

World Journal of *Virology*

World J Virol 2023 September 25; 12(4): 221-241



ORIGINAL ARTICLE**Retrospective Cohort Study**

- 221 Association between alcohol-associated cirrhosis and inpatient complications among COVID-19 patients: A propensity-matched analysis from the United States

Inayat F, Ali H, Patel P, Dhillon R, Afzal A, Rehman AU, Afzal MS, Zulfiqar L, Nawaz G, Goraya MHN, Subramaniam S, Agrawal S, Satapathy SK

Retrospective Study

- 233 Performance evaluation of NeuMoDx 96 system for hepatitis B and C viral load

Chooramani G, Samal J, Rani N, Singh G, Agarwal R, Bajpai M, Kumar M, Prasad M, Gupta E

ABOUT COVER

Executive Associate Editor-in-Chief of *World Journal of Virology*, Yu-Chen Fan, MD, PhD, Deputy Director, Professor, Department of Hepatology, Qilu Hospital of Shandong University, Jinan 250012, Shandong Province, China. fanyuchen@sdu.edu.cn

AIMS AND SCOPE

The primary aim of *World Journal of Virology* (*WJV*, *World J Virol*) is to provide scholars and readers from various fields of virology with a platform to publish high-quality basic and clinical research articles and communicate their research findings online.

WJV mainly publishes articles reporting research results obtained in the field of virology and covering a wide range of topics including arbovirus infections, viral bronchiolitis, central nervous system viral diseases, coinfection, DNA virus infections, viral encephalitis, viral eye infections, chronic fatigue syndrome, animal viral hepatitis, human viral hepatitis, viral meningitis, opportunistic infections, viral pneumonia, RNA virus infections, sexually transmitted diseases, viral skin diseases, slow virus diseases, tumor virus infections, viremia, and zoonoses.

INDEXING/ABSTRACTING

The *WJV* is now abstracted and indexed in PubMed, PubMed Central, Reference Citation Analysis, China National Knowledge Infrastructure, China Science and Technology Journal Database, and Superstar Journals Database.

RESPONSIBLE EDITORS FOR THIS ISSUE

Production Editor: *Yu-Xi Chen*; Production Department Director: *Xiang Li*; Editorial Office Director: *Jin-Lai Wang*.

NAME OF JOURNAL

World Journal of Virology

ISSN

ISSN 2220-3249 (online)

LAUNCH DATE

February 12, 2012

FREQUENCY

Quarterly

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

Mahmoud El-Bendary, En-Qiang Chen, Kai Wang

EXECUTIVE ASSOCIATE EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

Yu-Chen Fan, Shuai Gao

EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBERS

<https://www.wjnet.com/2220-3249/editorialboard.htm>

PUBLICATION DATE

September 25, 2023

COPYRIGHT

© 2023 Baishideng Publishing Group Inc

PUBLISHING PARTNER

Department of Hepatology, Qilu Hospital of Shandong University

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

<https://www.wjnet.com/bpg/gerinfo/204>

GUIDELINES FOR ETHICS DOCUMENTS

<https://www.wjnet.com/bpg/GerInfo/287>

GUIDELINES FOR NON-NATIVE SPEAKERS OF ENGLISH

<https://www.wjnet.com/bpg/gerinfo/240>

PUBLICATION ETHICS

<https://www.wjnet.com/bpg/GerInfo/288>

PUBLICATION MISCONDUCT

<https://www.wjnet.com/bpg/gerinfo/208>

POLICY OF CO-AUTHORS

<https://www.wjnet.com/bpg/GerInfo/310>

ARTICLE PROCESSING CHARGE

<https://www.wjnet.com/bpg/gerinfo/242>

STEPS FOR SUBMITTING MANUSCRIPTS

<https://www.wjnet.com/bpg/GerInfo/239>

ONLINE SUBMISSION

<https://www.f6publishing.com>

PUBLISHING PARTNER'S OFFICIAL WEBSITE

<https://www.qiluhospital.com/list-410-1.html>

Retrospective Cohort Study

Association between alcohol-associated cirrhosis and inpatient complications among COVID-19 patients: A propensity-matched analysis from the United States

Faisal Inayat, Hassam Ali, Pratik Patel, Rubaid Dhillon, Arslan Afzal, Attiq Ur Rehman, Muhammad Sohaib Afzal, Laraib Zulfiqar, Gul Nawaz, Muhammad Hassan Naeem Goraya, Subanandhini Subramaniam, Saurabh Agrawal, Sanjaya K Satapathy

Specialty type: Virology

Provenance and peer review:

Invited article; Externally peer reviewed.

Peer-review model: Single blind

Peer-review report's scientific quality classification

Grade A (Excellent): 0
Grade B (Very good): B, B
Grade C (Good): 0
Grade D (Fair): D
Grade E (Poor): 0

P-Reviewer: Muro M, Spain; Nasa P, United Arab Emirates

Received: June 27, 2023

Peer-review started: June 27, 2023

First decision: July 19, 2023

Revised: August 2, 2023

Accepted: August 21, 2023

Article in press: August 21, 2023

Published online: September 25, 2023



Faisal Inayat, Gul Nawaz, Muhammad Hassan Naeem Goraya, Department of Internal Medicine, Allama Iqbal Medical College, Lahore 54550, Punjab, Pakistan

Hassam Ali, Arslan Afzal, Subanandhini Subramaniam, Department of Internal Medicine, East Carolina University Brody School of Medicine, Greenville, NC 27834, United States

Pratik Patel, Department of Gastroenterology, Mather Hospital and Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra University, Port Jefferson, NY 11777, United States

Rubaid Dhillon, Department of Gastroenterology, Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Cleveland, OH 44195, United States

Attiq Ur Rehman, Department of Hepatology, Mercy Medical Center, Baltimore, MD 21202, United States

Muhammad Sohaib Afzal, Department of Internal Medicine, Louisiana State University Health, Shreveport, LA 71103, United States

Laraib Zulfiqar, Department of Internal Medicine, Quaid-e-Azam Medical College, Bahawalpur 63100, Punjab, Pakistan

Saurabh Agrawal, Department of Hepatology, Tampa General Medical Group and University of South Florida, Tampa, FL 33606, United States

Sanjaya K Satapathy, Department of Hepatology, North Shore University Hospital and Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra University, Manhasset, NY 11030, United States

Corresponding author: Faisal Inayat, MBBS, Research Scientist, Department of Internal Medicine, Allama Iqbal Medical College, Allama Shabbir Ahmad Usmani Road, Faisal Town, Lahore 54550, Punjab, Pakistan. faisal.inayat@hotmail.com

Abstract**BACKGROUND**

Alcohol-associated cirrhosis (AC) contributes to significant liver-related mortality

in the United States. It is known to cause immune dysfunction and coagulation abnormalities. Patients with comorbid conditions like AC are at risk of worse clinical outcomes from coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The specific association between AC and COVID-19 mortality remains inconclusive, given the lack of robust clinical evidence from prior studies.

AIM

To study the predictors of mortality and the outcomes of AC in patients hospitalized with COVID-19 in the United States.

METHODS

We conducted a retrospective cohort study using the National Inpatient Sample (NIS) database 2020. Patients were identified with primary COVID-19 hospitalizations based on an underlying diagnosis of AC. A matched comparison cohort of COVID-19 patients without AC was identified after 1:N propensity score matching based on baseline sociodemographic characteristics and Elixhauser comorbidities. Primary outcomes included median length of stay, median inpatient charges, and in-hospital mortality. Secondary outcomes included a prevalence of systemic complications.

RESULTS

A total of 1325 COVID-19 patients with AC were matched to 1135 patients without AC. There was no difference in median length of stay and hospital charges in COVID-19 patients with AC compared to non-AC ($P > 0.05$). There was an increased prevalence of septic shock (5.7% vs 4.1%), ventricular fibrillation/ventricular flutter (0.4% vs 0%), atrial fibrillation (13.2% vs 8.8%), atrial flutter (8.7% vs 4.4%), first-degree atrioventricular nodal block (0.8% vs 0%), upper extremity venous thromboembolism (1.5% vs 0%), and variceal bleeding (3.8% vs 0%) in the AC cohort compared to the non-AC cohort ($P < 0.05$). There was no difference in inpatient mortality in COVID-19 patients with non-AC compared to AC, with an odds ratio of 0.97 (95% confidence interval: 0.78-1.22, $P = 0.85$). Predictors of mortality included advanced age, cardiac arrhythmias, coagulopathy, protein-calorie malnutrition, fluid and electrolyte disorders, septic shock, and upper extremity venous thromboembolism.

CONCLUSION

AC does not increase mortality in patients hospitalized with COVID-19. There is an increased association between inpatient complications among COVID-19 patients with AC compared to non-AC.

Key Words: Alcoholic cirrhosis; COVID-19; Chronic liver disease; Mortality predictors; Inpatient complications

©The Author(s) 2023. Published by Baishideng Publishing Group Inc. All rights reserved.

Core Tip: High-risk comorbid conditions significantly increase the mortality linked to coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). In this large National Inpatient Sample-based retrospective cohort study, we aimed to evaluate the specific clinical impact of alcohol-associated cirrhosis (AC) on patients hospitalized with COVID-19. We analyzed the patient outcomes based on comorbidities, mechanical ventilation, intensive care unit admission, and mortality predictors. Our findings show that AC does not increase mortality in patients hospitalized with COVID-19. Pertinently, there is an increased association between inpatient complications and COVID-19 patients with AC compared to non-AC. Predictors of mortality included advanced age, cardiac arrhythmias, coagulopathy, protein-calorie malnutrition, fluid and electrolyte disorders, septic shock, and upper extremity venous thromboembolism.

Citation: Inayat F, Ali H, Patel P, Dhillon R, Afzal A, Rehman AU, Afzal MS, Zulfiqar L, Nawaz G, Goraya MHN, Subramaniam S, Agrawal S, Satapathy SK. Association between alcohol-associated cirrhosis and inpatient complications among COVID-19 patients: A propensity-matched analysis from the United States. *World J Virol* 2023; 12(4): 221-232

URL: <https://www.wjgnet.com/2220-3249/full/v12/i4/221.htm>

DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.5501/wjv.v12.i4.221>

INTRODUCTION

The global pandemic of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) has profoundly affected patients with pre-existing comorbidities. The World Health Organization reported that there were 768 million confirmed cases and 6.9 million fatalities as of June 21, 2023[1]. The disease presents a broad range of clinical features, from asymptomatic respiratory infection to severe pneumonia, thromboembolism, and even death. Initial reports from Wuhan indicated elevated serum liver biochemistry panels and associated liver injury in COVID-19 patients[2]. Previous research has demonstrated that patients with chronic liver disease (CLD) had a longer disease duration and higher mortality after contracting COVID-19[3,4]. CLD is a sig-

nificant public health concern, with an estimated global burden of 1.5 billion patients and 2 million annual deaths[5]. It is notable that viral hepatitis remains the leading cause of cirrhosis worldwide[6]. However, obesity and alcohol use have emerged as critical risk factors following advances in the prevention and treatment of viral hepatitis[6]. This etiological shift is expected to shape the future epidemiology of CLD[6]. It can potentially make the hepatic involvement of COVID-19 particularly troubling for patients with underlying alcohol-associated cirrhosis (AC)[7].

Patients with cirrhosis often develop immunological perturbations, leading to systemic inflammation and immune deficiency[8]. This immune dysfunction could potentially make it more difficult for cirrhotics to fight COVID-19. Numerous studies have identified an increased risk of COVID-19 severity and death in cirrhotic patients[9-11]. However, the literature offers conflicting results regarding the clinical impact of underlying cirrhosis on COVID-19 outcomes. For instance, Bajaj *et al*[12] reported similar mortality rates between cirrhotics with and without COVID-19, yet highlighted higher mortality in cirrhotics compared to patients suffering from COVID-19 alone. Moreover, the COVID-19-associated mortality rates in patients with CLD and cirrhosis varied from 8.9% to 39.8%[13,14].

Based on available clinical epidemiologic studies, there is a limited understanding of the etiologic basis of the clinical outcomes of cirrhosis in patients with COVID-19. However, several studies have investigated this subject. For example, in a single-center retrospective analysis of a cohort of patients hospitalized for COVID-19 with a prevailing alcoholic CLD, liver cirrhosis was linked to a fourfold increase in 30-d mortality[15]. A Korean study suggested that people with underlying nonalcoholic fatty liver disease may be more likely to test positive for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus type 2 (SARS-CoV-2) and experience severe infection[16]. In addition, Kim *et al*[17] conducted a multicenter, observational cohort study demonstrating increased overall mortality in patients with CLD and COVID-19 due to alcohol-associated liver disease, decompensated cirrhosis, and hepatocellular carcinoma.

Our objective is to assess the impact of AC on outcomes and mortality in patients hospitalized with COVID-19 using a large, multicenter database. We also seek to identify mortality predictors in COVID-19 patients with AC. To our knowledge, this is the first study to examine the specific clinical influence of AC on COVID-19 by assessing substantial epidemiological trends in hospitalized patients in the United States.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Design and data source

This retrospective cohort study is reported according to the Strengthening the Reporting of Observational Studies in Epidemiology guidelines[18]. We utilized the recently released National Inpatient Sample (NIS) database 2020. It is designed by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality[19]. NIS is the largest inpatient database in the United States healthcare system[19]. The design of this database enables the calculation of national estimates using sampling weights and a 20% stratified sample of hospitals[19]. Detailed information on the design of NIS and sampling methods is available at <https://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov>. NIS 2020 utilized the International Classification of Diseases (ICD) 10 coding system to store and report data. We identified hospitalizations with a primary diagnosis (DX1) of COVID-19 using the "U07.1" ICD-10 code, which was introduced in March 2020[20]. Hospitalizations were excluded if the patient age was < 18 years, individuals were transferred, and/or COVID-19 was listed as a secondary diagnosis. Furthermore, patients were excluded if there was any history of cirrhosis due to nonalcoholic and other causes (viral, autoimmune, or non-specified), hepatocellular carcinoma, malignant neoplasm, end-stage renal disease requiring dialysis, quadriplegia, lymphoma, renal transplant, or liver transplant, as these were deemed high-risk conditions that could confound our analysis.

Outcome measures

Primary outcomes included median length of stay, median inpatient charges, and in-hospital mortality. Secondary outcomes included a prevalence of respiratory, cardiac, circulatory, neurological, and renal complications.

Statistical analysis

Statistical analysis was performed using Statistical Software for Data Science (StataCorp LLC, College Station, TX, United States) version 16.0. Two cohorts were created based on the presence or absence of a secondary diagnosis of AC using ICD-10 codes employed in the published literature[21]. We developed matched cohorts using propensity score matching (PSM) to minimize the effect of comorbid imbalances between comparison cohorts. Each case was assigned a propensity score using a multivariable logistic regression that included baseline sociodemographic characteristics (age, sex, race, socioeconomic status, and Elixhauser comorbidities). Propensity scores between the two cohorts were matched in a 1:N fashion using the nearest-neighbor method within 0.01 standard deviations of the calculated score[22]. The covariate balance was then visualized using the two-way plot (Figure 1). A two-sample Wilcoxon rank-sum (Mann-Whitney) test was utilized for continuous variables. The Chi-square test was used to compare categorical variables. The significance threshold was set at $P < 0.05$. For logistic regression, hierarchical models were designed using any unbalanced variables in PSM (race). The positive mortality predictors were then used to build a final multivariate model. Only significant positive predictors of mortality were reported as odds ratios (OR) with 95% confidence intervals (CI) and P values.

Ethical considerations

The NIS is a de-identified hospital-level, third-party database. The privacy of patients, clinicians, and medical centers is protected by its design. Patient consent was waived as the hospitalization data were stripped of any patient identifiers. The approval of the institutional review board (IRB) was not required for this study.

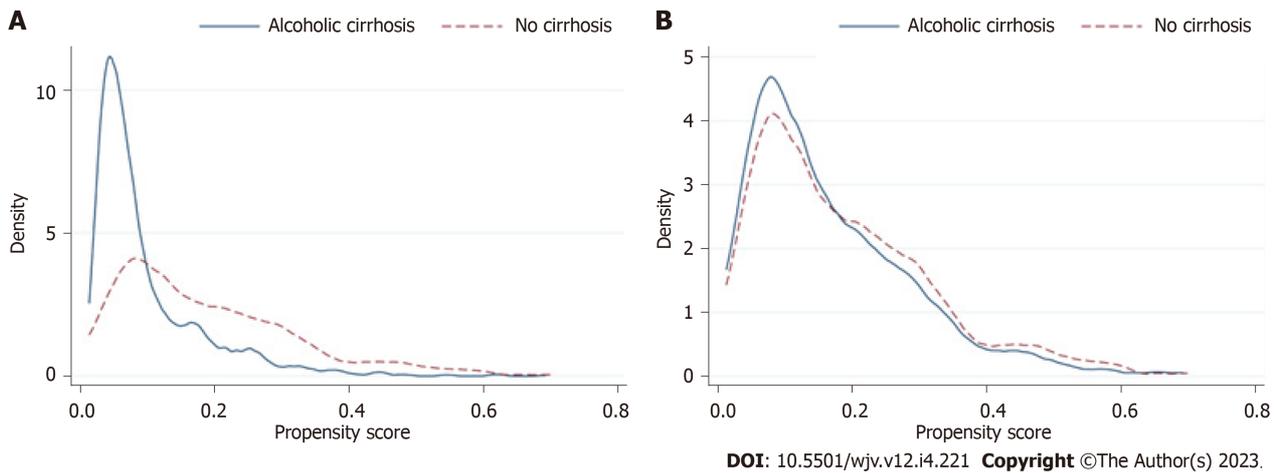


Figure 1 Two-way plot visualizing the covariate balance in our study. A: Before matching; B: After matching.

RESULTS

A total of 738010 primary COVID-19 hospitalizations fulfilled the selection criteria and were included in the study. A total of 1325 hospitalizations with AC were matched to 1135 without AC using nearest-neighbor matching (Table 1). The age group 50-64 years had a higher prevalence in the AC cohort than the non-AC cohort ($P < 0.001$). The median age was 60 years, with an interquartile range (IQR) of 54-67 in the AC cohort and 61 years (IQR: 54-67) in the non-AC cohort. There was no disparity based on gender ($P = 0.31$). Hispanics (33.2% vs 26.0%) and Native Americans (4.9% vs 4.8%) had a higher prevalence in the AC cohort compared to the non-AC cohort ($P < 0.001$). There was a higher prevalence of an Elixhauser Comorbidity Index (ECI) score ≥ 3 (98.9% vs 2.2%) in the AC group compared to the non-AC group ($P < 0.001$). Mortality was significantly higher in hospitalizations with non-AC compared to AC (15.0% vs 14.7%, $P = 0.024$). Disposition was more likely to be against medical advice if there was a secondary diagnosis of AC compared to non-AC (3.8% vs 3.5%, $P = 0.024$). There was no difference in intensive care unit (ICU)-level care (10.6% each, $P = 1.00$). There was no significant difference in median length of stay or median hospital charges between the AC and non-AC groups ($P > 0.05$).

There was an increased prevalence of septic shock (5.7% vs 4.1%), ventricular fibrillation/ventricular flutter (0.4% vs 0%), atrial fibrillation (13.2% vs 8.8%), atrial flutter (8.7% vs 4.4%), first-degree atrioventricular nodal block (0.8% vs 0%), upper extremity venous thromboembolism (VTE) (1.5% vs 0%), variceal bleeding (3.8% vs 0%), and pulmonary hypertension (21.1% vs 6.6%) in the AC cohort compared to the non-AC cohort ($P < 0.05$) (Table 2). The additional comorbidity burden in the matched cohort is outlined in Supplementary Table 1. AC had no significant association with acute kidney injury (OR 0.89, 95%CI 0.74-1.07, $P = 0.23$) or acute liver failure (OR = 0.97, 95%CI: 0.21-4.34, $P = 0.91$).

On multivariate regression, significant predictors of mortality for the matched cohort included cardiac arrhythmias (OR = 2.34, 95%CI: 1.38-3.97, $P = 0.002$), coagulopathy (OR = 1.87, 95%CI: 1.28-2.73, $P = 0.001$), protein-calorie malnutrition (OR = 5.96, 95%CI: 3.67-9.68, $P < 0.001$), fluid and electrolyte disorders (OR = 1.56, 95%CI: 1.05-2.32, $P = 0.027$), septic shock (OR = 18.77, 95%CI: 10.02-35.13, $P < 0.001$), atrial fibrillation (OR = 2.01, 95%CI: 1.11-3.63, $P = 0.020$), upper extremity VTE (OR = 11.38, 95%CI: 3.65-35.46, $P < 0.001$), and increasing age (OR = 1.06, 95%CI: 1.04-1.07, $P < 0.001$) (Table 3).

DISCUSSION

This national population-based study evaluated hospitalized COVID-19 patients with and without AC according to age, gender, and race to identify high-risk individuals. Our findings indicate that AC does not significantly increase mortality among patients hospitalized with COVID-19. However, it is associated with a higher prevalence of inpatient complications, particularly in certain demographic groups and people with higher ECI scores. Interestingly, despite these complications, there was no significant difference in the need for ICU-level care, length of stay, or hospital charges between the AC and non-AC groups.

Alcohol consumption increased during the COVID-19 pandemic due to isolation and social distancing protocols[23]. A study conducted in the United States analyzed changes in adult alcohol consumption during the pandemic[24]. It reported a 14% increase in the frequency of alcohol use[24]. The median age group in their analysis that saw increased alcohol consumption was similar to the median age in our AC cohort (IQR: 54-67). The increase in alcohol intake during the COVID-19 pandemic in this age group might have aggravated the disease burden of AC[24]. A multicenter study in the United States reported that Hispanic ethnicity and decompensated cirrhosis were associated with a higher risk for severe COVID-19[17]. In our data, we also observed a higher prevalence of Hispanics in the AC cohort than in the non-AC cohort. It is known that increasing age reduces the ability to metabolize alcohol due to decreased mitochondrial function [25]. Upon multivariate analysis of our data, we identified increasing age as a mortality predictor among COVID-19

Table 1 Baseline biodemographic characteristics of hospitalized coronavirus disease 2019 patients with and without alcohol-associated cirrhosis, *n* (%)

Factor	Alcoholic cirrhosis	No alcoholic cirrhosis (before matching)	<i>P</i> value	No alcoholic cirrhosis (after matching)	<i>P</i> value
Total hospitalizations	1325	736685		1135	
Age groups (yr)			< 0.001		< 0.001
18-34	30 (2.3)	36860 (5.0)		60 (5.3)	
34-49	195 (14.7)	105475 (14.3)		205 (18.1)	
50-64	625 (47.2)	213325 (29.0)		435 (38.3)	
65-79	375 (28.3)	242015 (32.9)		350 (30.8)	
≥ 80	100 (7.5)	139010 (18.9)		85 (7.5)	
Gender			< 0.001		0.31
Male	930 (70.2)	380300 (51.6)		775 (68.3)	
Female	395 (29.8)	356385 (48.4)		360 (31.7)	
Race			< 0.001		< 0.001
White	580 (43.8)	388810 (52.8)		515 (45.4)	
Black	145 (10.9)	129635 (17.6)		180 (15.9)	
Hispanic	440 (33.2)	156285 (21.2)		295 (26.0)	
Asian	25 (1.9)	25065 (3.4)		35 (3.1)	
Native American	65 (4.9)	6500 (0.9)		55 (4.8)	
Other	70 (5.3)	30390 (4.1)		55 (4.8)	
Elixhauser Comorbidity Index score			< 0.001		< 0.001
0	0 (0.0)	44530 (6.0)		25 (2.2)	
1	0 (0.0)	98560 (13.4)		70 (6.2)	
2	15 (1.1)	141150 (19.2)		1040 (91.6)	
≥ 3	1310 (98.9)	452445 (61.4)		25 (2.2)	
Region of hospital			< 0.001		0.008
Northeast	280 (21.1)	133450 (18.1)		245 (21.6)	
Midwest	250 (18.9)	168480 (22.9)		275 (24.2)	
South	430 (32.5)	309115 (42.0)		335 (29.5)	
West	365 (27.5)	125640 (17.1)		280 (24.7)	
Location/teaching status of hospital			< 0.001		0.009
Rural	65 (4.9)	88910 (12.1)		75 (6.6)	
Urban nonteaching	180 (13.6)	147560 (20.0)		115 (10.1)	
Urban teaching	1080 (81.5)	500215 (67.9)		945 (83.3)	
Primary payer			< 0.001		0.030
Medicare	570 (43.0)	369155 (50.1)		455 (40.1)	
Medicaid	420 (31.7)	93610 (12.7)		385 (33.9)	
Private	250 (18.9)	243440 (33.0)		245 (21.6)	
Other	85 (6.4)	30480 (4.1)		50 (4.4)	
Median household income national quartile for patient ZIP code			0.074		0.31
1 st (0-25 th)	480 (36.2)	249205 (33.8)		445 (39.2)	
2 nd (26 th -50 th)	335 (25.3)	203325 (27.6)		280 (24.7)	

3 rd (51 st -75 th)	310 (23.4)	163695 (22.2)	235 (20.7)	
4 th (76 th -100 th)	200 (15.1)	120460 (16.4)	175 (15.4)	
Disposition of patient				< 0.001 0.024
Discharged to home or self-care (routine discharge)	685 (51.7)	445390 (60.5)	555 (48.9)	
Transfer to short-term hospital	40 (3.0)	21910 (3.0)	20 (1.8)	
Transfer other: Skilled nursing facility, intermediate care facility, or another type of facility	235 (17.7)	98350 (13.4)	205 (18.1)	
Home health care	120 (9.1)	99700 (13.5)	145 (12.8)	
Against medical advice	50 (3.8)	7535 (1.0)	40 (3.5)	
Died during hospitalization	195 (14.7)	63625 (8.6)	170 (15.0)	
Day of admission				0.43 0.27
Weekday	990 (74.7)	543410 (73.8)	870 (76.7)	
Weekend	335 (25.3)	193275 (26.2)	265 (23.3)	
Mechanical ventilation	130 (9.8)	43865 (6.0)	140 (12.3)	< 0.001 0.046
ICU admission	140 (10.6)	43120 (5.9)	120 (10.6)	< 0.001 1.00
Vasopressor requirement	30 (2.3)	9345 (1.3)	30 (2.6)	< 0.001 0.54
Age in years at admission, median (IQR)	60.0 (54.0, 67.0)	65.0 (53.0, 77.0)	61.0 (51.0, 72.0)	< 0.001 0.65
Length of stay in days, median (IQR)	5.0 (3.0, 9.0)	5.0 (3.0, 8.0)	6.0 (3.0, 11.0)	0.016 0.1
Total hospital charges in USD, median (IQR)	44739.0 (24963.0, 80405.0)	39061.0 (22215.0, 71177.0)	49862.0 (25884.0, 90286.0)	< 0.001 0.098

ICU: Intensive care unit; IQR: Interquartile range.

patients with AC. The clinical symptoms between the younger and older age groups might be similar in the presence of AC. However, the elderly tend to develop more complications due to a decline in the robustness of the immune system. In a study conducted at the Johns Hopkins Health System, Krishnan *et al*[26] showed that increasing age and hepatic decompensation were associated with all-cause mortality among COVID-19 patients with CLD.

In our analysis, the mortality rates were comparable in both the AC and non-AC cohorts. One potential explanation could be that during the COVID-19 pandemic, only the most critically ill cirrhotic patients were admitted, rendering the presence of infection negligible in impacting the clinical outcome. Moreover, comorbidities among AC patients with higher ECI scores could affect the mortality rate. This might have resulted in similar ICU admission rates in both AC and non-AC cohorts. Intriguingly, our data showed that more non-AC patients received mechanical ventilation than AC patients. This is noteworthy because it may indicate an attempt to avoid mechanical ventilation, which is commonly regarded as a predictor of death in cirrhosis[10]. Shalimar *et al*[27] showed in their study that the need for mechanical ventilation independently predicted mortality in CLD patients with COVID-19.

Cirrhosis-associated immune dysfunction is characterized by systemic inflammation and impaired immunocompetence[28]. The dysregulated complement factors, immunoglobulins, and acute-phase proteins may correlate with cirrhosis severity and can serve as biomarkers of immune alterations in these patients[28]. These dysregulations expose cirrhotics to an increased risk of infections and liver-related death[28]. Bolarín *et al*[29] revealed that sepsis was the leading cause of non-sudden death in patients with AC ten years after liver transplantation. Guerra Veloz *et al*[30] showed that hospitalized COVID-19 patients with CLD required almost four times more antibiotic therapy compared to those without CLD. Similar findings were observed in another study, which demonstrated that cirrhotics had an increased risk of mortality, organ dysfunction syndrome, superinfections, and greater influenza severity compared to non-cirrhotics[31]. These observations may explain why a higher prevalence of *Hemophilus pneumonia*, septic shock, and spontaneous bacterial peritonitis was observed among AC patients in our study.

Patients with cirrhosis often develop portal hypertension. It frequently leads to upregulation of angiotensin-converting enzyme 2 (ACE-2) to counteract this major complication of cirrhosis[32]. This makes patients with AC more susceptible to COVID-19 infection, as ACE-2 is the critical functional receptor for SARS-CoV-2[33,34]. Therefore, it could possibly be associated with inpatient complications and a poor prognosis. During the pandemic, hospital stays for patients with cirrhosis were shorter, and more of these patients were discharged to go home compared to the pre-COVID era. Similarly, we observed a higher proportion of AC patients discharged home than non-AC patients in our study. This trend reflects the drive to conserve inpatient resources and promote home isolation unless the patient requires urgent medical treatment. However, it might have increased the risk of early post-hospital discharge mortality in patients with decompensated cirrhosis during the COVID-19 period[35]. A United States national cohort study using data from the Veterans Health Administration reported a decrease in hospitalizations of cirrhotic patients during the pandemic from January to April 2020[36]. Contrarily, in line with the increase in alcohol consumption during the early phase of the

Table 2 Inpatient outcomes of coronavirus disease 2019 patients with and without alcohol-associated cirrhosis, *n* (%)

Variables	Alcoholic cirrhosis	No alcoholic cirrhosis (before matching)	<i>P</i> value	No alcoholic cirrhosis (after matching)	<i>P</i> value
<i>n</i>	1325	736685		1135	
Asthma exacerbation	5 (0.4)	13170 (1.8)	< 0.001	5 (0.4)	0.81
ARDS	80 (6.0)	31970 (4.3)	0.002	100 (8.8)	0.008
Type I respiratory failure	545 (41.1)	379975 (51.6)	< 0.001	475 (41.9)	0.72
Type II respiratory failure	15 (1.1)	7640 (1.0)	0.73	15 (1.3)	0.67
Bacterial pneumonia	10 (0.8)	6005 (0.8)	0.81	10 (0.9)	0.73
<i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i>	0 (0.0)	1425 (0.2)	0.11	0 (0.0)	-
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i>	0 (0.0)	805 (0.1)	0.23	0 (0.0)	-
<i>Staphylococcus pneumoniae</i>	5 (0.4)	3850 (0.5)	0.46	10 (0.9)	0.11
<i>Hemophilus pneumoniae</i>	5 (0.4)	300 (< 1)	< 0.001	0 (0.0)	-
Anosmia	0 (0.0)	1240 (0.2)	0.14	0 (0.0)	-
Hemorrhagic CVA	0 (0.0)	615 (0.1)	0.29	0 (0.0)	-
Ischemic CVA	0 (0.0)	475 (0.1)	0.36	0 (0.0)	-
Dysgeusia	0 (0.0)	695 (0.1)	0.26	0 (0.0)	-
Diarrhea	80 (6.0)	44110 (6.0)	0.94	65 (5.7)	0.74
Septic shock	75 (5.7)	21780 (3.0)	< 0.001	47 (4.1)	0.007
SVT	30 (2.3)	9375 (1.3)	0.001	25 (2.2)	0.92
VT	20 (1.5)	10065 (1.4)	0.65	40 (3.5)	0.001
Vfib/Vflutter	5 (0.4)	1315 (0.2)	0.087	0 (0.0)	0.038
Afib	175 (13.2)	77340 (10.5)	0.001	100 (8.8)	< 0.001
Aflutter	115 (8.7)	47410 (6.4)	< 0.001	50 (4.4)	< 0.001
First-degree AV nodal block	10 (0.8)	3250 (0.4)	0.086	0 (0.0)	0.003
Second-degree AV nodal block	0 (0.0)	1515 (0.2)	0.098	0 (0.0)	-
Complete AV nodal block	0 (0.0)	1375 (0.2)	0.12	10 (0.9)	< 0.001
ECMO	0 (0.0)	120 (< 1)	0.64	0 (0.0)	-
Total acute VTE	50 (3.8)	26120 (3.5)	0.65	75 (6.6)	0.001
Portal venous thrombosis	5 (0.4)	190 (< 1)	< 0.001	15 (1.3)	0.009
Budd Chiari	0 (0.0)	35 (< 1)	0.80	0 (0.0)	-
Upper extremity VTE	20 (1.5)	1960 (0.3)	< 0.001	0 (0.0)	< 0.001
Lower extremity VTE	10 (0.8)	8050 (1.1)	0.24	10 (0.9)	0.73
Other VTE	10 (0.8)	1285 (0.2)	< 0.001	5 (0.4)	0.32
Pulmonary embolism	20 (1.5)	18055 (2.5)	0.027	50 (4.4)	< 0.001
Variceal bleeding	50 (3.8)	100 (< 1)	< 0.001	0 (0.0)	< 0.001
Hepatorenal syndrome	5 (0.4)	140 (< 1)	< 0.001	15 (1.3)	0.009
Hyponatremia	325 (24.5)	123080 (16.7)	< 0.001	285 (25.1)	0.74
Pulmonary hypertension	280 (21.1)	1210 (0.2)	< 0.001	75 (6.6)	< 0.001
Spontaneous bacterial peritonitis	15 (1.1)	35 (< 1)	< 0.001	5 (0.4)	0.057
Acute liver failure	4 (0.34)	303 (0.45)	< 0.001	4 (0.30)	0.82
New HD	2 (0.15)	750 (0.11)	< 0.001	0 (0)	0.1

ARDS: Acute respiratory distress syndrome; CVA: Cerebrovascular accident; SVT: Supraventricular tachycardia; VT: Ventricular tachycardia; Vfib: Ventricular fibrillation; Vflutter: Ventricular flutter; Afib: Atrial fibrillation; AV: Atrioventricular; ECMO: Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation; VTE: Venous thromboembolism; HD: Hemodialysis.

Table 3 Inpatient mortality predictors for coronavirus disease 2019 patients with alcohol-associated cirrhosis (after matching)

Variables	Odds ratios	P value
Alcohol-associated cirrhosis	0.82 (0.64-1.05)	0.12
Cardiac arrhythmias	2.34 (1.38-3.97)	0.002
Coagulopathy	1.87 (1.28-2.73)	0.001
Protein-calorie malnutrition	5.96 (3.67-9.68)	< 0.001
Fluid and electrolyte disorders	1.56 (1.05-2.32)	0.027
Septic shock	18.77 (10.02-35.13)	< 0.001
Atrial fibrillation	2.01 (1.11-3.63)	0.020
Spontaneous bacterial peritonitis	4.28 (0.91-20.1)	0.065
Upper extremity venous thromboembolism	11.38 (3.65-35.46)	< 0.001
Increasing age	1.06 (1.04-1.07)	< 0.001

pandemic, we might foresee a rise in long-term morbidity and mortality related to alcohol-associated liver disease[37]. Therefore, AC hospitalizations may increase in the future, requiring high-level hepatology care and follow-up.

In patients with cirrhosis, the risk of developing VTE is significantly increased due to the reduced ability to synthesize anticoagulation factors[38]. In line with these findings, we also noted a higher prevalence of VTE in the AC cohort. In addition, the presence of VTE was identified as a mortality predictor. Therefore, cirrhotic patients should undergo a case-by-case consideration of thromboprophylaxis for deep vein thrombosis[39]. Another significant variable observed in our data was the higher prevalence of atrial fibrillation among the AC cohort. A nationwide study conducted in Korea demonstrated a 46% increased risk of developing atrial fibrillation in cirrhotic patients compared to the non-cirrhotic control group[40]. Furthermore, with COVID-19 in these patients, there is a higher chance of observing electrocardiographic abnormalities. In a systematic review, a fourfold higher risk of death was reported among COVID-19 patients with atrial fibrillation[41]. This finding overlaps with our data, where atrial fibrillation was also identified as a mortality predictor. Upon multivariate analysis, we also identified cardiac arrhythmias and coagulopathy as mortality predictors for the AC cohort. Therefore, cirrhotic patients must be carefully monitored before being discharged home to prevent such serious complications. Notably, the clinical management of cirrhotics with COVID-19 is complicated because most pharmacological agents are metabolized by cytochrome P450 monooxygenases in the liver[42]. Therefore, patients with COVID-19 may have a higher risk of developing hepatotoxicity in the presence of CLD due to drug-drug interactions [42]. This might have contributed to the overall ICU admission rate reported in the AC cohort in our study.

Recent research revealed several associations between SARS-CoV-2 infection and medical conditions that may lead to liver dysfunction[43]. Moreover, studies have demonstrated that there is an increased risk of decompensation and mortality in COVID-19 patients with pre-existing cirrhosis[44]. This can possibly be attributed to cirrhosis-related immunological modulation, insufficient physiological reserves, and an increased risk of severe COVID-19 disease[43,44]. The underlying mechanism of liver injury secondary to COVID-19 is multifactorial. SARS-CoV-2 may induce direct hepatotoxicity *via* cholangiocytes, translocation from the gut to the liver, or indirect liver damage from systemic inflammation, hypoxia, ischemic insult, or drug-induced liver injury[44]. While the expression of ACE-2 receptors on hepatocytes has been reported, a substantial contribution from indirect causes of liver injury has been described in COVID-19 patients [44]. Furthermore, treating severe COVID-19 infection with certain antiviral agents, immunomodulators, and supportive agents may also cause hepatotoxicity[44]. Large registries report a case fatality rate of 38%, rising to 70% in the Child-Pugh C category[7,44]. These findings highlight the need for vigilant pharmacological management. Further research is warranted to evaluate the pathological interplay between AC and COVID-19. It is particularly important to understand the mechanisms of liver injury and the impact of COVID-19 on pre-existing liver disease.

Our retrospective study is one of the largest to evaluate the specific clinical impact of AC on COVID-19 hospitalizations. We analyzed the patient outcomes based on comorbidities, mechanical ventilation, ICU admission, and mortality predictors. Given the critical nature of the disease association, a multidisciplinary approach is required to manage hospitalized COVID-19 patients with AC. This study will provide invaluable information with regard to identifying high-risk patients and monitoring the factors associated with the rising prevalence of AC. One of the major strengths of this study is the detailed comparison between COVID-19 patients with and without AC. This allows for a better understanding of the variables associated with mortality among the two cohorts.

Limitations

We acknowledge certain limitations to our study. The ICD-10 coding system may present inaccurate data when utilizing a large database like NIS, which may potentially skew the analysis. In addition, the NIS data might only be representative of those hospitals participating in the Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project[45]. The information regarding severity of the disease or treatment is not provided in the NIS database. The COVID-19 waves varied from state to state within the United States. Hence, some areas were more heavily impacted than others. Upon analysis of geographical regions in our data, urban teaching hospitals had a greater number of patients with AC. A nationwide study of hospitalized patients in the United States identified urban hospitals as being associated with a greater risk of infection in cirrhotic patients[46]. These infections included sepsis, pneumonia, and spontaneous bacterial peritonitis[46]. Therefore, the mortality rate might be higher, especially in urban hospitals. Moreover, it can be difficult to diagnose chronic non-AC as COVID-19 may lead to abnormalities in liver function testing in hospitalized patients[47,48].

CONCLUSION

This study has thoroughly analyzed the influence of AC on COVID-19 hospitalizations. Our results indicate that the presence of AC does not significantly impact mortality in COVID-19 patients, warranting further evaluation in a larger cohort. Interestingly, despite the higher ECI scores among the AC cohort, the length of stay and ICU admission rates were comparatively similar across the non-AC cohort. Advanced age was found to be a predictor of death in patients with AC, along with other variables like cardiac arrhythmias, coagulopathy, protein-calorie malnutrition, fluid and electrolyte disorders, septic shock, and upper extremity VTE. Due to the multifactorial nature of hepatic injury in COVID-19, further research will be required to evaluate effective pharmacological treatments in COVID-19 patients with AC. Despite the fact that COVID-19 transmission has slowed down, identifying high-risk groups early on is important. It will make it more convenient for hospitalized COVID-19 patients with AC to receive a tailored medical treatment that could improve their prognosis.

ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTS

Research background

Patients with chronic liver disease (CLD) may be at risk of adverse outcomes following coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). Initial findings from Wuhan indicated potential liver injury in COVID-19 patients. With the growing role of obesity and alcohol, understanding the specific implications of alcohol-associated cirrhosis (AC) for patients with COVID-19 is of paramount clinical importance for prognostication and appropriate therapeutic strategy.

Research motivation

Cirrhosis is typically associated with immune system impairments, which might hinder the ability of patients to combat COVID-19. While several studies have indicated an increased risk of COVID-19 severity in cirrhotic patients, the specific impact of AC on inpatient outcomes remains incompletely defined.

Research objectives

This study primarily aims to assess the impact of AC on inpatient outcomes and mortality rates in patients hospitalized with COVID-19 compared to those without AC. Furthermore, we intend to identify predictors of mortality within the COVID-19 patient cohort with AC.

Research methods

A retrospective cohort study was conducted using the National Inpatient Sample database 2020, focusing on hospitalizations with a primary diagnosis of COVID-19. Two cohorts were established based on the presence or absence of AC. Propensity score matching was used to compare the cohorts and a range of statistical analyses were applied to the data.

Research results

Of the 738010 patients hospitalized with COVID-19 that fulfilled the selection criteria, 1325 with AC were compared to 1135 without AC. It was found that AC did not significantly increase mortality in COVID-19 patients. However, it was linked to a higher prevalence of inpatient complications, especially in certain demographics and those with higher Elixhauser Comorbidity Index scores.

Research conclusions

AC does not increase mortality rates in the context of COVID-19 hospitalizations. However, it is associated with a heightened prevalence of certain inpatient complications. Despite these systemic complications, there was no noticeable difference in intensive care unit requirements, length of stay, or hospital charges between AC and non-AC groups.

Research perspectives

This research provides valuable insights into the implications of AC for COVID-19 patients. It prompts clinicians to conduct future research and delve deeper into understanding the exact mechanisms leading to these complications in COVID-19 patients with AC. Exploring preventive measures or pharmacological treatment adjustments for this vulnerable population may improve patient outcomes.

FOOTNOTES

Author contributions: Inayat F, Ali H, Patel P, Dhillon R, and Afzal A conceived and designed the study, participated in the acquisition of data, interpretation of results, writing of the original draft, and critical revisions of the important intellectual content of the final manuscript; Rehman AU, Afzal MS, Zulfiqar L, Nawaz G, Goraya MHN, Subramaniam S, and Agrawal S contributed to the analysis and interpretation of results and drafting of the manuscript; Satapathy SK reviewed, revised, and improved the manuscript by suggesting pertinent modifications; and all authors critically assessed, edited, and approved the final manuscript and are accountable for all aspects of the work.

Institutional review board statement: The data of patients was not acquired from any specific institution but rather open-access United States National Inpatient Sample (NIS) database. The NIS contains de-identified information, protecting the privacy of patients, physicians, and hospitals. Therefore, it was deemed exempt from the institutional review board.

Informed consent statement: Participants were not required to give informed consent for this retrospective cohort study since the analysis of baseline characteristics used anonymized clinical data.

Conflict-of-interest statement: All the authors report no relevant conflicts of interest for this article.

Data sharing statement: No additional data are available.

STROBE statement: The authors have read the STROBE Statement-checklist of items, and the manuscript was prepared and revised according to the STROBE Statement-checklist of items.

Open-Access: This article is an open-access article that was selected by an in-house editor and fully peer-reviewed by external reviewers. It is distributed in accordance with the Creative Commons Attribution NonCommercial (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: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>

Country/Territory of origin: United States

ORCID number: Faisal Inayat 0000-0001-7576-7319; Hassam Ali 0000-0001-5546-9197; Pratik Patel 0000-0003-1375-8542; Sanjaya K Satapathy 0000-0003-0153-2829.

S-Editor: Wang JJ

L-Editor: A

P-Editor: Wang JJ

REFERENCES

- 1 **World Health Organization.** WHO Coronavirus (COVID-19) Dashboard. [cited 21 June 2023]. Available from: <https://www.covid19.who.int>
- 2 **Chen N,** Zhou M, Dong X, Qu J, Gong F, Han Y, Qiu Y, Wang J, Liu Y, Wei Y, Xia J, Yu T, Zhang X, Zhang L. Epidemiological and clinical characteristics of 99 cases of 2019 novel coronavirus pneumonia in Wuhan, China: a descriptive study. *Lancet* 2020; **395**: 507-513 [PMID: 32007143 DOI: 10.1016/S0140-6736(20)30211-7]
- 3 **Qi RB,** Wu ZH. Association between COVID-19 and chronic liver disease: Mechanism, diagnosis, damage, and treatment. *World J Virol* 2023; **12**: 22-29 [PMID: 36743657 DOI: 10.5501/wjv.v12.i1.22]
- 4 **Gao X,** Lv F, He X, Zhao Y, Liu Y, Zu J, Henry L, Wang J, Yeo YH, Ji F, Nguyen MH. Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on liver disease-related mortality rates in the United States. *J Hepatol* 2023; **78**: 16-27 [PMID: 35988691 DOI: 10.1016/j.jhep.2022.07.028]
- 5 **Moon AM,** Singal AG, Tapper EB. Contemporary Epidemiology of Chronic Liver Disease and Cirrhosis. *Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2020; **18**: 2650-2666 [PMID: 31401364 DOI: 10.1016/j.cgh.2019.07.060]
- 6 **Huang DQ,** Terrault NA, Tacke F, Gluud LL, Arrese M, Bugianesi E, Loomba R. Global epidemiology of cirrhosis - aetiology, trends and predictions. *Nat Rev Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2023; **20**: 388-398 [PMID: 36977794 DOI: 10.1038/s41575-023-00759-2]
- 7 **Marjot T,** Moon AM, Cook JA, Abd-Elsalam S, Aloman C, Armstrong MJ, Pose E, Brenner EJ, Cargill T, Catana MA, Dhanasekaran R, Eshraghian A, García-Juárez I, Gill US, Jones PD, Kennedy J, Marshall A, Matthews C, Mells G, Mercer C, Perumalswami PV, Avitabile E, Qi X, Su F, Ufere NN, Wong YJ, Zheng MH, Barnes E, Barritt AS 4th, Webb GJ. Outcomes following SARS-CoV-2 infection in patients with chronic liver disease: An international registry study. *J Hepatol* 2021; **74**: 567-577 [PMID: 33035628 DOI: 10.1016/j.jhep.2020.09.024]
- 8 **Albillos A,** Martin-Mateos R, Van der Merwe S, Wiest R, Jalan R, Álvarez-Mon M. Cirrhosis-associated immune dysfunction. *Nat Rev Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2022; **19**: 112-134 [PMID: 34703031 DOI: 10.1038/s41575-021-00520-7]

- 9 **Gaspar R**, Castelo Branco C, Macedo G. Liver and COVID-19: From care of patients with liver diseases to liver injury. *World J Hepatol* 2021; **13**: 1367-1377 [PMID: 34786172 DOI: 10.4254/wjh.v13.i10.1367]
- 10 **Nagarajan R**, Krishnamoorthy Y, Rajaa S, Hariharan VS. COVID-19 Severity and Mortality Among Chronic Liver Disease Patients: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. *Prev Chronic Dis* 2022; **19**: E53 [PMID: 36007255 DOI: 10.5888/pcd19.210228]
- 11 **Kapurja D**, Gangu K, Chourasia P, Boba A, Nguyen A, Ryu M, Peicher M, Flores M, Chela HK, Daglilar ES, Sheikh AB, Shekhar R. COVID-19 Alcoholic Cirrhosis and Non-Alcoholic Steatohepatitis Cirrhosis Outcomes among Hospitalized Patients in the United States: Insight from National Inpatient Sample Database. *Trop Med Infect Dis* 2022; **7**: 421 [PMID: 36548676 DOI: 10.3390/tropicalmed7120421]
- 12 **Bajaj JS**, Garcia-Tsao G, Biggins SW, Kamath PS, Wong F, McGeorge S, Shaw J, Pearson M, Chew M, Fagan A, de la Rosa Rodriguez R, Worthington J, Olofson A, Weir V, Trisolini C, Dwyer S, Reddy KR. Comparison of mortality risk in patients with cirrhosis and COVID-19 compared with patients with cirrhosis alone and COVID-19 alone: multicentre matched cohort. *Gut* 2021; **70**: 531-536 [PMID: 32660964 DOI: 10.1136/gutjnl-2020-322118]
- 13 **Ge J**, Pletcher MJ, Lai JC; N3C Consortium. Outcomes of SARS-CoV-2 Infection in Patients With Chronic Liver Disease and Cirrhosis: A National COVID Cohort Collaborative Study. *Gastroenterology* 2021; **161**: 1487-1501.e5 [PMID: 34284037 DOI: 10.1053/j.gastro.2021.07.010]
- 14 **Moon AM**, Webb GJ, Aloman C, Armstrong MJ, Cargill T, Dhanasekaran R, Genescà J, Gill US, James TW, Jones PD, Marshall A, Mells G, Perumalswami PV, Qi X, Su F, Ufere NN, Barnes E, Barritt AS, Marjot T. High mortality rates for SARS-CoV-2 infection in patients with pre-existing chronic liver disease and cirrhosis: Preliminary results from an international registry. *J Hepatol* 2020; **73**: 705-708 [PMID: 32446714 DOI: 10.1016/j.jhep.2020.05.013]
- 15 **Grgurevic I**, Lucijanić M, Pastrovic F, Barisic Jaman M, Tjesic Drinkovic I, Zelenika M, Milosevic M, Medic B, Kardum D, Bokun T, Luksic I, Piskac Zivkovic N, Keres T, Grabovac V, Persec J, Barsic B. Short-term outcomes of patients with chronic liver disease hospitalised with COVID-19. *Intern Med J* 2022; **52**: 1891-1899 [PMID: 35555962 DOI: 10.1111/imj.15817]
- 16 **Yoo HW**, Jin HY, Yon DK, Effenberger M, Shin YH, Kim SY, Yang JM, Kim MS, Koyanagi A, Jacob L, Smith L, Yoo IK, Shin JI, Lee SW. Non-alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease and COVID-19 Susceptibility and Outcomes: a Korean Nationwide Cohort. *J Korean Med Sci* 2021; **36**: e291 [PMID: 34697932 DOI: 10.3346/jkms.2021.36.e291]
- 17 **Kim D**, Adeniji N, Latt N, Kumar S, Bloom PP, Aby ES, Perumalswami P, Roytman M, Li M, Vogel AS, Catana AM, Wegermann K, Carr RM, Aloman C, Chen VL, Rabiee A, Sadowski B, Nguyen V, Dunn W, Chavin KD, Zhou K, Lizaola-Mayo B, Moghe A, Debes J, Lee TH, Branch AD, Viveiros K, Chan W, Chascsa DM, Kwo P, Dhanasekaran R. Predictors of Outcomes of COVID-19 in Patients With Chronic Liver Disease: US Multi-center Study. *Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2021; **19**: 1469-1479.e19 [PMID: 32950749 DOI: 10.1016/j.cgh.2020.09.027]
- 18 **von Elm E**, Altman DG, Egger M, Pocock SJ, Gøtzsche PC, Vandenbroucke JP; STROBE Initiative. The Strengthening of Reporting of Observational Studies in Epidemiology (STROBE) Statement: guidelines for reporting observational studies. *Int J Surg* 2014; **12**: 1495-1499 [PMID: 25046131 DOI: 10.1016/j.ijsu.2014.07.013]
- 19 **Nationwide Inpatient Sample**. Rockville, MD: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. [cited 25 June 2023]. Available from: <http://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/nisoverview.jsp>
- 20 **Clausen S**, Stahlman S, Cost A. Early use of ICD-10-CM code "U07.1, COVID-19" to identify 2019 novel coronavirus cases in Military Health System administrative data. *MSMR* 2020; **27**: 55-59 [PMID: 32479104]
- 21 **Patel P**, Ali H, Inayat F, Pamarthy R, Giammarino A, Ilyas F, Smith-Martinez LA, Satapathy SK. Racial and gender-based disparities and trends in common psychiatric conditions in liver cirrhosis hospitalizations: A ten-year United States study. *World J Hepatol* 2023; **15**: 289-302 [PMID: 36926245 DOI: 10.4254/wjh.v15.i2.289]
- 22 **Austin PC**. Balance diagnostics for comparing the distribution of baseline covariates between treatment groups in propensity-score matched samples. *Stat Med* 2009; **28**: 3083-3107 [PMID: 19757444 DOI: 10.1002/sim.3697]
- 23 **Huang DQ**, Mathurin P, Cortez-Pinto H, Loomba R. Global epidemiology of alcohol-associated cirrhosis and HCC: trends, projections and risk factors. *Nat Rev Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2023; **20**: 37-49 [PMID: 36258033 DOI: 10.1038/s41575-022-00688-6]
- 24 **Pollard MS**, Tucker JS, Green HD Jr. Changes in Adult Alcohol Use and Consequences During the COVID-19 Pandemic in the US. *JAMA Netw Open* 2020; **3**: e2022942 [PMID: 32990735 DOI: 10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2020.22942]
- 25 **Kim IH**, Kisseleva T, Brenner DA. Aging and liver disease. *Curr Opin Gastroenterol* 2015; **31**: 184-191 [PMID: 25850346 DOI: 10.1097/MOG.0000000000000176]
- 26 **Krishnan A**, Prichett L, Liu Y, Ting PS, Alqahtani SA, Kim AK, Ma M, Hamilton JP, Woreta TA, Chen PH. Risk of Severe Illness and Risk Factors of Outcomes of COVID-19 in Hospitalized Patients with Chronic Liver Disease in a Major U. S. Hospital Network. *Can J Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2022; **2022**: 8407990 [PMID: 36387036 DOI: 10.1155/2022/8407990]
- 27 **Shalimar AE**, Elhence A, Vaishnav M, Kumar R, Pathak P, Soni KD, Aggarwal R, Soneja M, Jorwal P, Kumar A, Khanna P, Singh AK, Biswas A, Nischal N, Dar L, Choudhary A, Rangarajan K, Mohan A, Acharya P, Nayak B, Gunjan D, Saraya A, Mahapatra S, Makharia G, Trikha A, Garg P. Poor outcomes in patients with cirrhosis and Corona Virus Disease-19. *Indian J Gastroenterol* 2020; **39**: 285-291 [PMID: 32803716 DOI: 10.1007/s12664-020-01074-3]
- 28 **Simbrunner B**, Hartl L, Jachs M, Bauer DJM, Scheiner B, Hofer BS, Stättermayer AF, Marculescu R, Trauner M, Mandorfer M, Reiberger T. Dysregulated biomarkers of innate and adaptive immunity predict infections and disease progression in cirrhosis. *JHEP Rep* 2023; **5**: 100712 [PMID: 37035457 DOI: 10.1016/j.jhepr.2023.100712]
- 29 **Bolarín JM**, Pérez-Cárceles MD, Hernández Del Rincón JP, Luna A, Minguela A, Muro M, Legaz I. Causes of Death and Survival in Alcoholic Cirrhosis Patients Undergoing Liver Transplantation: Influence of the Patient's Clinical Variables and Transplant Outcome Complications. *Diagnostics (Basel)* 2021; **11**: 968 [PMID: 34072173 DOI: 10.3390/diagnostics11060968]
- 30 **Guerra Veloz MF**, Cordero Ruiz P, Rios-Villegas MJ, Del Pino Bellido P, Bravo-Ferrer J, Galvés Cordero R, Cadena Herrera ML, Vías Parrado C, Bellido Muñoz F, Vega Rodríguez F, Caunedo Álvarez Á, Rodríguez-Baño J, Carmona Soria I. Liver manifestations in COVID-19 and the influence of pre-existing liver disease in the course of the infection. *Rev Esp Enferm Dig* 2021; **113**: 103-109 [PMID: 33393329 DOI: 10.17235/reed.2020.7627/2020]
- 31 **Schütte A**, Ciesek S, Wedemeyer H, Lange CM. Influenza virus infection as precipitating event of acute-on-chronic liver failure. *J Hepatol* 2019; **70**: 797-799 [PMID: 30635243 DOI: 10.1016/j.jhep.2018.11.015]
- 32 **Paizis G**, Tikellis C, Cooper ME, Schembri JM, Lew RA, Smith AI, Shaw T, Warner FJ, Zuilli A, Burrell LM, Angus PW. Chronic liver injury in rats and humans upregulates the novel enzyme angiotensin converting enzyme 2. *Gut* 2005; **54**: 1790-1796 [PMID: 16166274 DOI: 10.1136/gut.2004.062398]
- 33 **Gao F**, Zheng KI, Fan YC, Targher G, Byrne CD, Zheng MH. ACE2: A Linkage for the Interplay Between COVID-19 and Decompensated

- Cirrhosis. *Am J Gastroenterol* 2020; **115**: 1544 [PMID: 32694292 DOI: 10.14309/ajg.0000000000000780]
- 34 **Hanafy AS**, Abd-Elsalam S. Challenges in COVID-19 drug treatment in patients with advanced liver diseases: A hepatology perspective. *World J Gastroenterol* 2020; **26**: 7272-7286 [PMID: 33362383 DOI: 10.3748/wjg.v26.i46.7272]
- 35 **Gananandan K**, Phillips A, Chikhliya A, Old H, Sim SJY, Thakur N, Hussain I, Kazankov K, Mookerjee RP. Negative impact of the pandemic on hospital admissions, morbidity and early mortality for acute cirrhosis decompensation. *BMJ Open Gastroenterol* 2023; **10**: e001071 [PMID: 36650007 DOI: 10.1136/bmjgast-2022-001071]
- 36 **Mahmud N**, Hubbard RA, Kaplan DE, Serper M. Declining Cirrhosis Hospitalizations in the Wake of the COVID-19 Pandemic: A National Cohort Study. *Gastroenterology* 2020; **159**: 1134-1136.e3 [PMID: 32387493 DOI: 10.1053/j.gastro.2020.05.005]
- 37 **Julien J**, Ayer T, Tapper EB, Barbosa C, Dowd WN, Chhatwal J. Effect of increased alcohol consumption during COVID-19 pandemic on alcohol-associated liver disease: A modeling study. *Hepatology* 2022; **75**: 1480-1490 [PMID: 34878683 DOI: 10.1002/hep.32272]
- 38 **Wu H**, Nguyen GC. Liver cirrhosis is associated with venous thromboembolism among hospitalized patients in a nationwide US study. *Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2010; **8**: 800-805 [PMID: 20566312 DOI: 10.1016/j.cgh.2010.05.014]
- 39 **Roberts LN**, Hernandez-Gea V, Magnusson M, Stanworth S, Thachil J, Tripodi A, Lisman T. Thromboprophylaxis for venous thromboembolism prevention in hospitalized patients with cirrhosis: Guidance from the SSC of the ISTH. *J Thromb Haemost* 2022; **20**: 2237-2245 [PMID: 35948998 DOI: 10.1111/jth.15829]
- 40 **Lee H**, Choi EK, Rhee TM, Lee SR, Lim WH, Kang SH, Han KD, Cha MJ, Oh S. Cirrhosis is a risk factor for atrial fibrillation: A nationwide, population-based study. *Liver Int* 2017; **37**: 1660-1667 [PMID: 28432810 DOI: 10.1111/liv.13459]
- 41 **Romiti GF**, Corica B, Lip GYH, Proietti M. Prevalence and Impact of Atrial Fibrillation in Hospitalized Patients with COVID-19: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. *J Clin Med* 2021; **10**: 2490 [PMID: 34199857 DOI: 10.3390/jcm10112490]
- 42 **Wang G**, Xiao B, Deng J, Gong L, Li Y, Li J, Zhong Y. The Role of Cytochrome P450 Enzymes in COVID-19 Pathogenesis and Therapy. *Front Pharmacol* 2022; **13**: 791922 [PMID: 35185562 DOI: 10.3389/fphar.2022.791922]
- 43 **Nasa P**, Juneja D, Jain R, Nasa R. COVID-19 and hemolysis, elevated liver enzymes and thrombocytopenia syndrome in pregnant women - association or causation? *World J Virol* 2022; **11**: 310-320 [PMID: 36188744 DOI: 10.5501/wjv.v11.i5.310]
- 44 **Nasa P**, Alexander G. COVID-19 and the liver: What do we know so far? *World J Hepatol* 2021; **13**: 522-532 [PMID: 34131467 DOI: 10.4254/wjh.v13.i5.522]
- 45 **Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project**. Rockville, MD: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. [cited 25 June 2023]. Available from: <https://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov>
- 46 **Singal AK**, Salameh H, Kamath PS. Prevalence and in-hospital mortality trends of infections among patients with cirrhosis: a nationwide study of hospitalised patients in the United States. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2014; **40**: 105-112 [PMID: 24832591 DOI: 10.1111/apt.12797]
- 47 **Saleem S**, Ishtiaq R, Inayat F, Aziz M, Bleibel W. Gastrointestinal and Liver Manifestations in COVID-19 Population. *Middle East J Dig Dis* 2021; **13**: 281-286 [PMID: 36606012 DOI: 10.34172/mejdd.2021.236]
- 48 **Cai Q**, Huang D, Yu H, Zhu Z, Xia Z, Su Y, Li Z, Zhou G, Gou J, Qu J, Sun Y, Liu Y, He Q, Chen J, Liu L, Xu L. COVID-19: Abnormal liver function tests. *J Hepatol* 2020; **73**: 566-574 [PMID: 32298767 DOI: 10.1016/j.jhep.2020.04.006]



Published by **Baishideng Publishing Group Inc**
7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite 160, Pleasanton, CA 94566, USA
Telephone: +1-925-3991568
E-mail: bpgoffice@wjgnet.com
Help Desk: <https://www.f6publishing.com/helpdesk>
<https://www.wjgnet.com>

