, Zhou Y, Persson R, King BD, Kauppinen S, Levin AA, Hodges MR. Treatment of HCV infection by targeting microRNA. *N Engl J Med* 2013; **368**: 1685-1694 [PMID: 23534542 DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa1209026]

57 **Gebert LF**, Rebhan MA, Crivelli SE, Denzler R, Stoffel M, Hall J. Miravirsen (SPC3649) can inhibit the biogenesis of miR-122. *Nucleic Acids Res* 2014; **42**: 609-621 [PMID: 24068553 DOI: 10.1093/nar/gkt852]

58 **Chakraborty C**, Sharma AR, Sharma G, Doss CGP, Lee SS. Therapeutic miRNA and siRNA: Moving from Bench to Clinic as Next Generation Medicine. *Mol Ther Nucleic Acids* 2017; **8**: 132-143 [PMID: 28918016 DOI: 10.1016/j.omtn.2017.06.005]

59 **Hyun J**, Wang S, Kim J, Rao KM, Park SY, Chung I, Ha CS, Kim SW, Yun YH, Jung Y. MicroRNA-378 limits activation of hepatic stellate cells and liver fibrosis by suppressing Gli3 expression. *Nat Commun* 2016; **7**: 10993 [PMID: 27001906 DOI: 10.1038/ncomms10993]

60 **Chalasani N**, Younossi Z, Lavine JE, Diehl AM, Brunt EM, Cusi K, Charlton M, Sanyal AJ. The diagnosis and management of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease: practice Guideline by the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases, American College of Gastroenterology, and the American Gastroenterological Association. *Hepatology* 2012; **55**: 2005-2023 [PMID: 22488764 DOI: 10.1002/hep.25762]

61 **Loomba R**, Sanyal AJ. The global NAFLD epidemic. *Nat Rev Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2013; **10**: 686-690 [PMID: 24042449 DOI: 10.1038/nrgastro.2013.171]

62 **Gholam PM**, Kotler DP, Flancbaum LJ. Liver pathology in morbidly obese patients undergoing Roux-en-Y gastric bypass surgery. *Obes Surg* 2002; **12**: 49-51 [PMID: 11868297 DOI: 10.1381/096089202321144577]

63 **Praveenraj P**, Gomes RM, Kumar S, Karthikeyan P, Shankar A, Parthasarathi R, Senthilnathan P, Rajapandian S, Palanivelu C. Prevalence and Predictors of Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease in Morbidly Obese South Indian Patients Undergoing Bariatric Surgery. *Obes Surg* 2015; **25**: 2078-2087 [PMID: 25835982 DOI: 10.1007/s11695-015-1655-1]

64 **Williamson RM**, Price JF, Glancy S, Perry E, Nee LD, Hayes PC, Frier BM, Van Look LA, Johnston GI, Reynolds RM, Strachan MW; Edinburgh Type 2 Diabetes Study Investigators. Prevalence of and risk factors for hepatic steatosis and nonalcoholic Fatty liver disease in people with type 2 diabetes: the Edinburgh Type 2 Diabetes Study. *Diabetes Care* 2011; **34**: 1139-1144 [PMID: 21478462 DOI: 10.2337/dc10-2229]

65 **Charlton MR**, Burns JM, Pedersen RA, Watt KD, Heimbach JK, Dierkhising RA. Frequency and outcomes of liver transplantation for nonalcoholic steatohepatitis in the United States. *Gastroenterology* 2011; **141**: 1249-1253 [PMID: 21726509 DOI: 10.1053/j.gastro.2011.06.061]

66 **Day CP**, James OF. Steatohepatitis: a tale of two "hits"? *Gastroenterology* 1998; **114**: 842-845 [PMID: 9547102]

67 **Videla LA**, Rodrigo R, Araya J, Poniachik J. Insulin resistance and oxidative stress interdependency in non-alcoholic fatty liver disease. *Trends Mol Med* 2006; **12**: 555-558 [PMID: 17049925 DOI: 10.1016/j.molmed.2006.10.001]

68 **Tilg H**, Moschen AR. Evolution of inflammation in nonalcoholic fatty liver disease: the multiple parallel hits hypothesis. *Hepatology* 2010; **52**: 1836-1846 [PMID: 21038418 DOI: 10.1002/hep.24001]

69 **Buzzetti E**, Pinzani M, Tsochatzis EA. The multiple-hit pathogenesis of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD). *Metabolism* 2016; **65**: 1038-1048 [PMID: 26823198 DOI: 10.1016/j.metabol.2015.12.012]

70 **Peverill W**, Powell LW, Skoien R. Evolving concepts in the pathogenesis of NASH: beyond steatosis and inflammation. *Int J Mol Sci* 2014; **15**: 8591-8638 [PMID: 24830559 DOI: 10.3390/ijms15058591]

71 **Cheung O**, Puri P, Eicken C, Contos MJ, Mirshahi F, Maher JW, Kellum JM, Min H, Luketic VA, Sanyal AJ. Nonalcoholic steatohepatitis is associated with altered hepatic MicroRNA expression. *Hepatology* 2008; **48**: 1810-1820 [PMID: 19030170 DOI: 10.1002/hep.22569]

72 **Cazanave SC**, Mott JL, Elmi NA, Bronk SF, Masuoka HC, Charlton MR, Gores GJ. A role for miR-296 in the regulation of lipoapoptosis by targeting PUMA. *J Lipid Res* 2011; **52**: 1517-1525 [PMID: 21633093 DOI: 10.1194/jlr.M014654]

73 **Lendvai G**, Jármay K, Karácsony G, Halász T, Kovalszky I, Baghy K, Wittmann T, Schaff Z, Kiss A. Elevated miR-33a and miR-224 in steatotic chronic hepatitis C liver biopsies. *World J Gastroenterol* 2014; **20**: 15343-15350 [PMID: 25386083 DOI: 10.3748/wjg.v20.i41.15343]

74 **Leti F**, Malenica I, Doshi M, Courtright A, Van Keuren-Jensen K, Legendre C, Still CD, Gerhard GS, DiStefano JK. High-throughput sequencing reveals altered expression of hepatic microRNAs in nonalcoholic fatty liver disease-related fibrosis. *Transl Res* 2015; **166**: 304-314 [PMID: 26001595 DOI: 10.1016/j.trsl.2015.04.014]

75 **Guo Y**, Xiong Y, Sheng Q, Zhao S, Wattacheril J, Flynn CR. A micro-RNA expression signature for human NAFLD progression. *J Gastroenterol* 2016; **51**: 1022-1030 [PMID: 26874844 DOI: 10.1007/s00535-016-1178-0]

76 **Vega-Badillo J**, Gutiérrez-Vidal R, Hernández-Pérez HA, Villamil-Ramírez H, León-Mimila P, Sánchez-Muñoz F, Morán-Ramos S, Larrieta-Carrasco E, Fernández-Silva I, Méndez-Sánchez N, Tovar AR, Campos-Pérez F, Villarreal-Molina T, Hernández-Pando R, Aguilar-Salinas CA, Canizales-Quinteros S. Hepatic miR-33a/miR-144 and their target gene ABCA1 are associated with steatohepatitis in morbidly obese subjects. *Liver Int* 2016; **36**: 1383-1391 [PMID: 26945479 DOI: 10.1111/liv.13109]

77 **Xu H**, He JH, Xiao ZD, Zhang QQ, Chen YQ, Zhou H, Qu LH. Liver-enriched transcription factors regulate microRNA-122 that targets CUTL1 during liver development. *Hepatology* 2010; **52**: 1431-1442 [PMID: 20842632 DOI: 10.1002/hep.23818]

78 **Laudadio I**, Manfroid I, Achouri Y, Schmidt D, Wilson MD, Cordi S, Thorrez L, Knoops L, Jacquemin P, Schuit F, Pierreux CE, Odom DT, Peers B, Lemaigre FP. A feedback loop between the liver-enriched transcription factor network and miR-122 controls hepatocyte differentiation. *Gastroenterology* 2012; **142**: 119-129 [PMID: 21920465 DOI: 10.1053/j.gastro.2011.09.001]

79 **Deng XG**, Qiu RL, Wu YH, Li ZX, Xie P, Zhang J, Zhou JJ, Zeng LX, Tang J, Maharjan A, Deng JM. Overexpression of miR-122 promotes the hepatic differentiation and maturation of mouse ESCs through a miR-122/FoxA1/HNF4a-positive feedback loop. *Liver Int* 2014; **34**: 281-295 [PMID: 23834235 DOI: 10.1111/liv.12239]

80 **Esau C**, Davis S, Murray SF, Yu XX, Pandey SK, Pear M, Watts L, Booten SL, Graham M, McKay R, Subramaniam A, Propp S, Lollo BA, Freier S, Bennett CF, Bhanot S, Monia BP. miR-122 regulation of lipid metabolism revealed by in vivo antisense targeting. *Cell Metab* 2006; **3**: 87-98 [PMID: 16459310 DOI: 10.1016/j.cmet.2006.01.005]

81 **Salvoza NC**, Klinzing DC, Gopez-Cervantes J, Baclig MO. Association of Circulating Serum miR-34a and miR-122 with Dyslipidemia among Patients with Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease. *PLoS One* 2016; **11**: e0153497 [PMID: 27077736 DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0153497]

82 **Tryndyak VP**, Latendresse JR, Montgomery B, Ross SA, Beland FA, Rusyn I, Pogribny IP. Plasma microRNAs are sensitive indicators of inter-strain differences in the severity of liver injury induced in mice by a choline- and folate-deficient diet. *Toxicol Appl Pharmacol* 2012; **262**: 52-59 [PMID: 22561871 DOI: 10.1016/j.taap.2012.04.018]

83 **Latorre J**, Moreno-Navarrete JM, Mercader JM, Sabater M, Rovira Ò, Gironès J, Ricart W, Fernández-Real JM, Ortega FJ. Decreased lipid metabolism but increased FA biosynthesis are coupled with changes in liver microRNAs in obese subjects with NAFLD. *Int J Obes* (Lond) 2017; **41**: 620-630 [PMID: 28119530 DOI: 10.1038/ijo.2017.21]

84 **Pirola CJ**, Fernández Gianotti T, Castaño GO, Mallardi P, San Martino J, Mora Gonzalez Lopez Ledesma M, Flichman D, Mirshahi F, Sanyal AJ, Sookoian S. Circulating microRNA signature in non-alcoholic fatty liver disease: from serum non-coding RNAs to liver histology and disease pathogenesis. *Gut* 2015; **64**: 800-812 [PMID: 24973316 DOI: 10.1136/gutjnl-2014-306996]

85 **Braza-Boïls A**, Marí-Alexandre J, Molina P, Arnau MA, Barceló-Molina M, Domingo D, Girbes J, Giner J, Martínez-Dolz L, Zorio E. Deregulated hepatic microRNAs underlie the association between non-alcoholic fatty liver disease and coronary artery disease. *Liver Int* 2016; **36**: 1221-1229 [PMID: 26901384 DOI: 10.1111/liv.13097]

86 **Becker PP**, Rau M, Schmitt J, Malsch C, Hammer C, Bantel H, Müllhaupt B, Geier A. Performance of Serum microRNAs -122, -192 and -21 as Biomarkers in Patients with Non-Alcoholic Steatohepatitis. *PLoS One* 2015; **10**: e0142661 [PMID: 26565986 DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0142661]

87 **Yamada H**, Suzuki K, Ichino N, Ando Y, Sawada A, Osakabe K, Sugimoto K, Ohashi K, Teradaira R, Inoue T, Hamajima N, Hashimoto S. Associations between circulating microRNAs (miR-21, miR-34a, miR-122 and miR-451) and non-alcoholic fatty liver. *Clin Chim Acta* 2013; **424**: 99-103 [PMID: 23727030 DOI: 10.1016/j.cca.2013.05.021]

88 **Li J**, Ghazwani M, Zhang Y, Lu J, Li J, Fan J, Gandhi CR, Li S. miR-122 regulates collagen production via targeting hepatic stellate cells and suppressing P4HA1 expression. *J Hepatol* 2013; **58**: 522-528 [PMID: 23178710 DOI: 10.1016/j.jhep.2012.11.011]

89 **Li S**, Chen X, Zhang H, Liang X, Xiang Y, Yu C, Zen K, Li Y, Zhang CY. Differential expression of microRNAs in mouse liver under aberrant energy metabolic status. *J Lipid Res* 2009; **50**: 1756-1765 [PMID: 19372595 DOI: 10.1194/jlr.M800509-JLR200]

90 **Pogribny IP**, Starlard-Davenport A, Tryndyak VP, Han T, Ross SA, Rusyn I, Beland FA. Difference in expression of hepatic microRNAs miR-29c, miR-34a, miR-155, and miR-200b is associated with strain-specific susceptibility to dietary nonalcoholic steatohepatitis in mice. *Lab Invest* 2010; **90**: 1437-1446 [PMID: 20548288 DOI: 10.1038/labinvest.2010.113]

91 **Wu T**, Liu YH, Fu YC, Liu XM, Zhou XH. Direct evidence of sirtuin downregulation in the liver of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease patients. *Ann Clin Lab Sci* 2014; **44**: 410-418 [PMID: 25361925]

92 **Ding J**, Li M, Wan X, Jin X, Chen S, Yu C, Li Y. Effect of miR-34a in regulating steatosis by targeting PPARα expression in nonalcoholic fatty liver disease. *Sci Rep* 2015; **5**: 13729 [PMID: 26330104 DOI: 10.1038/srep13729]

93 **Chen JQ**, Papp G, Szodoray P, Zeher M. The role of microRNAs in the pathogenesis of autoimmune diseases. *Autoimmun Rev* 2016; **15**: 1171-1180 [PMID: 27639156 DOI: 10.1016/j.autrev.2016.09.003]

94 **Chen Y**, Siegel F, Kipschull S, Haas B, Fröhlich H, Meister G, Pfeifer A. miR-155 regulates differentiation of brown and beige adipocytes via a bistable circuit. *Nat Commun* 2013; **4**: 1769 [PMID: 23612310 DOI: 10.1038/ncomms2742]

95 **Virtue A**, Johnson C, Lopez-Pastraña J, Shao Y, Fu H, Li X, Li YF, Yin Y, Mai J, Rizzo V, Tordoff M, Bagi Z, Shan H, Jiang X, Wang H, Yang XF. MicroRNA-155 Deficiency Leads to Decreased Atherosclerosis, Increased White Adipose Tissue Obesity, and Non-alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease: A NOVEL MOUSE MODEL OF OBESITY PARADOX. *J Biol Chem* 2017; **292**: 1267-1287 [PMID: 27856635 DOI: 10.1074/jbc.M116.739839]

96 **Wang L**, Zhang N, Wang Z, Ai DM, Cao ZY, Pan HP. Decreased MiR-155 Level in the Peripheral Blood of Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease Patients may Serve as a Biomarker and may Influence LXR Activity. *Cell Physiol Biochem* 2016; **39**: 2239-2248 [PMID: 27832630 DOI: 10.1159/000447917]

97 **Csak T**, Bala S, Lippai D, Kodys K, Catalano D, Iracheta-Vellve A, Szabo G. MicroRNA-155 Deficiency Attenuates Liver Steatosis and Fibrosis without Reducing Inflammation in a Mouse Model of Steatohepatitis. *PLoS One* 2015; **10**: e0129251 [PMID: 26042593 DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0129251]

98 **Miller AM**, Gilchrist DS, Nijjar J, Araldi E, Ramirez CM, Lavery CA, Fernández-Hernando C, McInnes IB, Kurowska-Stolarska M. MiR-155 has a protective role in the development of non-alcoholic hepatosteatosis in mice. *PLoS One* 2013; **8**: e72324 [PMID: 23991091 DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0072324]

99 **Wang B**, Majumder S, Nuovo G, Kutay H, Volinia S, Patel T, Schmittgen TD, Croce C, Ghoshal K, Jacob ST. Role of microRNA-155 at early stages of hepatocarcinogenesis induced by choline-deficient and amino acid-defined diet in C57BL/6 mice. *Hepatology* 2009; **50**: 1152-1161 [PMID: 19711427 DOI: 10.1002/hep.23100]

100 **Akuta N**, Kawamura Y, Suzuki F, Saitoh S, Arase Y, Kunimoto H, Sorin Y, Fujiyama S, Sezaki H, Hosaka T, Kobayashi M, Suzuki Y, Kobayashi M, Ikeda K, Kumada H. Impact of circulating miR-122 for histological features and hepatocellular carcinoma of nonalcoholic fatty liver disease in Japan. *Hepatol Int* 2016; **10**: 647-656 [PMID: 27074850 DOI: 10.1007/s12072-016-9729-2]

101 **Miyaaki H**, Ichikawa T, Kamo Y, Taura N, Honda T, Shibata H, Milazzo M, Fornari F, Gramantieri L, Bolondi L, Nakao K. Significance of serum and hepatic microRNA-122 levels in patients with non-alcoholic fatty liver disease. *Liver Int* 2014; **34**: e302-e307 [PMID: 24313922 DOI: 10.1111/liv.12429]

102 **Tan Y**, Ge G, Pan T, Wen D, Gan J. A pilot study of serum microRNAs panel as potential biomarkers for diagnosis of nonalcoholic fatty liver disease. *PLoS One* 2014; **9**: e105192 [PMID: 25141008 DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0105192]

103 **Yamada H**, Ohashi K, Suzuki K, Munetsuna E, Ando Y, Yamazaki M, Ishikawa H, Ichino N, Teradaira R, Hashimoto S. Longitudinal study of circulating miR-122 in a rat model of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease. *Clin Chim Acta* 2015; **446**: 267-271 [PMID: 25958847 DOI: 10.1016/j.cca.2015.05.002]

104 **Cermelli S**, Ruggieri A, Marrero JA, Ioannou GN, Beretta L. Circulating microRNAs in patients with chronic hepatitis C and non-alcoholic fatty liver disease. *PLoS One* 2011; **6**: e23937 [PMID: 21886843 DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0023937]

105 **Liu XL**, Pan Q, Zhang RN, Shen F, Yan SY, Sun C, Xu ZJ, Chen YW, Fan JG. Disease-specific miR-34a as diagnostic marker of non-alcoholic steatohepatitis in a Chinese population. *World J Gastroenterol* 2016; **22**: 9844-9852 [PMID: 27956809 DOI: 10.3748/wjg.v22.i44.9844]

106 **Povero D**, Eguchi A, Li H, Johnson CD, Papouchado BG, Wree A, Messer K, Feldstein AE. Circulating extracellular vesicles with specific proteome and liver microRNAs are potential biomarkers for liver injury in experimental fatty liver disease. *PLoS One* 2014; **9**: e113651 [PMID: 25470250 DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0113651]

107 **Vienberg S**, Geiger J, Madsen S, Dalgaard LT. MicroRNAs in metabolism. *Acta Physiol* (Oxf) 2017; **219**: 346-361 [PMID: 27009502 DOI: 10.1111/apha.12681]

108 **Rupaimoole R**, Slack FJ. MicroRNA therapeutics: towards a new era for the management of cancer and other diseases. *Nat Rev Drug Discov* 2017; **16**: 203-222 [PMID: 28209991 DOI: 10.1038/nrd.2016.246]

109 **Regulus Therapeutics I.** Regulus announces notice of allowance from US patent office related to microRNA- 103/107 Program in Metabolic Disorders. Press release, 2014

110 **Regulus Therapeutics I.** RG-125 (AZD4076), a microRNA therapeutic targeting microRNA 103/107 for the treatment of NASH in patients with type 2 diabetes/Pre-Diabetes, selected as clinical candidate by AstraZeneca. Press release 2015

111 Astra Zeneca Halts Development of Regulus NASH Candidate. GEN News Highlights, 2017

112 **Lagos-Quintana M**, Rauhut R, Yalcin A, Meyer J, Lendeckel W, Tuschl T. Identification of Tissue-Specific MicroRNAs from Mouse. *Current Biology* 2002; **12**: 735-739 [DOI: 10.1016/S0960-9822(02)00809-6]

113 **Bandiera S**, Pfeffer S, Baumert TF, Zeisel MB. miR-122--a key factor and therapeutic target in liver disease. *J Hepatol* 2015; **62**: 448-457 [PMID: 25308172 DOI: 10.1016/j.jhep.2014.10.004]

114 **Wu GY**, Rui C, Chen JQ, Sho E, Zhan SS, Yuan XW, Ding YT. MicroRNA-122 Inhibits Lipid Droplet Formation and Hepatic Triglyceride Accumulation via Yin Yang 1. *Cell Physiol Biochem* 2017; **44**: 1651-1664 [PMID: 29216638 DOI: 10.1159/000485765]

115 **Su Q**, Kumar V, Sud N, Mahato RI. MicroRNAs in the pathogenesis and treatment of progressive liver injury in NAFLD and liver fibrosis. *Adv Drug Deliv Rev* 2018; **129**: 54-63 [PMID: 29391222 DOI: 10.1016/j.addr.2018.01.009]

116 **Guo XY**, Sun F, Chen JN, Wang YQ, Pan Q, Fan JG. circRNA\_0046366 inhibits hepatocellular steatosis by normalization of PPAR signaling. *World J Gastroenterol* 2018; **24**: 323-337 [PMID: 29391755 DOI: 10.3748/wjg.v24.i3.323]

117 **Yang G**, Xiong G, Cao Z, Zheng S, You L, Zhang T, Zhao Y. miR-497 expression, function and clinical application in cancer. *Oncotarget* 2016; **7**: 55900-55911 [PMID: 27344185 DOI: 10.18632/oncotarget.10152]

118 **Hyun J**, Jung Y. MicroRNAs in liver fibrosis: Focusing on the interaction with hedgehog signaling. *World J Gastroenterol* 2016; **22**: 6652-6662 [PMID: 27547008 DOI: 10.3748/wjg.v22.i29.6652]

119 **Loosen SH**, Schueller F, Trautwein C, Roy S, Roderburg C. Role of circulating microRNAs in liver diseases. *World J Hepatol* 2017; **9**: 586-594 [PMID: 28515844 DOI: 10.4254/wjh.v9.i12.586]

120 **van Zandwijk N**, Pavlakis N, Kao SC, Linton A, Boyer MJ, Clarke S, Huynh Y, Chrzanowska A, Fulham MJ, Bailey DL, Cooper WA, Kritharides L, Ridley L, Pattison ST, MacDiarmid J, Brahmbhatt H, Reid G. Safety and activity of microRNA-loaded minicells in patients with recurrent malignant pleural mesothelioma: a first-in-man, phase 1, open-label, dose-escalation study. *Lancet Oncol* 2017; **18**: 1386-1396 [PMID: 28870611 DOI: 10.1016/S1470-2045(17)30621-6]

121 **Hosseinahli N**, Aghapour M, Duijf PHG, Baradaran B. Treating cancer with microRNA replacement therapy: A literature review. *J Cell Physiol* 2018; **233**: 5574-5588 [PMID: 29521426 DOI: 10.1002/jcp.26514]

122 **Luck ME**, Muljo SA, Collins CB. Prospects for Therapeutic Targeting of MicroRNAs in Human Immunological Diseases. *J Immunol* 2015; **194**: 5047-5052 [PMID: 25980029 DOI: 10.4049/jimmunol.1403146]

123 **Lai EC**. Two decades of miRNA biology: lessons and challenges. *RNA* 2015; **21**: 675-677 [PMID: 25780186 DOI: 10.1261/rna.051193.115]

124 **Miranda RC**, Pietrzykowski AZ, Tang Y, Sathyan P, Mayfield D, Keshavarzian A, Sampson W, Hereld D. MicroRNAs: master regulators of ethanol abuse and toxicity? *Alcohol Clin Exp Res* 2010; **34**: 575-587 [PMID: 20102566 DOI: 10.1111/j.1530-0277.2009.01126.x]

125 **Ambade A**, Satishchandran A, Szabo G. Alcoholic hepatitis accelerates early hepatobiliary cancer by increasing stemness and miR-122-mediated HIF-1α activation. *Scienti Repo* 2016; **6**: 21340 [DOI: 10.1038/srep21340]

126 **Bala S**, Csak T, Saha B, Zatsiorsky J, Kodys K, Catalano D, Satishchandran A, Szabo G. The pro-inflammatory effects of miR-155 promote liver fibrosis and alcohol-induced steatohepatitis. *J Hepatol* 2016; **64**: 1378-1387 [PMID: 26867493 DOI: 10.1016/j.jhep.2016.01.035]

127 **Lippai D**, Bala S, Catalano D, Kodys K, Szabo G. Micro-RNA-155 deficiency prevents alcohol-induced serum endotoxin increase and small bowel inflammation in mice. *Alcohol Clin Exp Res* 2014; **38**: 2217-2224 [PMID: 25156614 DOI: 10.1111/acer.12483]

128 **Yeligar S**, Tsukamoto H, Kalra VK. Ethanol-induced expression of ET-1 and ET-BR in liver sinusoidal endothelial cells and human endothelial cells involves hypoxia-inducible factor-1alpha and microrNA-199. *J Immunol* 2009; **183**: 5232-5243 [PMID: 19783678 DOI: 10.4049/jimmunol.0901084]

129 **Ao R**, Wang Y, Tong J, Wang BF. Altered microRNA-9 Expression Level is Directly Correlated with Pathogenesis of Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Disease by Targeting Onecut2 and SIRT1. *Med Sci Monit* 2016; **22**: 3804-3819 [PMID: 27756894]

130 **Zheng L**, Lv GC, Sheng J, Yang YD. Effect of miRNA-10b in regulating cellular steatosis level by targeting PPAR-alpha expression, a novel mechanism for the pathogenesis of NAFLD. *J Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2010; **25**: 156-163 [PMID: 19780876 DOI: 10.1111/j.1440-1746.2009.05949.x]

131 **Zhang Y**, Cheng X, Lu Z, Wang J, Chen H, Fan W, Gao X, Lu D. Upregulation of miR-15b in NAFLD models and in the serum of patients with fatty liver disease. *Diabetes Res Clin Pract* 2013; **99**: 327-334 [PMID: 23287814 DOI: 10.1016/j.diabres.2012.11.025]

132 **Du J**, Niu X, Wang Y, Kong L, Wang R, Zhang Y, Zhao S, Nan Y. MiR-146a-5p suppresses activation and proliferation of hepatic stellate cells in nonalcoholic fibrosing steatohepatitis through directly targeting Wnt1 and Wnt5a. *Sci Rep* 2015; **5**: 16163 [PMID: 26537990 DOI: 10.1038/srep16163]

133 **Rodrigues PM**, Afonso MB, Simão AL, Carvalho CC, Trindade A, Duarte A, Borralho PM, Machado MV, Cortez-Pinto H, Rodrigues CM, Castro RE. miR-21 ablation and obeticholic acid ameliorate nonalcoholic steatohepatitis in mice. *Cell Death Dis* 2017; **8**: e2748 [PMID: 28406477 DOI: 10.1038/cddis.2017.172]

134 **Loyer X**, Paradis V, Hénique C, Vion AC, Colnot N, Guerin CL, Devue C, On S, Scetbun J, Romain M, Paul JL, Rothenberg ME, Marcellin P, Durand F, Bedossa P, Prip-Buus C, Baugé E, Staels B, Boulanger CM, Tedgui A, Rautou PE. Liver microRNA-21 is overexpressed in non-alcoholic steatohepatitis and contributes to the disease in experimental models by inhibiting PPARα expression. *Gut* 2016; **65**: 1882-1894 [PMID: 26338827 DOI: 10.1136/gutjnl-2014-308883]

135 **Dattaroy D**, Pourhoseini S, Das S, Alhasson F, Seth RK, Nagarkatti M, Michelotti GA, Diehl AM, Chatterjee S. Micro-RNA 21 inhibition of SMAD7 enhances fibrogenesis via leptin-mediated NADPH oxidase in experimental and human nonalcoholic steatohepatitis. *Am J Physiol Gastrointest Liver Physiol* 2015; **308**: G298-G312 [PMID: 25501551 DOI: 10.1152/ajpgi.00346.2014]

136 **Wu H**, Ng R, Chen X, Steer CJ, Song G. MicroRNA-21 is a potential link between non-alcoholic fatty liver disease and hepatocellular carcinoma via modulation of the HBP1-p53-Srebp1c pathway. *Gut* 2016; **65**: 1850-1860 [PMID: 26282675 DOI: 10.1136/gutjnl-2014-308430]

137 **Sun C**, Huang F, Liu X, Xiao X, Yang M, Hu G, Liu H, Liao L. miR-21 regulates triglyceride and cholesterol metabolism in non-alcoholic fatty liver disease by targeting HMGCR. *Int J Mol Med* 2015; **35**: 847-853 [PMID: 25605429 DOI: 10.3892/ijmm.2015.2076]

138 **Ahn J**, Lee H, Jung CH, Ha T. Lycopene inhibits hepatic steatosis via microRNA-21-induced downregulation of fatty acid-binding protein 7 in mice fed a high-fat diet. *Mol Nutr Food Res* 2012; **56**: 1665-1674 [PMID: 22968990 DOI: 10.1002/mnfr.201200182]

139 **Ng R**, Wu H, Xiao H, Chen X, Willenbring H, Steer CJ, Song G. Inhibition of microRNA-24 expression in liver prevents hepatic lipid accumulation and hyperlipidemia. *Hepatology* 2014; **60**: 554-564 [PMID: 24677249 DOI: 10.1002/hep.27153]

140 **He Q**, Li F, Li J, Li R, Zhan G, Li G, Du W, Tan H. MicroRNA-26a-interleukin (IL)-6-IL-17 axis regulates the development of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease in a murine model. *Clin Exp Immunol* 2017; **187**: 174-184 [PMID: 27377869 DOI: 10.1111/cei.12838]

141 **Alisi A**, Da Sacco L, Bruscalupi G, Piemonte F, Panera N, De Vito R, Leoni S, Bottazzo GF, Masotti A, Nobili V. Mirnome analysis reveals novel molecular determinants in the pathogenesis of diet-induced nonalcoholic fatty liver disease. *Lab Invest* 2011; **91**: 283-293 [PMID: 20956972 DOI: 10.1038/labinvest.2010.166]

142 **Liu MX**, Gao M, Li CZ, Yu CZ, Yan H, Peng C, Li Y, Li CG, Ma ZL, Zhao Y, Pu MF, Miao LL, Qi XM, Ren J. Dicer1/miR-29/HMGCR axis contributes to hepatic free cholesterol accumulation in mouse non-alcoholic steatohepatitis. *Acta Pharmacol Sin* 2017; **38**: 660-671 [PMID: 28112179 DOI: 10.1038/aps.2016.158]

143 **Mattis AN**, Song G, Hitchner K, Kim RY, Lee AY, Sharma AD, Malato Y, McManus MT, Esau CC, Koller E, Koliwad S, Lim LP, Maher JJ, Raffai RL, Willenbring H. A screen in mice uncovers repression of lipoprotein lipase by microRNA-29a as a mechanism for lipid distribution away from the liver. *Hepatology* 2015; **61**: 141-152 [PMID: 25131933 DOI: 10.1002/hep.27379]

144 **Zarrinpar A**, Gupta S, Maurya MR, Subramaniam S, Loomba R. Serum microRNAs explain discordance of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease in monozygotic and dizygotic twins: a prospective study. *Gut* 2016; **65**: 1546-1554 [PMID: 26002934 DOI: 10.1136/gutjnl-2015-309456]

145 **Min HK**, Kapoor A, Fuchs M, Mirshahi F, Zhou H, Maher J, Kellum J, Warnick R, Contos MJ, Sanyal AJ. Increased hepatic synthesis and dysregulation of cholesterol metabolism is associated with the severity of nonalcoholic fatty liver disease. *Cell Metab* 2012; **15**: 665-674 [PMID: 22560219 DOI: 10.1016/j.cmet.2012.04.004]

146 **Xu Y**, Zalzala M, Xu J, Li Y, Yin L, Zhang Y. A metabolic stress-inducible miR-34a-HNF4α pathway regulates lipid and lipoprotein metabolism. *Nat Commun* 2015; **6**: 7466 [PMID: 26100857 DOI: 10.1038/ncomms8466]

147 **Castro RE**, Ferreira DM, Afonso MB, Borralho PM, Machado MV, Cortez-Pinto H, Rodrigues CM. miR-34a/SIRT1/p53 is suppressed by ursodeoxycholic acid in the rat liver and activated by disease severity in human non-alcoholic fatty liver disease. *J Hepatol* 2013; **58**: 119-125 [PMID: 22902550 DOI: 10.1016/j.jhep.2012.08.008]

148 **Derdak Z**, Villegas KA, Harb R, Wu AM, Sousa A, Wands JR. Inhibition of p53 attenuates steatosis and liver injury in a mouse model of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease. *J Hepatol* 2013; **58**: 785-791 [PMID: 23211317 DOI: 10.1016/j.jhep.2012.11.042]

149 **Celikbilek M**, Baskol M, Taheri S, Deniz K, Dogan S, Zararsiz G, Gursoy S, Guven K, Ozbakır O, Dundar M, Yucesoy M. Circulating microRNAs in patients with non-alcoholic fatty liver disease. *World J Hepatol* 2014; **6**: 613-620 [PMID: 25232454 DOI: 10.4254/wjh.v6.i8.613]

150 **Zhang N**, Lei J, Lei H, Ruan X, Liu Q, Chen Y, Huang W. MicroRNA-101 overexpression by IL-6 and TNF-α inhibits cholesterol efflux by suppressing ATP-binding cassette transporter A1 expression. *Exp Cell Res* 2015; **336**: 33-42 [PMID: 26033364 DOI: 10.1016/j.yexcr.2015.05.023]

151 **Xu Q**, Li Y, Shang YF, Wang HL, Yao MX. miRNA-103: molecular link between insulin resistance and nonalcoholic fatty liver disease. *World J Gastroenterol* 2015; **21**: 511-516 [PMID: 25593466 DOI: 10.3748/wjg.v21.i2.511]

152 **Soronen J**, Yki-Järvinen H, Zhou Y, Sädevirta S, Sarin AP, Leivonen M, Sevastianova K, Perttilä J, Laurila PP, Sigruener A, Schmitz G, Olkkonen VM. Novel hepatic microRNAs upregulated in human nonalcoholic fatty liver disease. *Physiol Rep* 2016; **4** [PMID: 26733244 DOI: 10.14814/phy2.12661]

153 **Clarke JD**, Sharapova T, Lake AD, Blomme E, Maher J, Cherrington NJ. Circulating microRNA 122 in the methionine and choline-deficient mouse model of non-alcoholic steatohepatitis. *J Appl Toxicol* 2014; **34**: 726-732 [PMID: 24217942 DOI: 10.1002/jat.2960]

154 **Takaki Y**, Saito Y, Takasugi A, Toshimitsu K, Yamada S, Muramatsu T, Kimura M, Sugiyama K, Suzuki H, Arai E, Ojima H, Kanai Y, Saito H. Silencing of microRNA-122 is an early event during hepatocarcinogenesis from non-alcoholic steatohepatitis. *Cancer Sci* 2014; **105**: 1254-1260 [PMID: 25117675 DOI: 10.1111/cas.12498]

155 **Csak T**, Bala S, Lippai D, Satishchandran A, Catalano D, Kodys K, Szabo G. microRNA-122 regulates hypoxia-inducible factor-1 and vimentin in hepatocytes and correlates with fibrosis in diet-induced steatohepatitis. *Liver Int* 2015; **35**: 532-541 [PMID: 25040043 DOI: 10.1111/liv.12633]

156 **Zhang ZC**, Liu Y, Xiao LL, Li SF, Jiang JH, Zhao Y, Qian SW, Tang QQ, Li X. Upregulation of miR-125b by estrogen protects against non-alcoholic fatty liver in female mice. *J Hepatol* 2015; **63**: 1466-1475 [PMID: 26272872 DOI: 10.1016/j.jhep.2015.07.037]

157 **Li D**, Wang X, Lan X, Li Y, Liu L, Yi J, Li J, Sun Q, Wang Y, Li H, Zhong N, Holmdahl R, Lu S. Down-regulation of miR-144 elicits proinflammatory cytokine production by targeting toll-like receptor 2 in nonalcoholic steatohepatitis of high-fat-diet-induced metabolic syndrome E3 rats. *Mol Cell Endocrinol* 2015; **402**: 1-12 [PMID: 25534427 DOI: 10.1016/j.mce.2014.12.007]

158 **Feng YY**, Xu XQ, Ji CB, Shi CM, Guo XR, Fu JF. Aberrant hepatic microRNA expression in nonalcoholic fatty liver disease. *Cell Physiol Biochem* 2014; **34**: 1983-1997 [PMID: 25562147 DOI: 10.1159/000366394]

159 **Jiang W**, Liu J, Dai Y, Zhou N, Ji C, Li X. MiR-146b attenuates high-fat diet-induced non-alcoholic steatohepatitis in mice. *J Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2015; **30**: 933-943 [PMID: 25559563 DOI: 10.1111/jgh.12878]

160 **Xiao J**, Lv D, Zhao Y, Chen X, Song M, Liu J, Bei Y, Wang F, Yang W, Yang C. miR-149 controls non-alcoholic fatty liver by targeting FGF-21. *J Cell Mol Med* 2016; **20**: 1603-1608 [PMID: 27061435 DOI: 10.1111/jcmm.12848]

161 **Lin X**, Jia J, Du T, Li W, Wang X, Wei J, Lin X, Zeng H, Yao L, Chen X, Zhuang J, Weng J, Liu Y, Lin J, Wu Q, Wang W, Yao K, Xu K, Xiao D. Overexpression of miR-155 in the liver of transgenic mice alters the expression profiling of hepatic genes associated with lipid metabolism. *PLoS One* 2015; **10**: e0118417 [PMID: 25799309 DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0118417]

162 **Vella S**, Gnani D, Crudele A, Ceccarelli S, De Stefanis C, Gaspari S, Nobili V, Locatelli F, Marquez VE, Rota R, Alisi A. EZH2 down-regulation exacerbates lipid accumulation and inflammation in in vitro and in vivo NAFLD. *Int J Mol Sci* 2013; **14**: 24154-24168 [PMID: 24351808 DOI: 10.3390/ijms141224154]

163 **Li B**, Zhang Z, Zhang H, Quan K, Lu Y, Cai D, Ning G. Aberrant miR199a-5p/caveolin1/PPARα axis in hepatic steatosis. *J Mol Endocrinol* 2014; **53**: 393-403 [PMID: 25312970 DOI: 10.1530/JME-14-0127]

164 **Shpyleva S**, Pogribna M, Cozart C, Bryant MS, Muskhelishvili L, Tryndyak VP, Ross SA, Beland FA, Pogribny IP. Interstrain differences in the progression of nonalcoholic steatohepatitis to fibrosis in mice are associated with altered hepatic iron metabolism. *J Nutr Biochem* 2014; **25**: 1235-1242 [PMID: 25256357 DOI: 10.1016/j.jnutbio.2014.06.012]

165 **Xiao J**, Bei Y, Liu J, Dimitrova-Shumkovska J, Kuang D, Zhou Q, Li J, Yang Y, Xiang Y, Wang F, Yang C, Yang W. miR-212 downregulation contributes to the protective effect of exercise against non-alcoholic fatty liver via targeting FGF-21. *J Cell Mol Med* 2016; **20**: 204-216 [PMID: 26648452 DOI: 10.1111/jcmm.12733]

166 **Jin X**, Chen YP, Kong M, Zheng L, Yang YD, Li YM. Transition from hepatic steatosis to steatohepatitis: unique microRNA patterns and potential downstream functions and pathways. *J Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2012; **27**: 331-340 [PMID: 21793903 DOI: 10.1111/j.1440-1746.2011.06864.x]

167 **Hoekstra M**, van der Sluis RJ, Kuiper J, Van Berkel TJ. Nonalcoholic fatty liver disease is associated with an altered hepatocyte microRNA profile in LDL receptor knockout mice. *J Nutr Biochem* 2012; **23**: 622-628 [PMID: 21764575 DOI: 10.1016/j.jnutbio.2011.03.005]

168 **Meng X**, Guo J, Fang W, Dou L, Li M, Huang X, Zhou S, Man Y, Tang W, Yu L, Li J. Liver MicroRNA-291b-3p Promotes Hepatic Lipogenesis through Negative Regulation of Adenosine 5'-Monophosphate (AMP)-activated Protein Kinase α1. *J Biol Chem* 2016; **291**: 10625-10634 [PMID: 27013659 DOI: 10.1074/jbc.M116.713768]

169 **Cheng Y**, Mai J, Hou T, Ping J. MicroRNA-421 induces hepatic mitochondrial dysfunction in non-alcoholic fatty liver disease mice by inhibiting sirtuin 3. *Biochem Biophys Res Commun* 2016; **474**: 57-63 [PMID: 27107702 DOI: 10.1016/j.bbrc.2016.04.065]

170 **Hur W**, Lee JH, Kim SW, Kim JH, Bae SH, Kim M, Hwang D, Kim YS, Park T, Um SJ, Song BJ, Yoon SK. Downregulation of microRNA-451 in non-alcoholic steatohepatitis inhibits fatty acid-induced proinflammatory cytokine production through the AMPK/AKT pathway. *Int J Biochem Cell Biol* 2015; **64**: 265-276 [PMID: 25957914 DOI: 10.1016/j.biocel.2015.04.016]

171 **Ahn J**, Lee H, Chung CH, Ha T. High fat diet induced downregulation of microRNA-467b increased lipoprotein lipase in hepatic steatosis. *Biochem Biophys Res Commun* 2011; **414**: 664-669 [PMID: 21986524 DOI: 10.1016/j.bbrc.2011.09.120]

**P-Reviewer:** Abenavoli L, Gonzalez-Reimers E, Kharbanda KK

**S-Editor:** Wang XJ **L-Editor:** **E-Editor:**

**Specialty type:** Gastroenterology and hepatology

**Country of origin:** Spain

**Peer-review report classification**

Grade A (Excellent): 0

Grade B (Very good): B, B

Grade C (Good): C

Grade D (Fair): 0

Grade E (Poor): 0

 

**Figure 1 miRNAs involved in the pathogenesis of alcoholic liver disease.** miRNAs preceded by a 🡻 symbol are decreased in ALD or inhibit the development of ALD. The remainder of miRNAs promotes the development of ALD. TLR4: Toll-like receptor 4; TFG: Transforming growth factor; ALD: Alcoholic liver disease; ROS: Reactive oxygen species; NF-κB: Nuclear factor-κB. Figure adapted from Laso *et al*[10].

**Table 1 miRNA targets involved in alcoholic liver disease pathogenesis**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **miRNA** | **Source of sample** | **miRNA Target** |
| let-7[27] | Animal modelsHuman HSCs | Lin28, HMGA2 |
| miR-19b[28] | Animal modelsHuman HSCs | TGFβRII, Col1α2, MeCP2 |
| miR-21[36,37] | Animal models | FASLG, DR5, Crebl2 |
| miR-26a[35] | Animal models | DUSP4, DUSP5 |
| miR-27a[44,52] | Animal modelsHMCHumans (plasma) | Sprouty2, CD206 |
| miR-34a[29,43] | Animal modelsHuman HSCsNHHHiBECsHumans (liver biopsy) | SIRT1, CASP2 |
| miR-103 and miR-107[53] | Humans (liver biopsy) | Caveolin-1 |
| miR-122[32,124,125] | Animal models | P4HA1, HO-1, Cyclin G1, Bcl-w, HIF-1α |
| miR-155[38,39,97,126,127] | Animal models | TNFα, SHIP1, SOCS1, IRAKM, C/EBPβ |
| miR-181b-3p[40] | Animal models | Importin α1 |
| miR-182[30] | Animal modelsHumans (serum samples and liver biopsy) | SLC1A1, Cofilin 1, CCL20, CXCL1, IL-8, Cyclin D1, IL-6 |
| miR-199[128] | Animal models | ET-1, ET-BR |
| miR-200a[31] | Animal models | ZEB-2 |
| miR-212[46] | Caco-2 cellsHumans (colon biopsy) | ZO-1 |
| miR-214[24,34] | Animal modelsHHCs | POR, GSR, CYP2E1 |
| miR-217[41] | Animal models | SIRT-1 |
| miR-223[45] | Animal modelsHumans (serum) | p47phox, IL-6 |
| miR-291b[42] | Animal modelsHPBMs | Tollip |
| miR-378[59] | Animal models | Gli-3 |
| miR-497[25] | Animal models | Btg2, Yy1 |

HSCs: Hepatic stellate cells; HMGA2: High mobility group AT-hook 2; TGFβRII: Transforming growth factor β receptor II; Col1α2: Collagen type I α 2 chain; MeCP2: Methyl-CpG binding protein 2; FASLG: Fas ligand; DR5: Death receptor 5; Crebl2: cAMP responsive element binding protein like 2; DUSP: Dual specificity phosphatase; HMC: Human Monocyte Cells; NHH: Normal Human Hepatocytes; HiBECs: Human intrahepatic Biliary Epithelial Cells; SIRT1: sirtuin 1; CASP2: caspase 2; P4HA1: prolyl 4-hydroxylase subunit α 1; HO-1: heme oxygenase-1; BCL-W: Bcl-2-like protein 2; HIF-1α: Hypoxia inducible factor 1 α; TNFα: Tumor necrosis factor α; SHIP1: Src homology 2 domain-containing inositol phosphatase 1; SOCS1: Suppressor of cytokine signaling 1; IRAKM: Interleukin 1 receptor associated kinase 3; C/EBPβ: CCAAT/enhancer binding protein β; SLC1A1: Solute carrier family 1 member 1; CCL20: C-C motif chemokine ligand 20; CXCL1: C-X-C motif chemokine ligand 1; IL: Interleukin; ET-1: Endothelin-1; ET-BR: Endothelin-B receptor; ZEB-2: Zinc finger E-box binding homeobox 2; ZO-1: Zonula occludens 1; HHCs: Human Hepatoma Cells; POR: Cytochrome P450 oxidoreductase; GSR: Glutathione reductase; CYP2E1: Cytochrome P450 2E1; p47phox: Neutrophil cytosolic factor 1-like; HPBMs: Human Peripheral Blood Monocytes; Tollip: Toll interacting protein; Gli3: GLI Family Zinc Finger 3; Btg2: B-cell translocation gene 2; YY1: Yin yang 1.

**Table 2 Summary of miRNAs associated with non-alcoholic fatty liver disease**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **miRNA** | **Source of samples** rman S jljl | **Change** | **Main targets** |
| miR-9[129] | Human serum;Human hepatocyte cell line | ⇑ | Onecut2; SIRT1 |
| miR-10b[130] | Human hepatocyte cell line | ⇓ | PPARα |
| miR-15b[131,132] | Animal modelsHuman serum | ⇑ |  |
| miR-16[104] | Human serum | ⇑ |  |
| miR-17[74] | Human liver | ⇓ |  |
| miR-19[84] | Human serum | ⇑ |  |
| miR-21[86,87,99,133-136] | Animal modelsHuman hepatocyte cell lineHuman liver and serum | ⇑ | PPARα; TGF-βPTEN |
| miR-21[85,89,137,138] | Animal modelsHuman liverHuman hepatocyte cell line | ⇓ | HMGCR; FABP7 |
| miR-24[139] | Animal modelsHuman hepatocyte cell line | ⇑ | Insig1; SREBP |
| miR-26[140] | Animal models | ⇓ | IL-6, IL-7 |
| miR-27a[141] | Animal models | ⇓ |  |
| miR-27b[102] | Human serum | ⇑ |  |
| miR-29a[142,143] | Animal models | ⇓ | HMGCR; LPL |
| miR-29c[85,89,90] | Animal models | ⇓ | DNMT3A; DNMT3B |
| miR-30b[83] | Human liverHuman hepatocyte cell line | ⇓ | ITGAX; FABP4 |
| miR-30c[144] | Human serum | ⇑ |  |
| miR-31[74,89] | Human liverAnimal models | ⇑ |  |
| miR-33a[73,76] | Human liver | ⇑ | ABCA1; ABCA2 |
| miR-33a[85] | Human liver | ⇓ |  |
| MiR-34a[71,81,82,85,87,89,90,92,104,105,145-148] | Animal modelsHuman hepatocyte cell lineHuman liver and serum | ⇑ | SIRT1; HNF4α; PPARα |
| miR-99a[149] | Human serum | ⇓ |  |
| miR-101[150] | Human hepatocyte cell lineHuman monocyte cell line | ⇑ | ABCA1 |
| miR-103[53,89,151] | Animal modelsHuman liver and serum | ⇑ | Cav1 |
| miR-103a[152] | Human liverHuman hepatocyte cell line | ⇑ |  |
| miR-106b[152] | Human liver | ⇑ |  |
| miR-107[53,89] | Animal modelsHuman liver | ⇑ | Cav1 |
| miR-122[81,84,86,87,101-104,106,153]  | Animal modelsHuman Serum | ⇑ |  |
| miR-122[71,82-85,89,90,99,106,141,154,155] | Animal modelsHuman liver | ⇓ | ACC-2; HAMP; FAS; HMGCR; SREBF-1cSREPBF-2; HIF-1α; Vimentin; MAP3K3 |
| miR-125b[84] | Human serum | ⇑ |  |
| miR-125b[156] | Animal models | ⇓ | FAS |
| miR-139-5p[83] | Human liver | ⇓ | TNFα |
| miR-144[76] | Human Liver | ⇑ | ABCA1 |
| miR-144[157] | Animal models | ⇓ | TLR-2 |
| miR-146a[158] | Animal modelsHuman hepatocyte cell line | ⇑ |  |
| miR-146a[132] | Animal modelsHuman hepatocyte cell line | ⇓ | Wnt1; Wnt5 |
| Mir-146b[149,159] | Animal modelsHuman serumHuman hepatocyte cell line | ⇓ | IRAK1TRAF6 |
| miR-146b[71,83,158] | Animal modelsHuman liverHuman hepatocyte cell line | ⇑ |  |
| miR-149[160] | Animal modelsHuman hepatocyte cell line | ⇑ | FGF-21 |
| miR-150[74] | Human liver | ⇑ |  |
| miR-152[158] | Animal modelsHuman hepatocyte cell line | ⇑ |  |
| miR-155[90,97-99,161,162] | Animal modelsHuman hepatocyte cell line | ⇑ | SOCS1; C/EBP-Β; CES3; PDGF; SMAD3 |
| miR-155[96] | Animal modelsHuman liver and serum | ⇓ | LXRα |
| miR-181a[82] | Animal models | ⇑ |  |
| miR-181d[149] | Human serum | ⇓ |  |
| miR-182[74] | Human liver | ⇑ | FOXO3 |
| miR-183[74] | Human liver | ⇑ |  |
| miR-192[84,90] | Animal modelsHuman liver | ⇓ |  |
| miR-192-5p[82,84,86,102,106] | Animal modelsHuman liver and serum | ⇑ |  |
| miR-194[89] | Animal models | ⇑ |  |
| miR-197[149] | Human serum | ⇓ |  |
| miR-199[163] | Animal modelsHuman hepatocyte cell lineHuman liver | ⇑ | Cav1; PPARα |
| miR-200a/b/c[74,82,89,90,141,158,162,164] | Animal modelsHuman hepatocyte cell line | ⇑ | ZEB1; CDH1; EZH2; IRP1 |
| miR-203[90,132] | Animal models | ⇓ |  |
| miR-212[165] | Animal modelsHuman hepatocyte cell line | ⇑ | FGF-21 |
| miR-214[71,166] | Human liverAnimal models | ⇑ |  |
| miR-216[167] | Animal models | ⇓ |  |
| miR-219a[74] | Human liver | ⇓ |  |
| miR-221[73] | Human liver | ⇓ |  |
| miR-221[89,90,99] | Animal models | ⇑ |  |
| miR-222[99] | Animal models | ⇑ |  |
| miR-223[86,164] | Animals modelsHuman serum | ⇑ | IRP1 |
| miR-224[73,74] | Human liver | ⇑ |  |
| miR-291b[168] | Animal models | ⇑ | AMPKα1 |
| miR-302a[167] | Animals model | ⇓ | ELOVL6 |
| miR-331[144] | Human serum | ⇑ |  |
| miR-335[89] | Animal models | ⇑ |  |
| miR-375[84] | Human serum | ⇑ |  |
| miR-378i[74] | Human liver | ⇓ |  |
| miR-421[169] | Animal models | ⇑ | SIRT-3 |
| miR-422a[83] | Human liver | ⇓ |  |
| miR-429[141] | Animal models | ⇑ |  |
| miR-451[87] | Human Serum | ⇑ |  |
| miR-451[89,141,170] | Animal modelsHuman liver | ⇓ | AMPK/AKT |
| miR-467b[171] | Animal models | ⇓ | LPL |
| miR-576[152] | Human liverHuman hepatocyte cell line | ⇓ | RAC1 |
| miR-590[74] | Human liver | ⇓ |  |
| miR-892a[152] | Human liverHuman hepatocyte cell line | ⇑ |  |
| miR-1290[102] | Human serum | ⇑ |  |

⇑: Upregulated; ⇓: Down regulate.