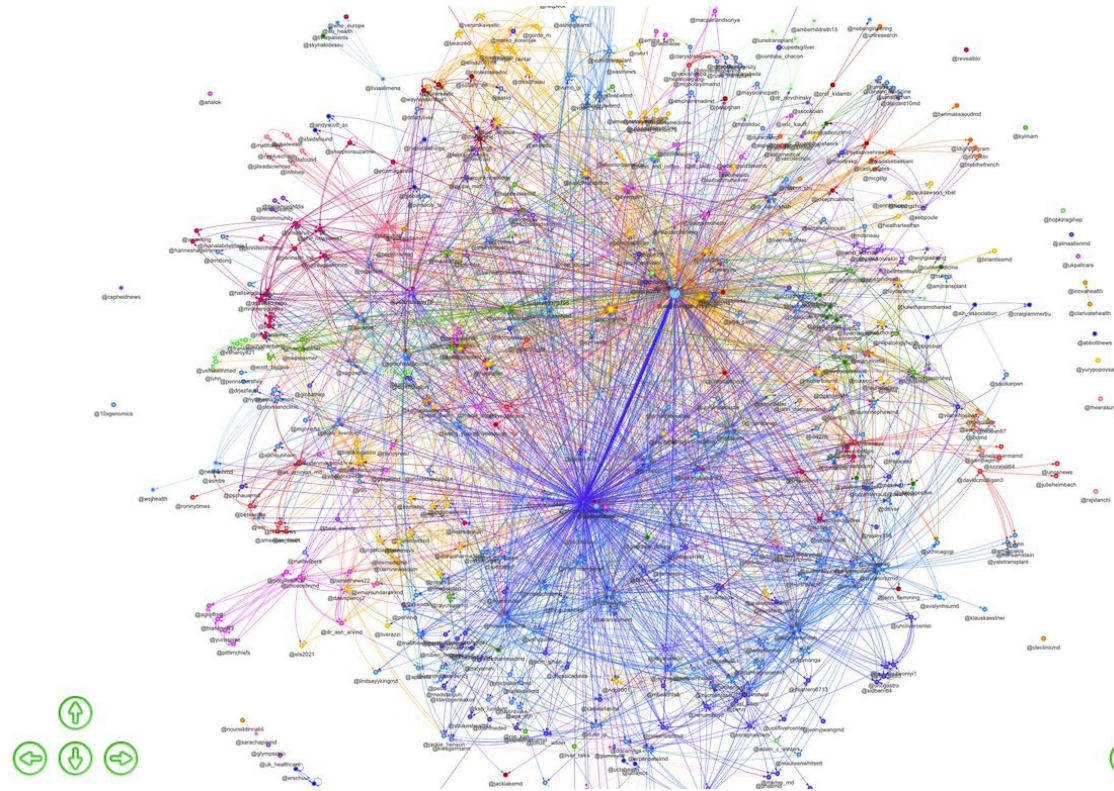


# Highlights from 2021 AASLD meeting

Rob Goldin











[r.goldin@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:r.goldin@imperial.ac.uk)

# Social Media Network for the Meeting













## The #LiverMtg21 Influencers











### Top 10 Influential

-  @AASLDtweets 100
-  @AtoosaRabiee 74
-  @LizzieAbyMD 64
-  @HowardTLeeMD 61
-  @jturnesv 58
-  @AndrewMMoon 54
-  @rabataller 54
-  @sconglymd 50
-  @ebtapper 48
-  @AASLDFoundation 48

### Prolific Tweeters

-  @EuropeLiver 366
-  @ShimaghavimiMD 350
-  @HowardTLeeMD 144
-  @liverpath 143
-  @AtoosaRabiee 139
-  @jturnesv 125
-  @sconglymd 102
-  @JCabezasGlez 102
-  @AASLDPresident 99
-  @DrJHK 89

### Highest Impressions

-  @wedocaresaudi 5.4M
-  @EuropeLiver 2.8M
-  @NeilFlochMD 1.6M
-  @drmoutaz 1.5M
-  @AASLDtweets 1.5M
-  @LancetGastroHep 964.2K
-  @ShimaghavimiMD 878.2K
-  @LizHIVHep 846.2K
-  @AtoosaRabiee 628.8K
-  @ebtapper 568.2K

## The Numbers

25.943M

Impressions

5,990

Tweets

1,323

Participants

50

Avg Tweets/Hour

5

Avg Tweets/Participant

 Tweet

Twitter data from the #LiverMtg21 hashtag from Thu, November 11th 2021, 6:00AM to Tue, November 16th 2021, 6:00AM (Europe/Madrid) – Symplur.



symplur

# Liver Biopsy

# 684 ENDOSCOPIC ULTRASOUND-GUIDED LIVER BIOPSY IS COMPARABLE TO PERCUTANEOUS LIVER BIOPSY

- Primary outcome was to compare the rates of adequacy of sample defined as presence of  $\geq 11$  complete portal tracts and  $>15$ mm in length
- A final pathological diagnosis was reached in all subjects in both groups.
- The rate of adequate sample was higher in the PCTLB however it was not statistically significant (55.6% vs 75%,  $p=0.1$ ).
- The mean of total portal tracts obtained via PCT-LB was higher compared to EUS-LB (12.5 vs 18.9,  $p=0.009$ ).
- However, there was no difference in the mean maximum length of biopsy specimen (19.4mm vs 19.6mm,  $p=0.93$ ).

# ENDOSCOPIC ULTRASOUND-GUIDED LIVER BIOPSY IS COMPARABLE TO PERCUTANEOUS LIVER BIOPSY: A RANDOMIZED CLINICAL TRIAL

Table 1: Study Outcomes

	EUS-guided liver biopsy (36 subjects)	Percutaneous liver biopsy (44 subjects)	p value
Mean age in years (SD)	53.4 (13.7)	51.8 (13.8)	0.61
Gender [Female]	26 (72%)	27 (61%)	0.34
Maximum length of biopsy specimen (mm)			
Mean (SD)	19.5 (5.8)	19.6 (5.7)	0.93
Number of complete portal tracts			
Mean (SD)	12.5 (10.6)	18.9 (10.5)	0.009
0 – 4	5	4	
5 – 10	11	7	
>11	20 (55.6%)	33 (75%)	0.1
Mean Pain Score (VAS) 24-48 hours post procedure (SD)	2.5 (2.1)	4.5 (2.1)	0.0001
Mean length of hospital visit in hours (SD)	2.2 (1.6)	4.02 (1.6)	0.0001

SD: Standard deviation; VAS: Visual Analog Scale

# 692 ENDOSCOPIC ULTRASOUND GUIDED LIVER BIOPSY: LEFT LOBE IS EQUAL TO RIGHT LOBE FOR DIAGNOSIS

- Endoscopic-ultrasound guided liver biopsy (EUS-LB) is a newer modality of taking liver biopsy under direct supervision and sedation.
- The measure of agreement Kappa between left and right lobe was 0.462 ( $p=0.0001$ ).
- Similarly when the left lobe pathological diagnosis was compared with the final combined diagnosis, agreement was seen in 45/50 (90%) of cases ( Kappa 0.474,  $p=0.0001$ ).

# 612 CLINICAL UTILITY OF LIVER BIOPSY

We performed a prospective questionnaire survey study to assess

1. how accurately providers predicted pre-biopsy diagnosis and severity of liver disease, and
2. to determine how histopathology findings might alter would alter the physician's management plan.

# 612 CLINICAL UTILITY OF LIVER BIOPSY

- Well-trained specialists can predict the underlying hepatic pathological abnormality and liver disease stage (fibrosis) with a reasonably high degree of accuracy (63% and 68%, respectively).
- A total of 106 diagnoses (in 81 patient) were suspected
- The most common prebiopsy clinical diagnoses were autoimmune hepatitis and alcoholic liver disease (ALD).
- The most common histological diagnoses were ALD and transplant rejection.
- However, histopathological tissue assessment identifies unsuspected diagnoses in at least one-third of patients, and histologic findings play an important role in management.

# Biliary tract diseases

← → ↻ 🔒 tmdx.org/live-stream/23131770/Basic-Science-Symposium---Part-I ☆

**LIVE**

## Cholangiopathies: Heterogeneous Diseases

**Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis (PSC)**

**Primary Biliary Cholangitis (PBC)**

**Early lesions:**

- Inflammation
- Cholangiocyte activation
- Biliary gland enhancement

**Typical PSC:**

- Intrahepatic biliary ducts and hepatic surface cell activation
- Fibrosis (stromal staining)
- Dysplasia and cholangiocarcinoma

**PBC:**

- Coordinated T & B cell mediated autoimmune cascade with T<sub>H</sub> cell mediated BCC injury
- Loss of the protective bicarbonate-rich umbrella secreted BECs and gradual loss of bile ducts
- Progressive inflammation and biliary fibrosis
- Cholestasis

**Other labels in diagram:** Disease progression, Macrophage, T lymphocyte, Neutrophil, Fibroblast, Hepatic stellate cell, Portal fibroblast, Biliary gland, Biliary stem cell, Stricture, Cholangiocyte proliferation, Cholelithiasis, Bile Duct.

**TLMdX**

**S** Sung Eun Choi

@Ty Troutman Wonderful presentation! When the recruited macrophages shift their signatures into Kupffer cells in NASH, was there any zone-dependent pattern observed? Also, are these regulating Kupffer cells functionally similar to the healthy Kupffer cells?

**T** Ty Troutman

@Sheng Cao Enhancers elements selected with HOMER identified ATAC-seq peaks distally located from transcription start sites. Activity of the enhancers was measured by quantifying H3K27me3 signal at composite ATAC-seq peaks.

**S** Sudha Biddinger

@Ty -- Great talk! Which of your KC populations (KC1, 2, etc) correspond to the TREM2+ macrophages implicated in other studies?

Type your message

**Basic Science Symposium - Part I**

Saturday, November 13th  
10:00 AM - 11:45 AM EST

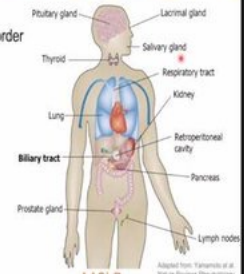
**AASLD FOUNDATION** KNOWLEDGE PRACTICE CURE

# IgG4-RD

- The role of anti-annexin 11 antibodies in the pathogenesis from the disease of IgG4-RD.
- These antibodies may lead to rise in pH of biliary contents resulting in the inflammation seen.

# IgG4-related cholangitis (IRC)

- IgG4-related disease: systemic fibro-inflammatory disorder
- IRC mimics:
  - Primary sclerosing cholangitis
  - Biliary malignancy (misdiagnosis 1)<sup>1</sup>
- Diagnosis:
  - HISORT criteria<sup>2,3</sup>
- Treatment: corticosteroids, azathioprine, rituximab
  - Relapse rate: 30-50%<sup>2,3</sup>

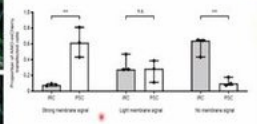
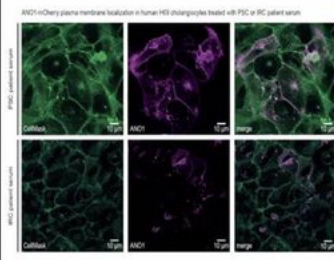


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1. Rock, Huhns et al. Am J Gastroenterol. 2010; 113:765-772  
 2. Chapiro et al. Gastroenterology. 2018; 134: 706-715  
 3. Oh, Baek, Vajnsztein et al. UEG Journal. 2012; 9: 657-660



# IRC patient serum positive for annexin A11 autoantibodies inhibits ANO1 membrane localization

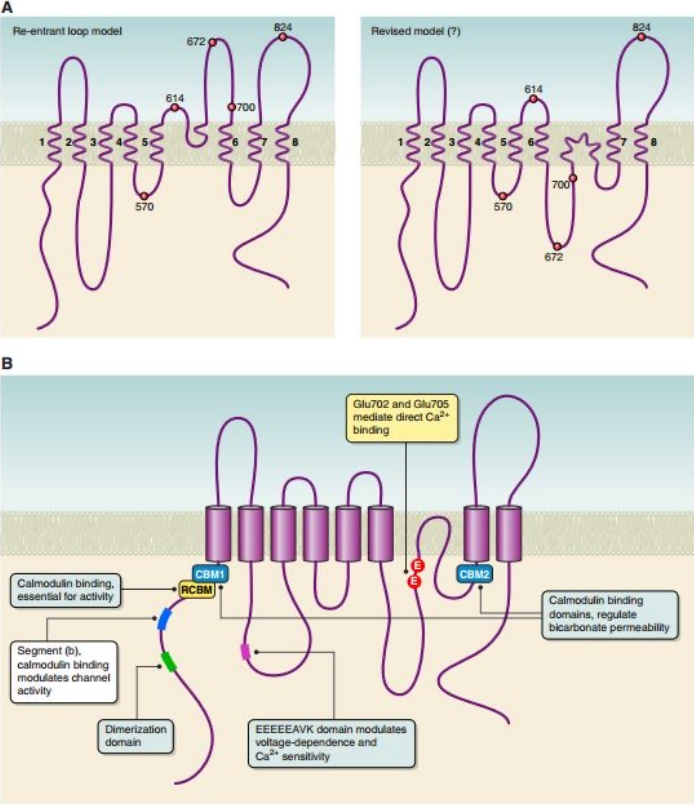


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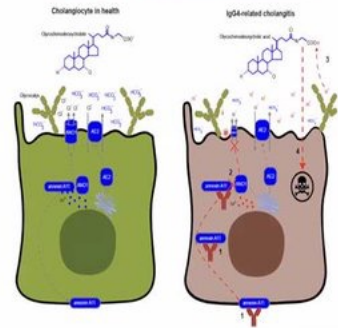
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# Anoctamin 1 (ANO1)



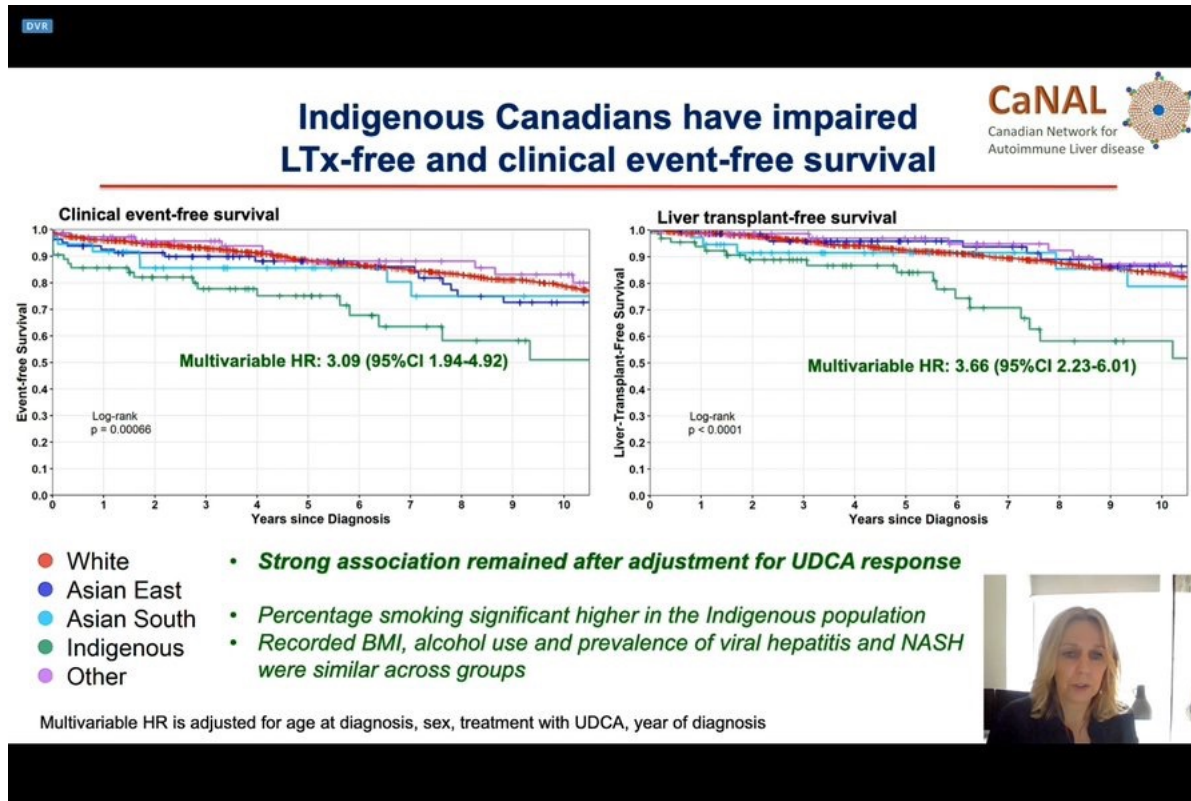
### Annexin A11 autoantibodies in IRC may destabilize the biliary bicarbonate umbrella



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# PBC in Indigenous Canadians



# PBC in Indigenous Canadians

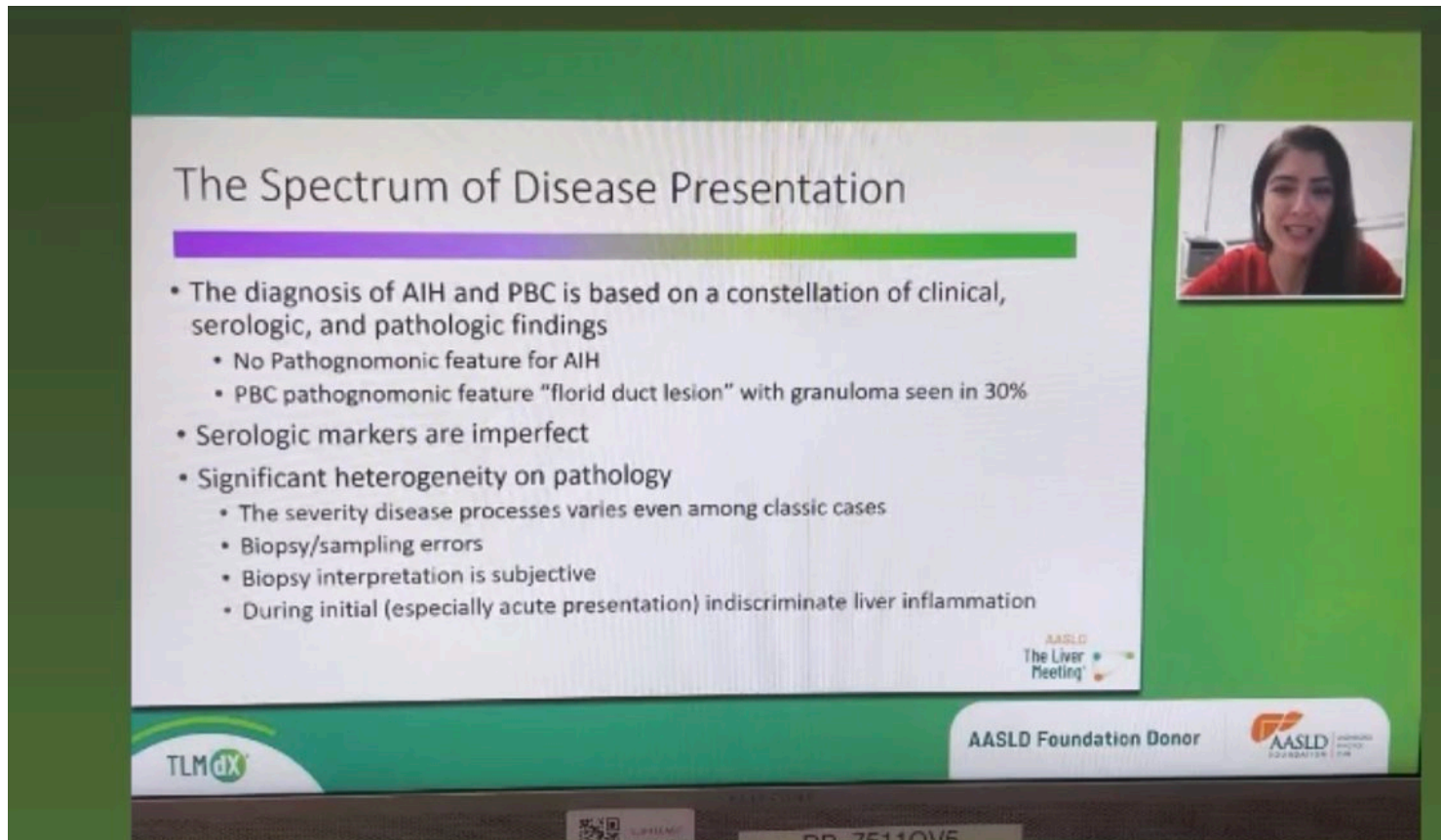
## Conclusion



- Indigenous population with PBC has an impaired event-free survival and liver-transplant-free survival compared to the overall PBC population in Canada
- Indigenous Canadians present with advanced biochemical profile (ALP, bilirubin and Globe Score) which sustained over time
- Indigenous Canadians have lower self-reported QoL. Impairment in majority of PBC-40 domains (fatigue, symptoms, cognitive and emotional)



# AIH and PBC



## The Spectrum of Disease Presentation

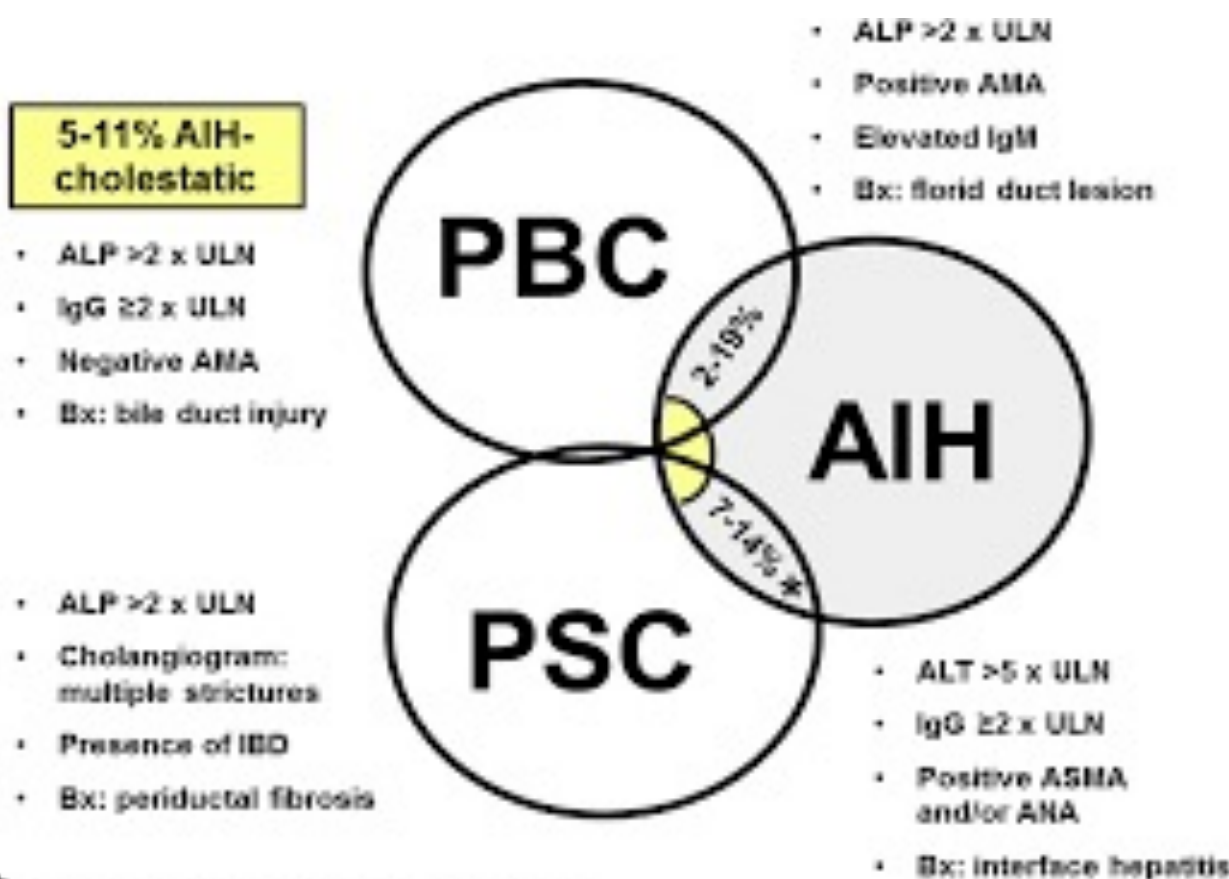
- The diagnosis of AIH and PBC is based on a constellation of clinical, serologic, and pathologic findings
  - No Pathognomonic feature for AIH
  - PBC pathognomonic feature "florid duct lesion" with granuloma seen in 30%
- Serologic markers are imperfect
- Significant heterogeneity on pathology
  - The severity disease processes varies even among classic cases
  - Biopsy/sampling errors
  - Biopsy interpretation is subjective
  - During initial (especially acute presentation) indiscriminate liver inflammation

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TLMdx

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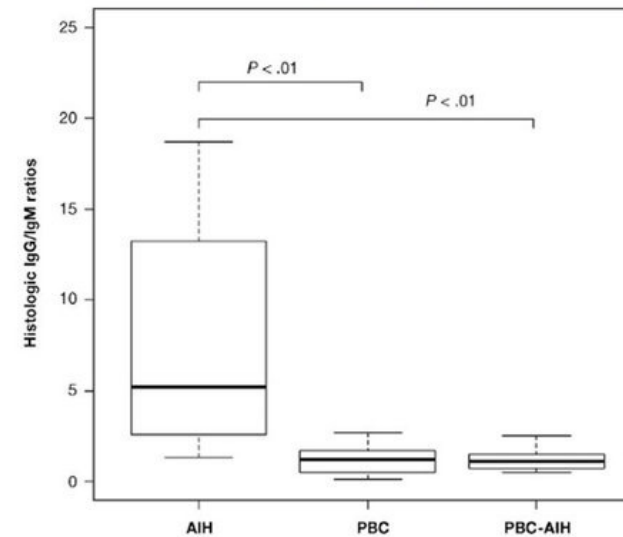
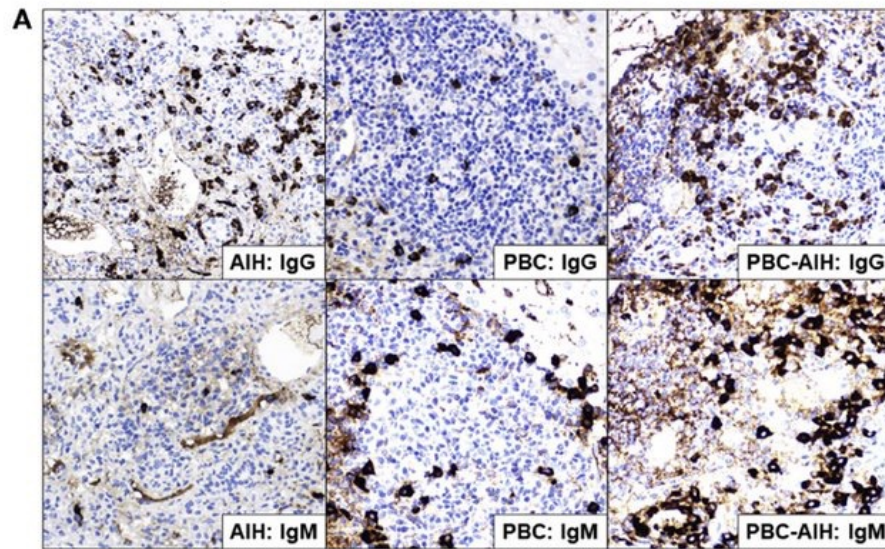
\*Up to 40% in AIH patients with IBD

# PBC and AI Hepatitis

- Many similarities in histologic, biochemical and serologic presentations of AIH and PBC
- Moderately severe interface hepatitis is seen in PBC and is an independent predictor of fibrosis progression
- Lymphocytic cholangitis and even ductopaenia can be seen in AIH

# Immune phenotype of plasma cell and the ratio of IgG+/IgM+ on biopsy suggests PBC-AIH variants more closely resemble PBC.

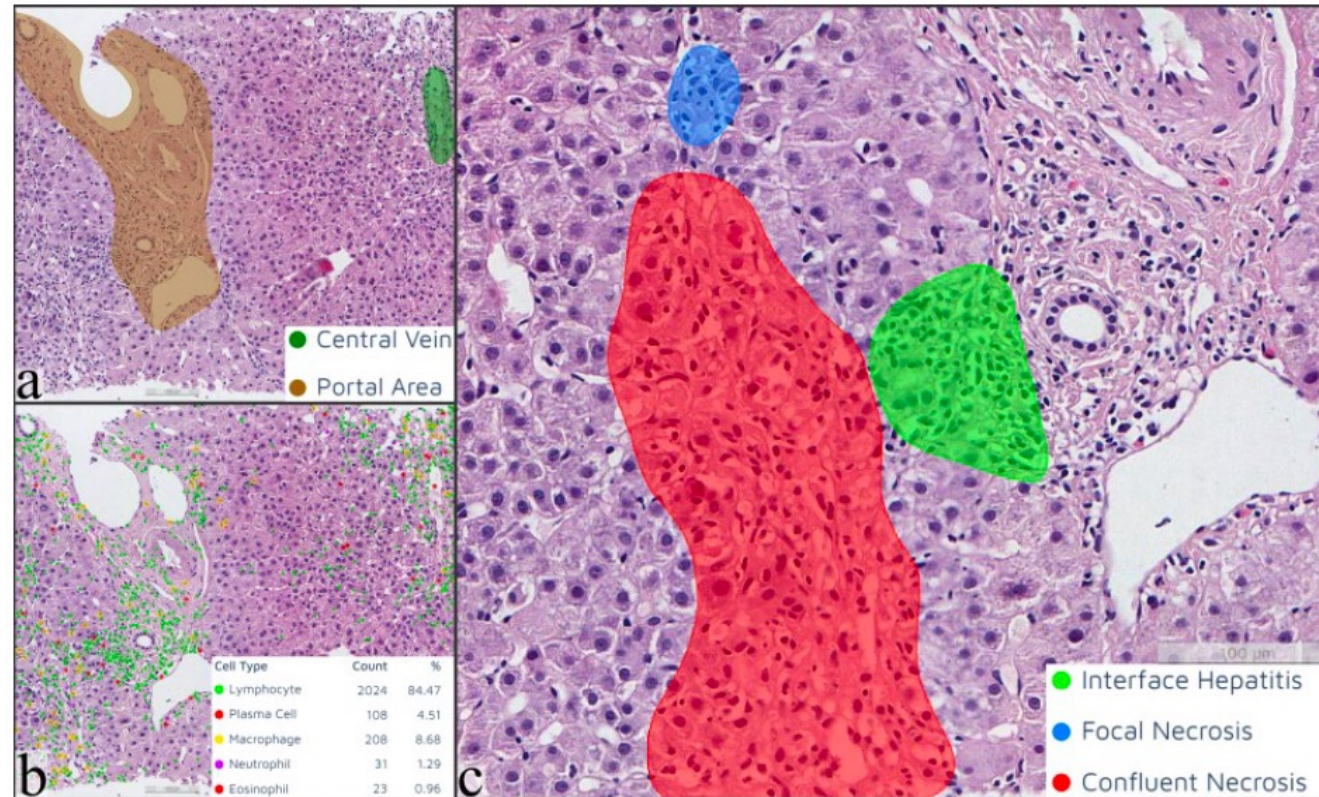
Immunostains for IgG and IgM



# PBC AI Overlap

Latinx/Hispanic PBC pts present more with AIH features, have poor response to TX and worse outcomes.

# DEEP LEARNING MODEL FOR STAGING AND GRADING AUTOIMMUNE HEPATITIS FROM HISTOLOGY



**Fig:** AI predictions on AIH patient biopsy: (a)liver structures, (b)immune cells and counts, and (c) hepatitis lesions including interface hepatitis, focal necrosis and confluent necrosis.

Fatty liver disease

# NASH: Fibrosis scores and Treatment

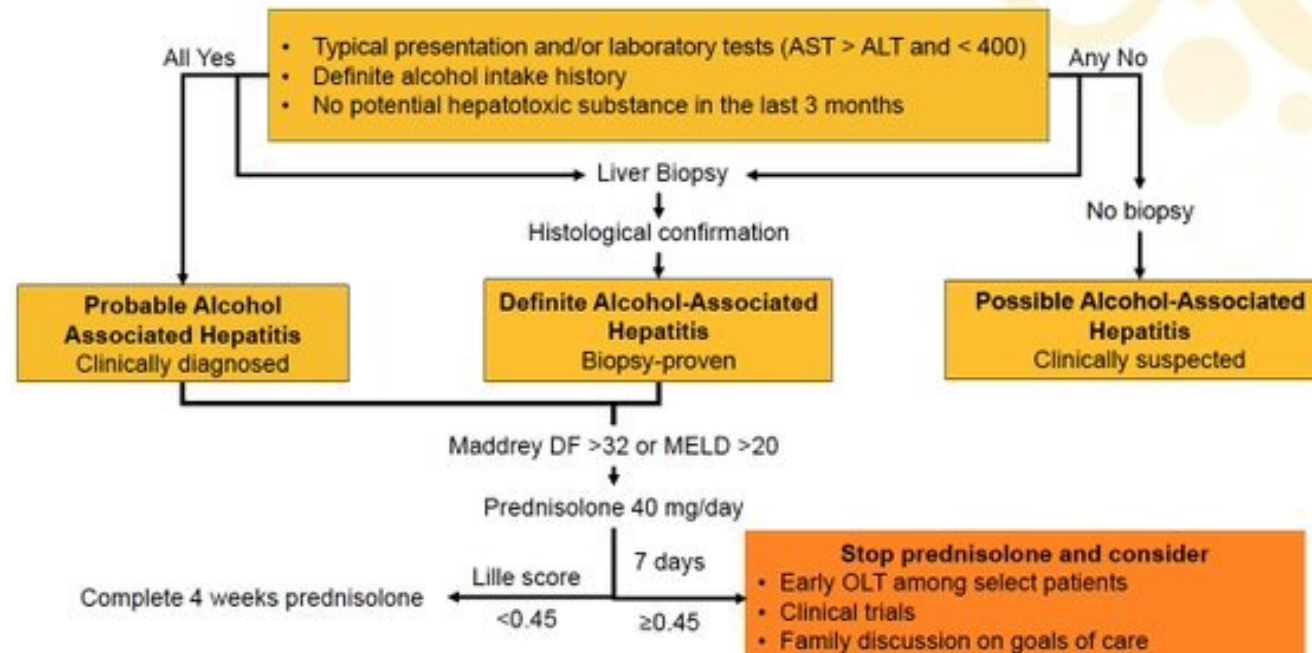
	<b>LOW RISK</b> FIB-4 < 1.3 or LSM < 8 kPa or liver biopsy F0-F1	<b>INDETERMINATE RISK</b> FIB-4 1.3 - 2.67 and/or LSM 8 - 12 kPa and liver biopsy not available	<b>HIGH RISK<sup>1</sup></b> FIB-4 > 2.67 or LSM > 12 kPa or liver biopsy F2-F4
	Management by PCP, dietician, endocrinologist, cardiologist, others	Management by hepatologist with multidisciplinary team (PCP, dietician, endocrinologist, cardiologist, others)	
Lifestyle intervention <sup>2</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes
Weight loss recommended if overweight or obese <sup>3</sup>	Yes May benefit from structured weight loss programs, anti-obesity medications, bariatric surgery	Yes Greater need for structured weight loss programs, anti-obesity medications, bariatric surgery	Yes Strong need for structured weight loss programs, anti-obesity medications, bariatric surgery
Pharmacotherapy for NASH	Not recommended	Yes <sup>4, 5, 6</sup>	Yes <sup>4, 5, 6, 7</sup>
CVD risk reduction <sup>8</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes
Diabetes care	Standard of care	Prefer medications with efficacy in NASH (pioglitazone, GLP-1 RA)	Prefer medications with efficacy in NASH (pioglitazone, GLP-1 RA)

**Footnotes:**

1. Patients with F4 or cirrhosis (based on biopsy, LSM values based on vibration controlled transient elastography (VCTE, FibroScan<sup>®</sup>) or > 5.0 kPa on MRE) should undergo HCC surveillance. Varices screening is recommended if LSM > 20 kPa or platelet count of < 150,000/mm<sup>3</sup>.
2. All patients require regular physical activity, healthy diet, avoid excess alcohol intake.
3. Weight loss recommended for cardiometabolic benefit and reversal of steatosis. Greater weight loss is often associated with more benefit, such as reversal of steatohepatitis (usually with weight loss ≥7%) or fibrosis (usually with weight loss ≥10%).
4. Individualize based on further work-up and efforts to confirm the diagnosis of NASH. A liver biopsy provides helpful information and should be considered for cases where there is a diagnostic doubt such as patients with indeterminate, unreliable, or conflicting non-invasive assessments or as part of phase 2 or 3 clinical trials.
5. No pharmacological agent is FDA-approved for the treatment of NASH. Patients with T2DM may benefit from some diabetes medications, such as pioglitazone<sup>80, 81, 85, 87, 88</sup> and some GLP-1 RAs<sup>84, 85</sup> that have reported histological improvement in RCTs in patients with NASH, either with or without diabetes. Among GLP-1 RAs, semaglutide has the strongest evidence of liver histological benefit<sup>85</sup>.
6. Vitamin E improves steatohepatitis in patients with NASH without diabetes<sup>80</sup>, with less evidence in patients with T2D<sup>81</sup>.
7. Pharmacotherapy in patients with NASH cirrhosis is very limited and should be avoided until more data become available.
8. Statins can be used safely in patients with steatohepatitis and liver fibrosis; to be avoided in decompensated cirrhosis.

# Management of Alcohol Associated Hepatitis

## Alcohol Associated Hepatitis: Management



# Abstract #1246

## Autoimmune Hepatitis (AIH) and Metabolic-associated Fatty Liver Disease (MAFLD) Overlap: Impact on the disease progression

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**Maria Londono**  
Maria Londono



- Approximately 20% of patients with AIH have features of MAFLD.
- However, the prevalence of AIH-related features in patients with MAFLD, and the impact of AIH/MAFLD overlap in the progression of both diseases are unknown.

- Cohort 1 included 150 patients with AIH. The presence of steatosis and/or steatohepatitis was analyzed at baseline biopsy.
- Cohort 2 included 109 patients with biopsy proven MAFLD. Autoantibodies (>1:40), IgG levels, and AIH histological features (interface hepatitis and moderate-severe portal inflammation) were analyzed at diagnosis

- The prevalence of AIH/MAFLD ranged between 7% and 11%.
- In patients with AIH, the presence of diabetes and metabolic syndrome was associated with higher risk of developing cirrhosis.
- In patients with MAFLD, the existence of AIH features was associated with more advanced fibrosis at diagnosis.

# Mortality in biopsy-confirmed nonalcoholic fatty liver disease: results from a (Swedish) nationwide cohort

- All NAFLD histological stages were associated with significantly increased overall mortality, and this risk increased progressively with worsening NAFLD histology.
- Most of this excess mortality was from extrahepatic cancer and cirrhosis, while in contrast, the contributions of cardiovascular disease and HCC were modest.

### TABLE 3. Reporting Recommendations for NAFLD and NASH

- Evaluate the biopsy for the pattern of fatty liver injury and the presence or absence of other liver diseases (biliary tract disease, autoimmune or viral hepatitis, alpha-1-antitrypsin deficiency, hemochromatosis, granulomatous disease, vascular liver disease).
- The diagnostic line should incorporate both the overall pattern of injury (e.g., fatty liver or steatohepatitis) along with an assessment of the severity of the key features (see table below).
- Etiology (e.g., metabolic syndrome, alcohol, drugs) may be added if known from clinical history.
- Concurrent injury from another etiology may be added if known, or recognized by histology.
- It is optional to add semiquantitative scores if there is agreement between the pathologist and the hepatologist as to when to report such scores. Note that all such systems either split the evaluation of lobular inflammation from portal inflammation or score only lobular inflammation. Lobular inflammation is the only inflammation component added to composite scores (such as the NAS or the SAF). The scoring reference should always be cited, and the descriptive terms in the diagnostic line may be based on the scores.

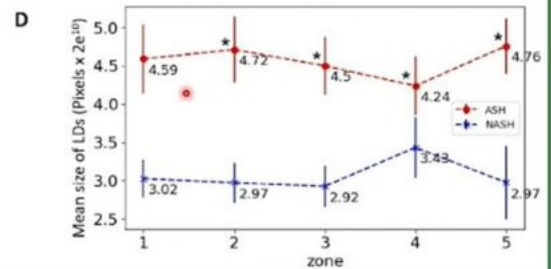
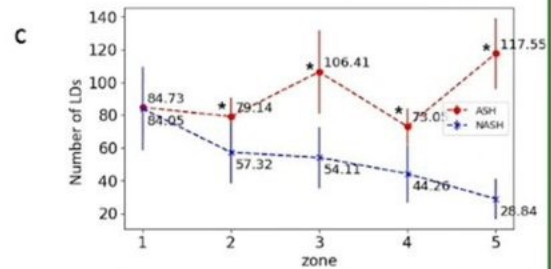
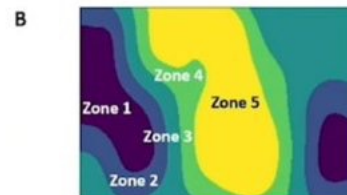
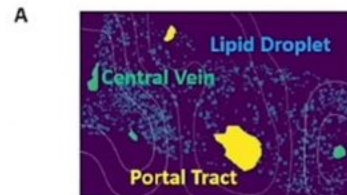
## Human ASH has larger lipid droplets which predominantly affect the periportal zone as compared to NASH controls

1. ASH subjects (n=11)
2. NASH controls (n=10)

Manual Annotation of Central Vein, Portal Tract and Lipid Droplets

Training the machine learning algorithm

- Precise lipid droplet data:
1. Location
  2. Size



# Mast cells and fatty change in alcoholics

## Mast Cells (MCs) Promote Alcohol-Induced Steatosis and Damage via Crosstalk with Cholangiocyte Stem Cell Factor (SCF)/MC c-Kit Signaling

Tianhao Zhou<sup>1</sup>, Lindsey Kennedy<sup>1</sup>, Vik Meadows<sup>1</sup>, Nan Wu<sup>1</sup>, Debjyoti Kundu, Lixian Chen<sup>1</sup>, Burcin Eksker<sup>1</sup>, Wenjun Zhang<sup>1</sup>, Alison Meyer<sup>1</sup>, Eugenio Gaudio<sup>2</sup>, Guido Carpeno<sup>3</sup>, Paolo Onori<sup>4</sup>, Antonio Francobello<sup>5</sup>, Gianfranco Alpini<sup>1,7</sup>, Heather Francis<sup>1,7</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, <sup>2</sup>Department of Medicine, Indiana University School of Medicine, Indianapolis, IN, <sup>3</sup>Richard L. Roudebush VA Medical Center, Indianapolis, IN, <sup>4</sup>Transplant Surgery, Indiana University School of Medicine, <sup>5</sup>Department of Health Sciences, <sup>6</sup>University of Sport and Movement "Tito Livio", <sup>7</sup>Internal Medicine and Medical Specialties and Department of Anatomical, Pathological, Forensic Medicine and Otolaryngology Sciences, Giuseppe University of Parma

AASLD Nov. 12-15, 2021  
The Liver Meeting

DIGITAL EXPERIENCE

### INTRODUCTION

- Alcoholic liver disease (ALD) progresses from simple steatosis to fibrosis/cirrhosis (AFI) and continues.
- Mast cells (MCs) are innate immune cells, and they migrate to the liver following injury, such as cholestatic and non-cholestatic toxic liver disease (NAPFLD).
- MCs promote NAPFLD phenotypes in mice fed Western diet (WD) that are reduced in MC-deficient, *KIT<sup>fl/fl</sup>* WD-fed mice.
- Stem cell factor (SCF) is a natural ligand for c-Kit. Damaged cholangiocytes express and secrete SCF, and inhibition of SCF exacerbates cholestatic phenotypes.

Oil Red O staining (left panel) shows increased lipid droplet area in WT ED mice, which was reduced in *KIT<sup>fl/fl</sup>* ED mice. Immunohistochemistry for CK-19 (right panel) shows increased ductular reaction (DR) in WT ED (control) treated mice, which was reduced in *KIT<sup>fl/fl</sup>* mice treated with SCF (see Methods).

### AIM

To evaluate the role of MCs and SCF/c-Kit signaling via crosstalk with cholangiocytes on ALD phenotypes.

### METHODS

See altered lipid diet (ED), or control diet (CD).  

- Progress Steatosis
- Ductular reaction
- Mixed cell infiltrate
- Inflammation
- Liver fibrosis
- SCF secretion

In vivo, C57BL/6 (WT) and *KIT<sup>fl/fl</sup>* mice were fed with Lieber-Decker ethanol liquid diet (ED, 20% ethanol) for 8 weeks and gavaged (twice) daily during the 8-week feeding. The control control diet were fed "control diet" (CD) consisting of an American control diet for 8 weeks, followed by weekly gavage of bacterial toxin vehicle (BTV) (n=7). In human control or ALD patients, we evaluated MC colonization by IHC. Human ALD immunostained cholangiocytes were stained with antibody of human SCF (Abcam, 1:1,000, 24h) to evaluate MC migration.

### RESULTS

**Ethanol-induced hepatic damage and steatosis were reduced in MC-deficient mice**

WT CD	WT ED	<i>KIT<sup>fl/fl</sup></i> CD	<i>KIT<sup>fl/fl</sup></i> ED

Hematoxylin and Eosin (H&E)

**Oil Red O staining**

Hepatic damage and steatosis was evaluated by H&E and Oil Red O staining. Ethanol feeding in WT mice increased hepatic ballooning and tissue damage in MC-deficient mice treated with ED. The damage was reduced. Images are at 10X magnification.

**Ethanol-induced ductular reaction (DR) was reduced in MC-deficient mice**

WT CD	WT ED	<i>KIT<sup>fl/fl</sup></i> CD	<i>KIT<sup>fl/fl</sup></i> ED

CK-19 staining

DR was evaluated by immunohistochemistry for CK-19. Ethanol feeding in WT mice increased DR in MC-deficient mice treated with ED. The DR was reduced. Images are at 10X magnification. Mean ± SD, \*p<0.05 vs CD, \*\*p<0.001 vs ED.

**ALD patients have increased MC presence which correlated with enhanced DR, and inhibition of SCF blocked MC migration towards ALD cholangiocytes**

Healthy control	ALD patient	Trypsin	CK-19

MC presence was evaluated by immunohistochemistry for tryptase in rat co-cultured with CK-19 in vitro. In vitro, there was increased MC migration toward ALD cholangiocytes (CK19) compared to control, which was blocked by inhibition of SCF. Images are at 10X magnification (top panel) and 20X (bottom panel). Mean ± SD, \*\*p<0.001 vs CD, \*\*\*p<0.0001 vs ED.

**Ethanol-induced inflammation and fibrosis were reduced in MC-deficient mice**

WT CD	WT ED	<i>KIT<sup>fl/fl</sup></i> CD	<i>KIT<sup>fl/fl</sup></i> ED

COSS staining

Inflammation and liver fibrosis were evaluated by immunostaining for COSS and Sirius Red, respectively. WT mice fed ED had increased COSS immunoreactivity and collagen deposition compared to WT CD, which were reduced in *KIT<sup>fl/fl</sup>* ED mice. Images are at 10X magnification.

### CONCLUSION

- Signaling between MCs and cholangiocytes drives ALD-associated phenotypes.
- Alcohol-induced damage is regulated by bidirectional SCF and MC c-Kit signaling.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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# Pathology in clinical trials of NASH



Improving reading Granularity

Number of Expert Hepatopathologists

Inter/Intra Observer variabilities

Overcoming the Placebo Effect

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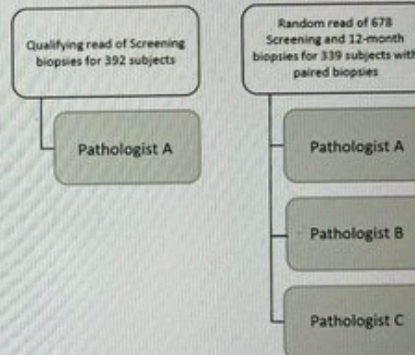
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TLMG

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## Suboptimal Reliability of Liver Biopsy In Identifying Fibrotic NASH for RCTs

- 339 patients had paired biopsies from the EMMINENCE study (MSDC-0602K).
- Pathologist A's scores for the screening biopsies were systematically lower when read mixed randomly among follow-up biopsies → low intra-reader kappa coefficient.
- Study histologic eligibility criteria were met for 77% (A re-read), 69% (B), and 77.3% (C) → low inter-reader kappa.
- All 3 pathologists agreed on eligibility criteria in only 53.7% → 46.3% of patients did not meet histologic inclusion criteria by at least 1 of the 3 pathologists.



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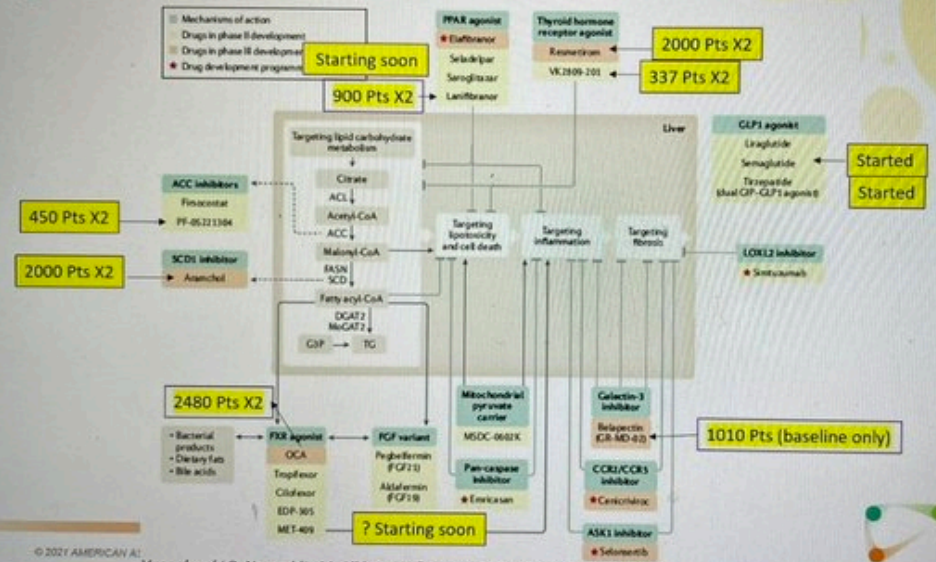
*Davison BA, et al. J Hepatol. 2020.*

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138 - Playback

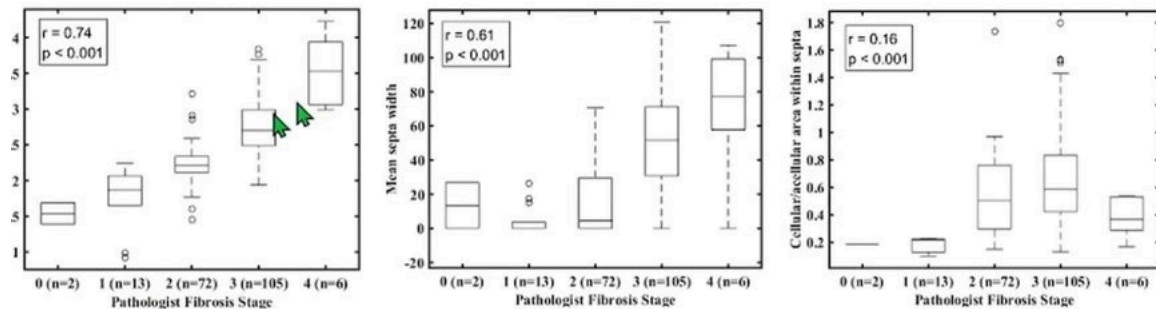
# Huge number of biopsies to be read



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 Vuppalanchi R, Nouredin M, Alkhouri N & Sanyal AJ Nat Rev Gastro Hep 2021

# qFibrosis

## Concordance of these parameters with NASH-CRN



qFibrosis is NASH-CRN based AI, correlates well with NASH-CRN

Septa width is only applicable in mid-late stage fibrosis where septa are observed

Cellular/acellular feature only applicable in mid stage fibrosis as septa are typically very thin in late stage fibrosis

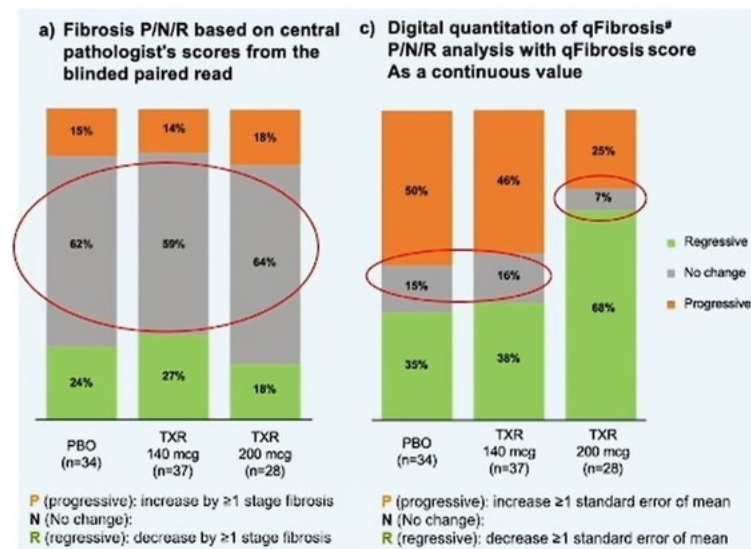
qFibrosis parameters such as StrLengthPTAgg, #IntersectionPT also show the same trend in tracking fibrosis changes by NASH-CRN

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# AASLD: Abstract 78

## Fibrosis changes: CRN staging vs qFibrosis

Phase 2 FLIGHT-FXR (NCT02855164)



Data Source: EASL 2021 Poster #989

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By comparing semi-quantitative vs fully-quantitative

We observed 5 scenarios:

- Progressive  $\rightarrow$  Progressive
- No Change  $\rightarrow$  Progressive
- No Change  $\rightarrow$  No Change
- No Change  $\rightarrow$  Regressive
- Regressive  $\rightarrow$  Regressive

Liver cancer

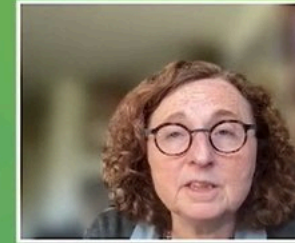
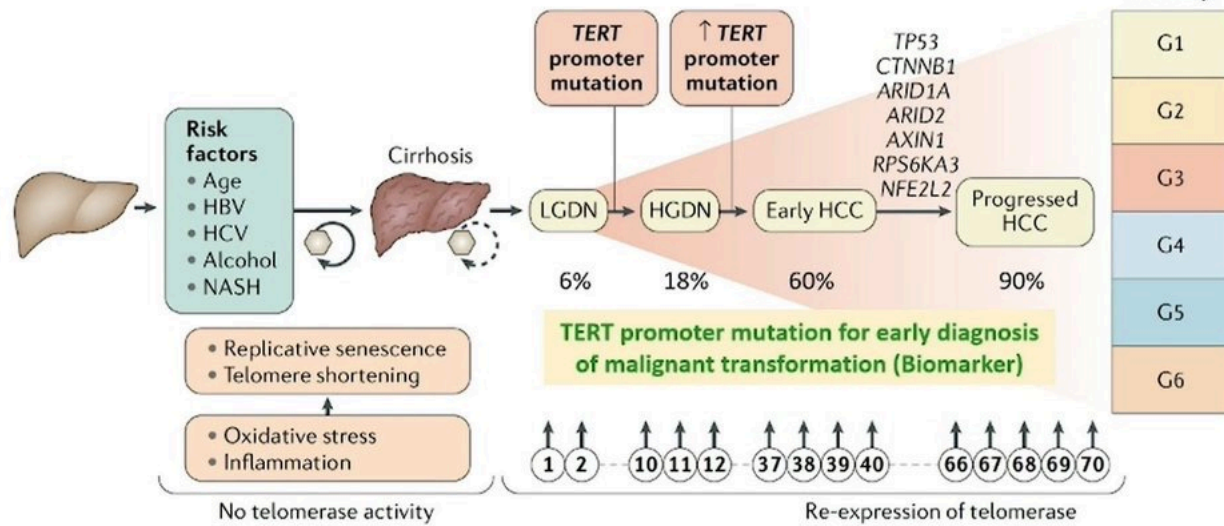
# HCC in NAFLD

## Summary of Results






- The cumulative incidence of HCC was **2.1%** among 47,165 NAFLD patients with mean 3.5 years of follow up
- **14.2%** of NAFLD-HCC patients had no diagnosis of cirrhosis
- The annual incidence rates of HCC in NAFLD patients was:
  - **2.36% with cirrhosis** and **0.11%, without cirrhosis**
  - NAFLD-cirrhosis patients were **32.7 times** (95% CI 24.1 – 44.4) more likely to develop HCC than those without cirrhosis and FIB-4 <1.30.
- Among NAFLD patients without cirrhosis, the annual incidence rates were:
  - **0.28% with FIB-4>2.67** and **0.07% with FIB-4 <1.30**
- Noncirrhotic NAFLD-HCC patients, compared with NAFLD without HCC, were more likely to have **lower BMI, albumin, serum iron, and higher alkaline phosphatase and platelet count.**

# Telomerase reactivation the earliest recurrent genomic event in liver carcinogenesis

➤ Refine diagnosis



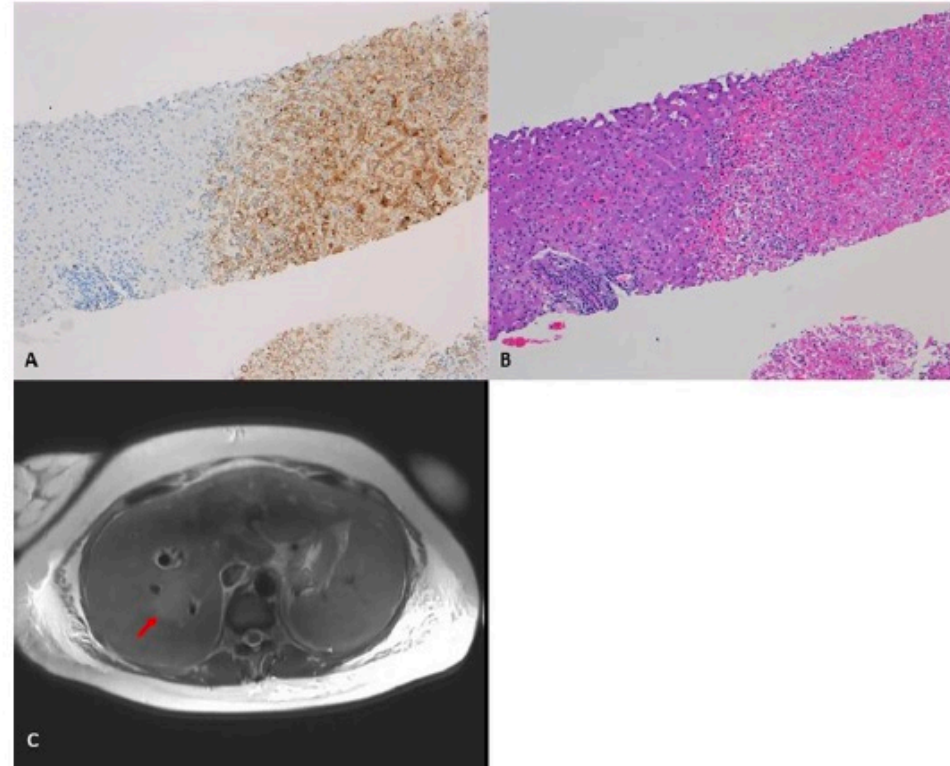
# Genotype/phenotype classification of HCC ➤ Prediction of tumor response

Clinical features	Genetic alterations	Molecular classification	Pathological features	Biological pathway	Therapeutic targets
Female	<i>RSP6SKA3</i> <i>BAP1</i>	G1		Developmental genes, IGF2	← IGF2 inh
HBV High AFP	<i>AXIN1</i> <i>ATM</i> <i>TP53</i>		Mixed FLC-HCC	BAP1 – PKA activation	
Poor prognosis	<i>TSC1/2</i> <i>FGF19</i>	G2		Cell cycle Nucleus pore	← Anti-mitotic
		G3		JAK/STAT activation	← JAK/STAT inh
		G4		Wnt/ B-catenin activation	← WNT/B-catenin inh
	<i>CTNNB1</i>	G5			
		G6			

Infectious diseases

# 689 DISSEMINATED HERPES SIMPLEX VIRUS PRESENTING INSIDIOUSLY AS ACUTE HEPATITIS IN PREGNANCY

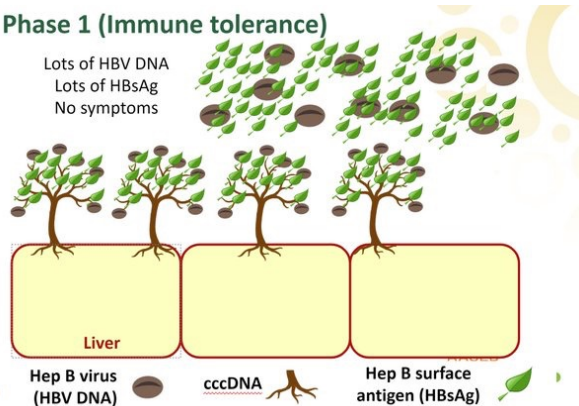
HSV shows a non-zonal necrosis pattern and typical HSV viral inclusions.



# Natural History of HBV Infection

## Phase 1 (Immune tolerance)

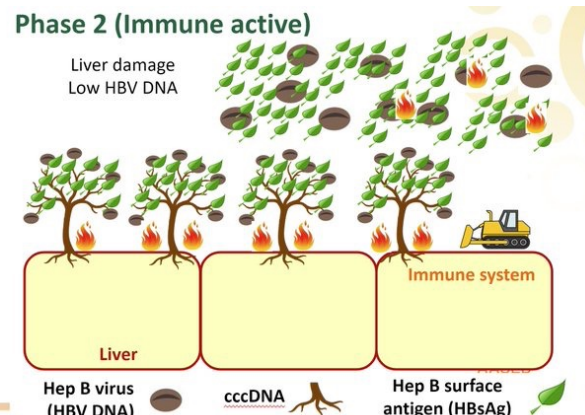
Lots of HBV DNA  
Lots of HBsAg  
No symptoms



Slide courtesy of Dr. Thomas Tu, Westmead Institute for Medical Research

## Phase 2 (Immune active)

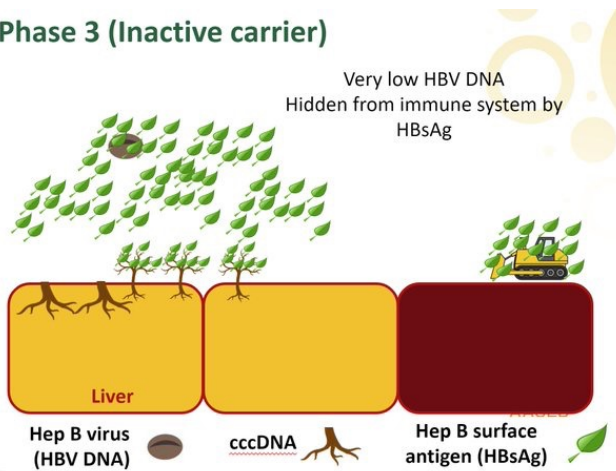
Liver damage  
Low HBV DNA



Slide courtesy of Dr. Thomas Tu, Westmead Institute for Medical Research

## Phase 3 (Inactive carrier)

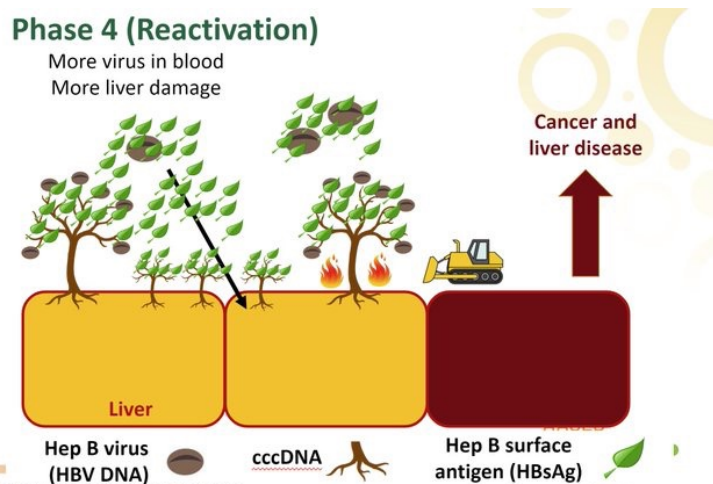
Very low HBV DNA  
Hidden from immune system by  
HBsAg



Slide courtesy of Dr. Thomas Tu, Westmead Institute for Medical Research

## Phase 4 (Reactivation)

More virus in blood  
More liver damage



Slide courtesy of Dr. Thomas Tu, Westmead Institute for Medical Research

# Covid 1

## Impact of COVID-19 on the liver

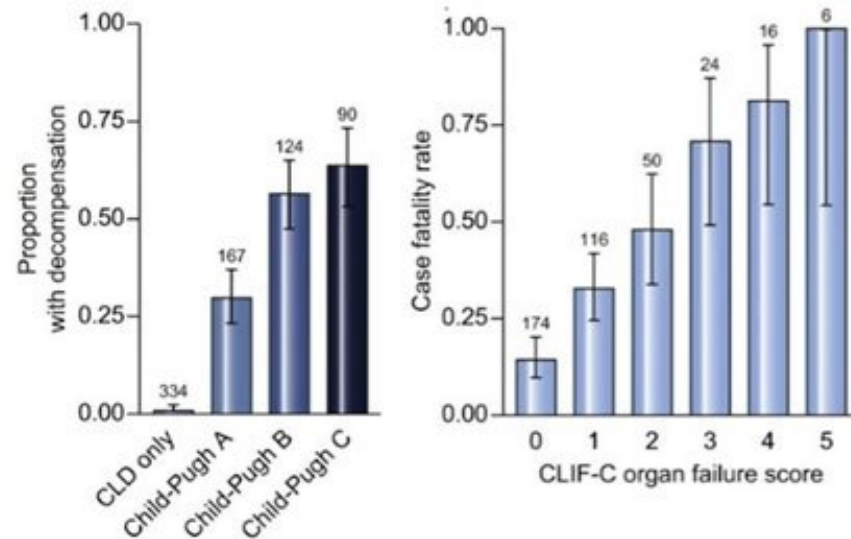
- Increased ALT, AST (AST>ALT), alk phos, GGT – most resolve
- Elevations in liver tests associated with more severe disease – most but not in all studies
- ALI and ALF with COVID19 alone is rare
- Problems from delays in care – HCC surveillance or treatment, antiviral therapy, impact on liver transplant candidacy and transplant
- Cholangiopathy may occur in those with severe COVID19 disease, usually after recovery from initial infection

# Obese patients with NASH have increased hepatic expression of SARS-CoV-2 critical entry points

- In summary, our results indicate that in the livers of obese patients, SARS-CoV-2 entry factors are differently affected by T2D and NAFLD. While obese women with T2D have unexpectedly lower levels of *ACE2* and *TMPRSS2* than obese normoglycemic women, obese patients with NASH show markedly higher expression of these genes, suggesting that advanced stages of NAFLD might predispose individuals to COVID-19.

# Covid 2

## COVID19 increases the frequency of hepatic decompensation and organ failure (and mortality) in patients with advanced liver disease



Data collection: March 25 to July 8, 2020  
745 patients with CLD and SARS-CoV-2  
386 with cirrhosis and 359 without

Registries in US and UK:  
UNC Chapel Hill – SECURE-cirrhosis  
Oxford, UK – COVID-Hep.Net

Marjot T, Moon AM, Cook JA, et al.  
Outcomes following SARS-CoV-2  
infection in patients with chronic liver  
disease: An international registry  
study. *J Hepatol.* 2021;74:567-577.

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# Covid 4

## Outcomes for patients with liver disease infected with SARS-CoV2

### Summary:

- Impact on the liver – elevated liver tests common, multiple causes, ALI/ALF rare
- Impact of liver disease on COVID-19 outcome
  - Degree of hepatic impairment and outcome - survival correlates inversely
  - Other non-hepatic risk factors also determine outcome in LD patients
- Impact on candidates for liver transplant – delays in evaluation or treatment, listing, transplant
- Impact of COVID-19 on patients independent of liver disease – LD patients can get Post-COVID19 conditions and cholangiopathy
- Detection of SARSCoV2 virus by PCR after infection – Cycle threshold proxy for viral load but matter more for infection control purposes and safety for transplant than predicting disease outcome

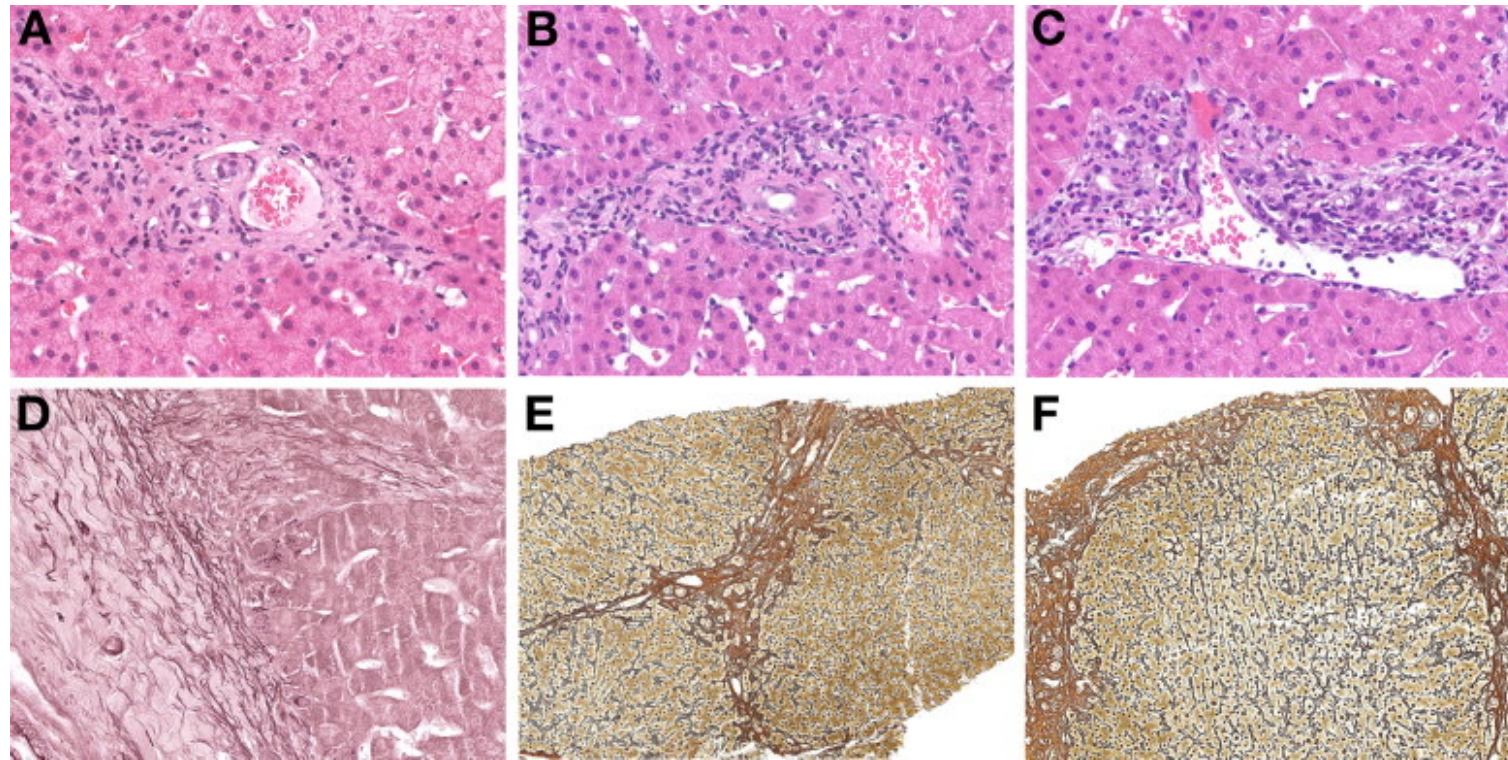
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# 536 KETAMINE IS A RISK FACTOR FOR JAUNDICE IN COVID-19 PATIENTS

- The guidelines for maintenance sedation of patients with ARDS include ketamine as a second-line agent.
- was associated with jaundice in this cohort.
- The relationship between ketamine and Covid-19 cholangitis should be investigated.

Intravenous ketamine and progressive cholangiopathy in COVID-19 patients. J Hepatol. 2021;74(5):1243-4. .

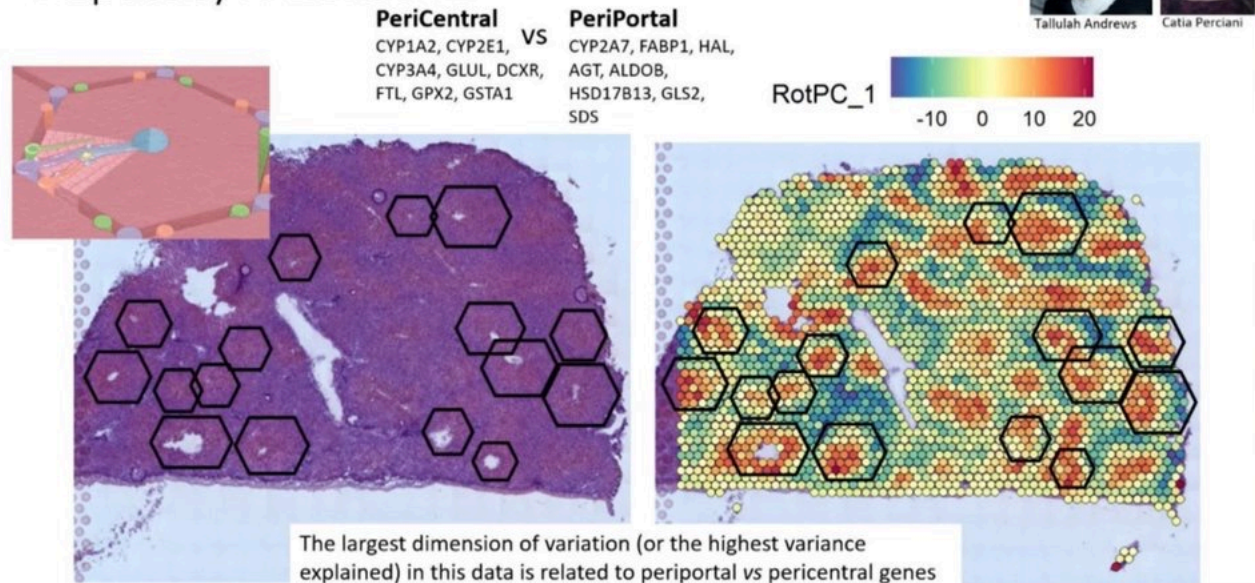
# Katamine induced bile duct damage



# Basic Science

# Spatial Transcriptomics and Liver Zonation

## Spatial Transcriptomics to confirm Human Hepatocyte Zonation



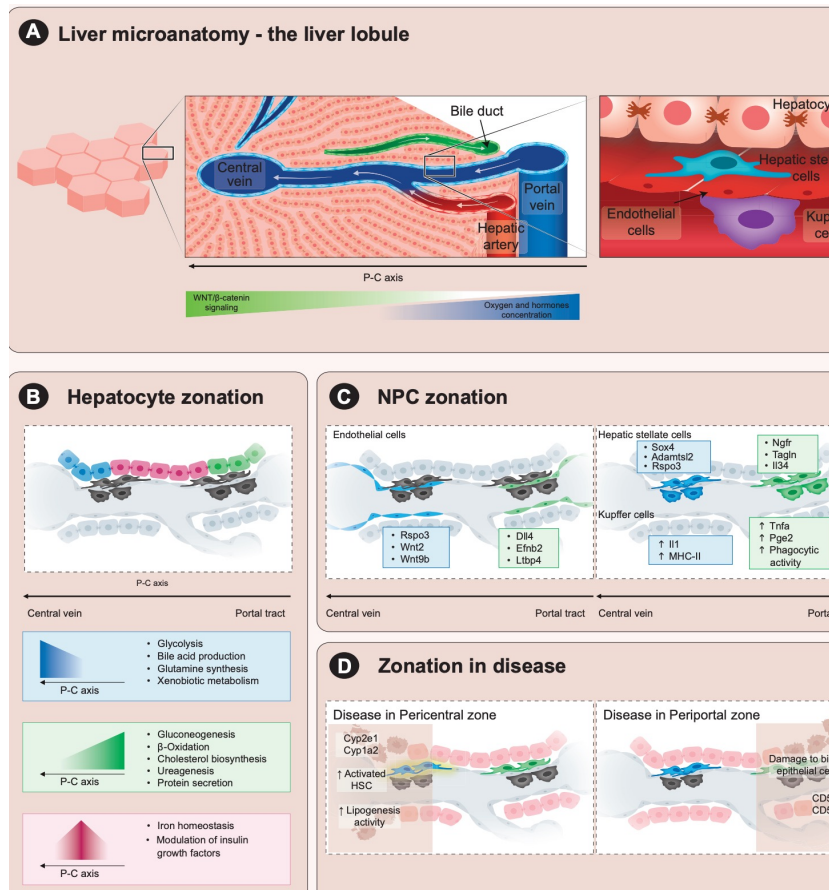
Tallulah Andrews

Catia Perciani



# The molecular and histopathologic variability across liver zonation in patients with alcohol-related liver disease

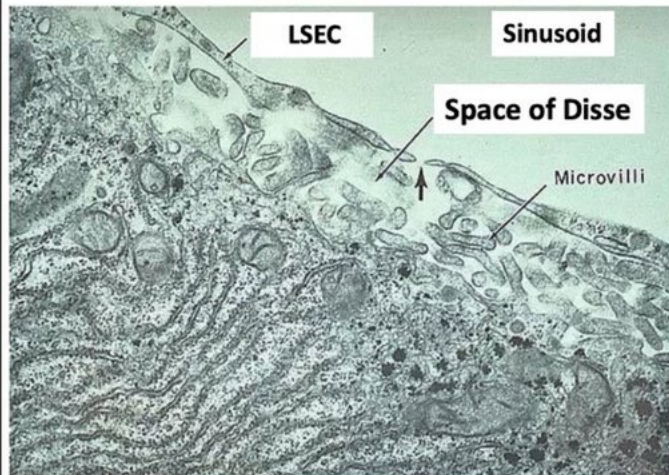
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhep.2020.09.003>



# Liver lymphatics



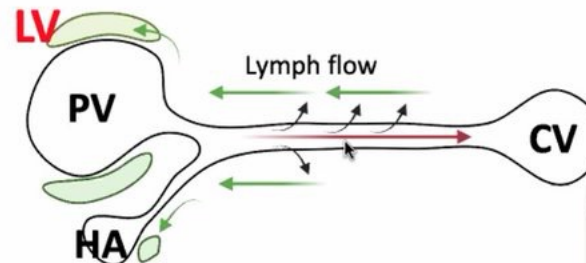
## Liver is the key organ of lymph production



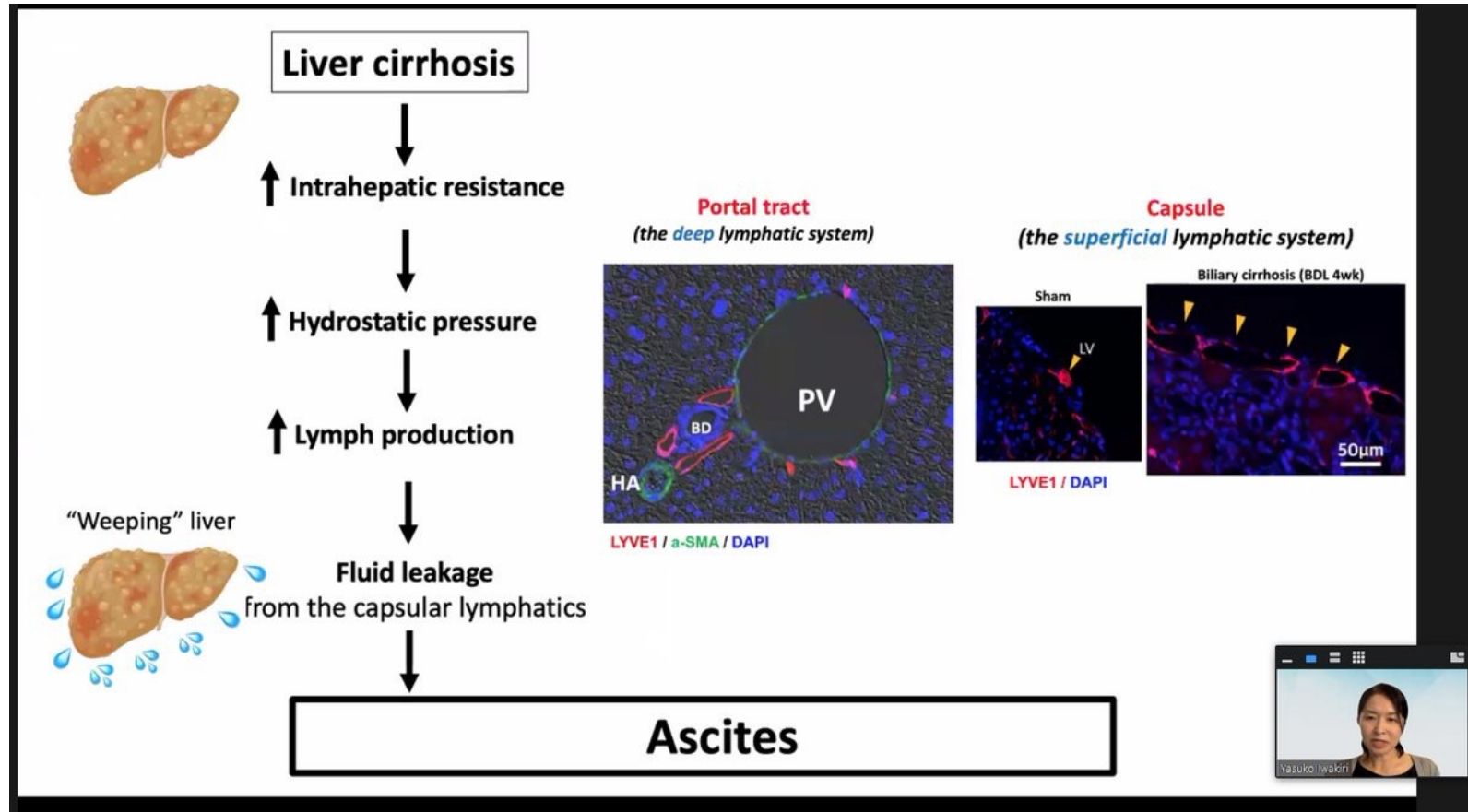
<http://histologyatlas.wisc.edu/archive/res/desc/liver/livD41.htm>

(Rat liver)

- A large quantity of lymph is formed due to the extremely permeable liver sinusoidal ECs (LSECs).
- The liver lymph has a protein concentration of ~ 6g/dl (closer to plasma).
- 50% of lymph passing through the **thoracic duct** originates in the liver.
- In cirrhosis, lymph production increases to 30-fold.



# Liver lymphatics



# 566 GENOMIC ANALYSIS ENHANCES CLINICAL CARE OF ADULTS WITH UNEXPLAINED LIVER DISEASE

- Whole exome sequencing on 46 patients with unexplained liver disease despite comprehensive workup.
- Found diagnoses in 22% (including JAG1, ABCB4, ABCB11, LIPE, SMAD4)!
- More likely to find if <40years and with extrahepatic manifestations.
- Resulted in management change in 60%.

# Tertiary Lymphoid Tissue

# Tertiary Lymphoid Tissue

- Tertiary lymphoid tissues are a normal component of the healthy lung tissue of certain species like rabbits, but they are not a constitutive feature of the healthy human or mouse lungs.
- In humans, they are inducible ectopic lymphoid tissues that develop at sites of chronic inflammation, autoimmune disease, cancer or an allograft.
- As with lymph nodes, they initiate adaptive immune responses and coordinate local tissue immunity.

# Tertiary Lymphoid Tissue

Tertiary lymphoid organs share many features with secondary lymphoid organs, such as the presence of T and B cell compartmentalization into:

- T cell zones and B cell follicles,
- chemokines that mediate the compartmentalization,
- antigen-presenting cells,
- lymphatic sinuses
- high endothelial venules
- follicular dendritic cells and
- fibroblastic reticular cells

# Tertiary Lymphoid Structures

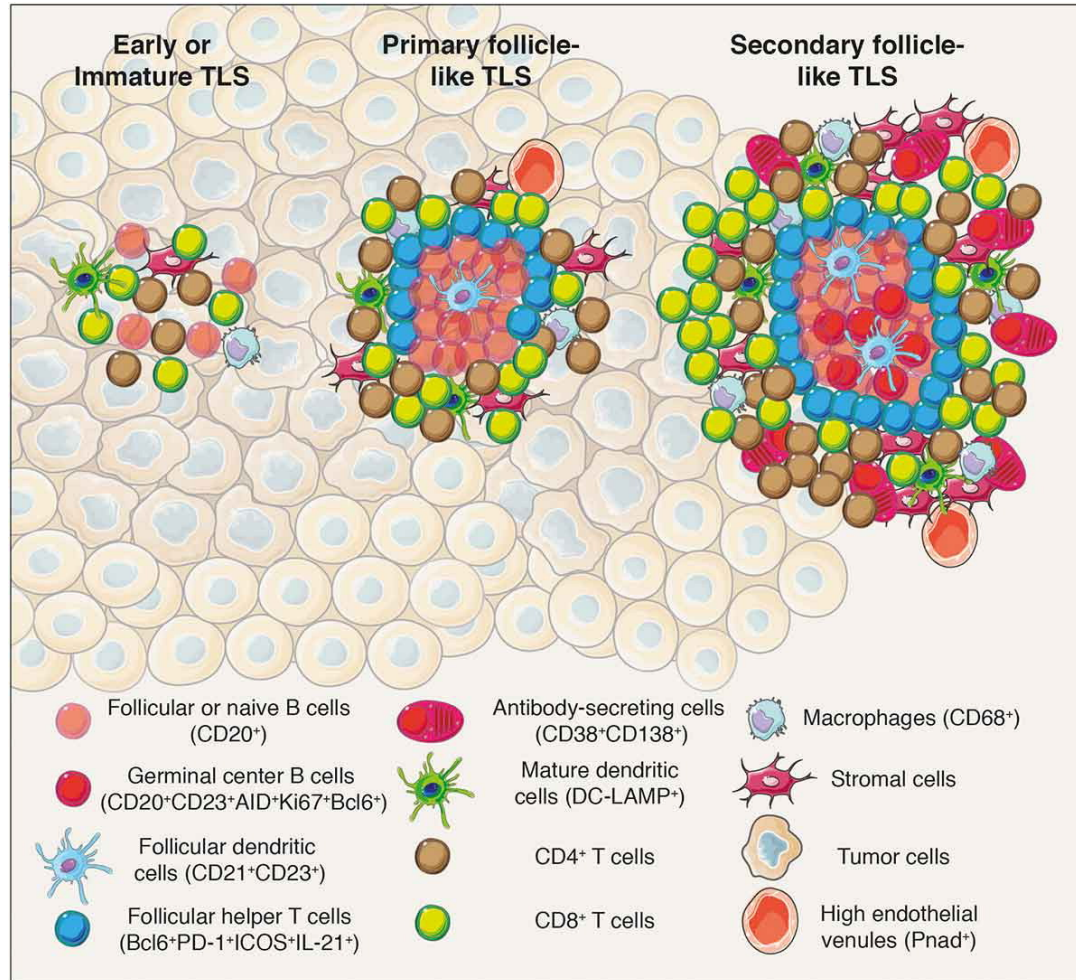
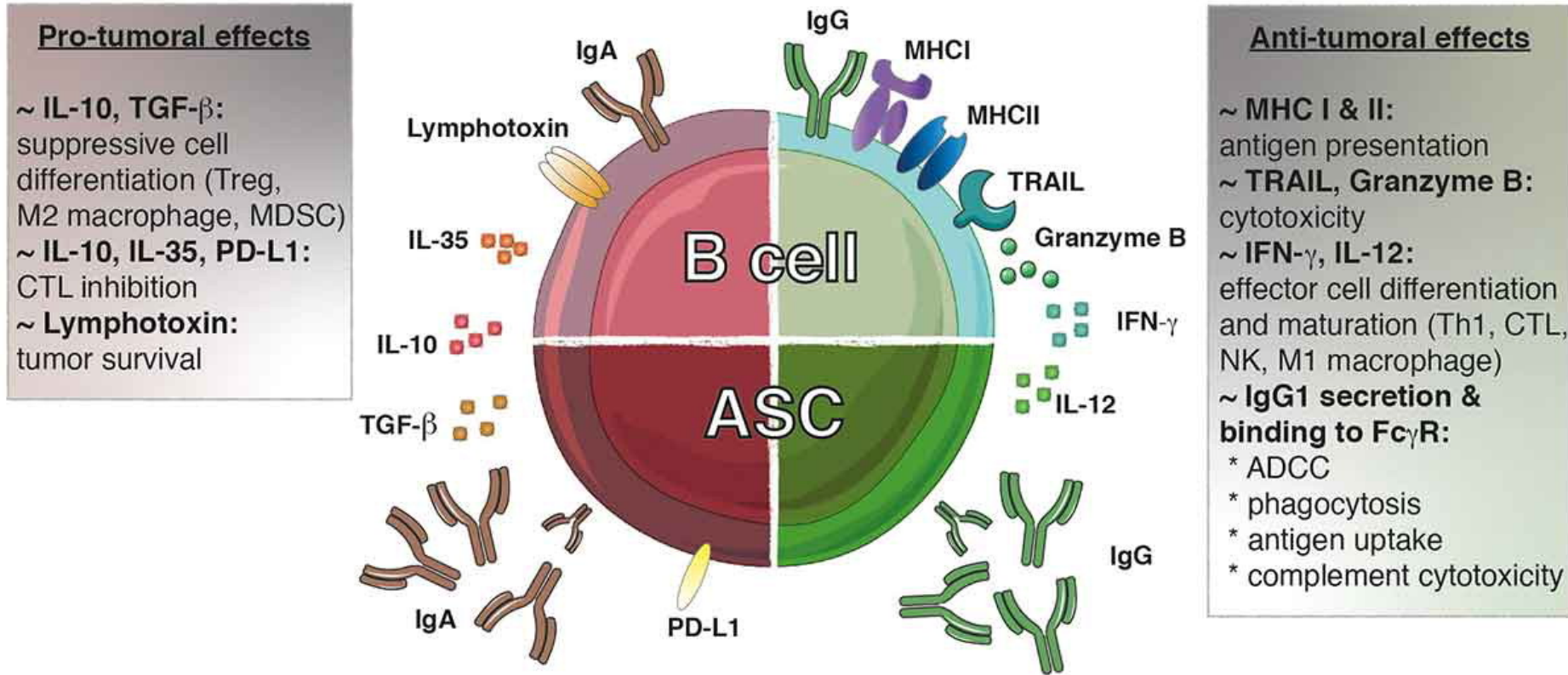
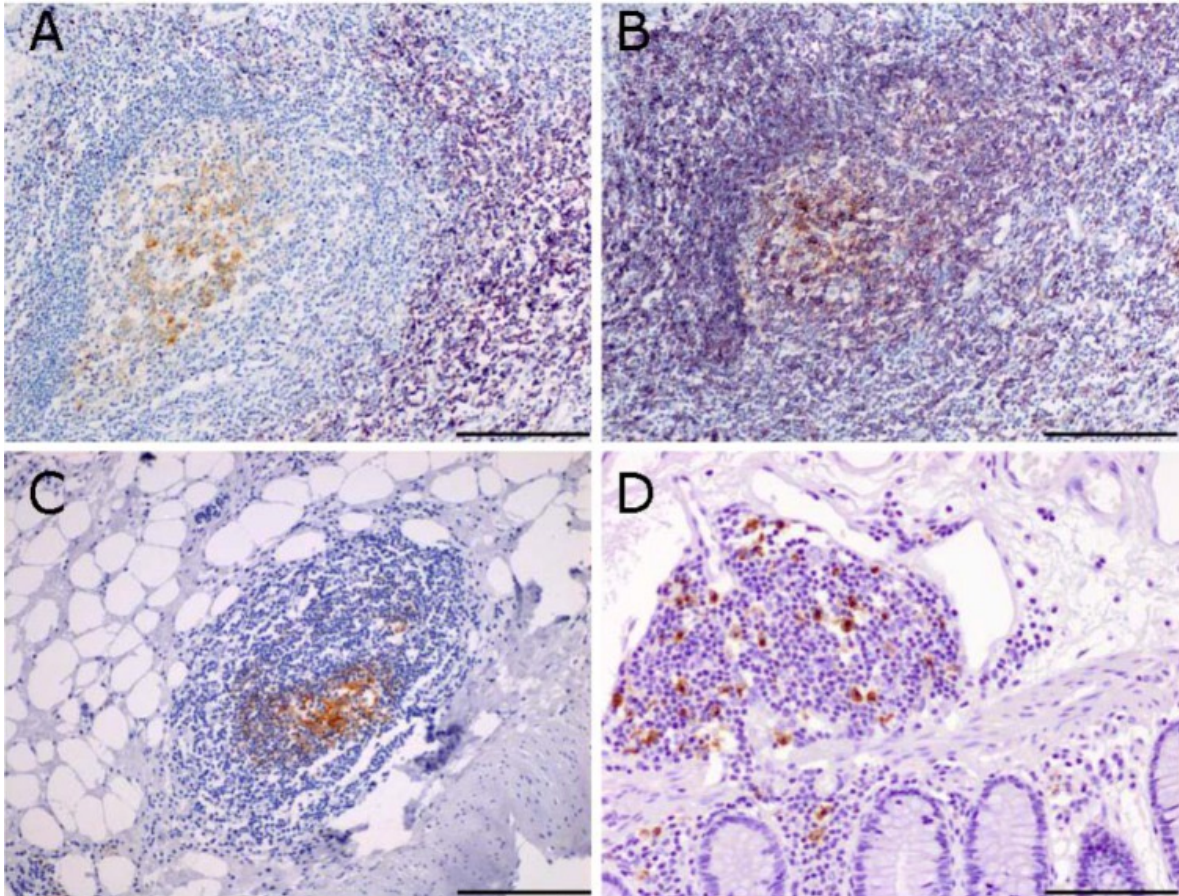


Figure 2

# Effects of Tertiary Lymphoid Follicles on Tumours



# Tertiary lymphoid follicles: Immunohistochemistry



T cells (purple, A) and CD20+ B cells (purple, B) surround CD21+ follicular dendritic cells (brown, A–C).

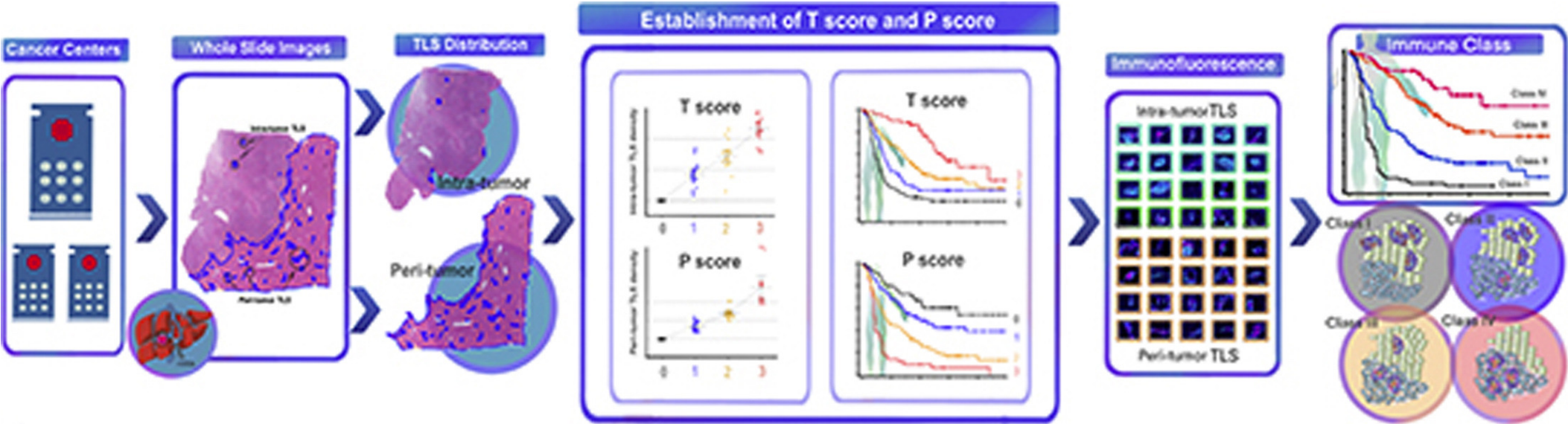
Mature dendritic cells are also present, as evidenced by DC-LAMP staining (D).

# Distribution and density of tertiary lymphoid structures predict clinical outcome in intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma

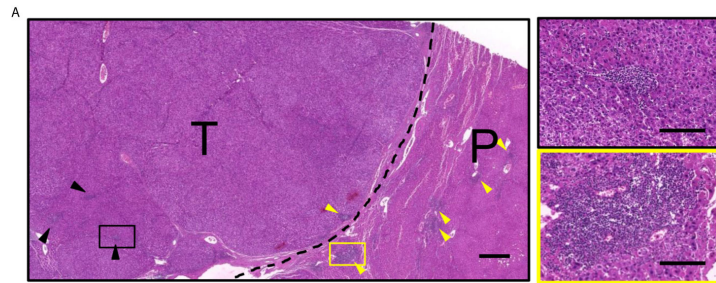
**1.** Tertiary lymphoid structures within ( better) and outside (worse) tumour region have opposite prognostic impacts on patients with intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma

**2.** The heterogeneous distribution of Tfh and Treg cells within distinct Tertiary Lymphoid Structures might be determinant of their functional state.

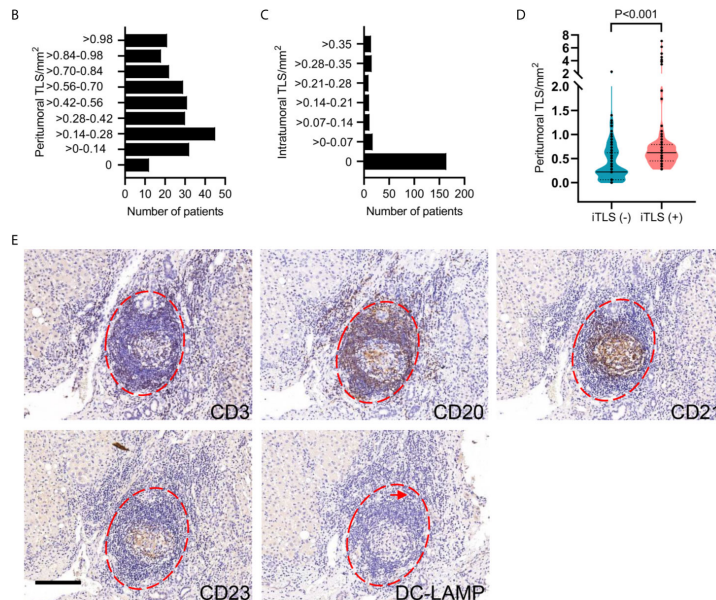
The geographic integration of TLSs stratified intrahepatic cholangiocarcinomas into four immune subclasses with distinct clinical outcomes.



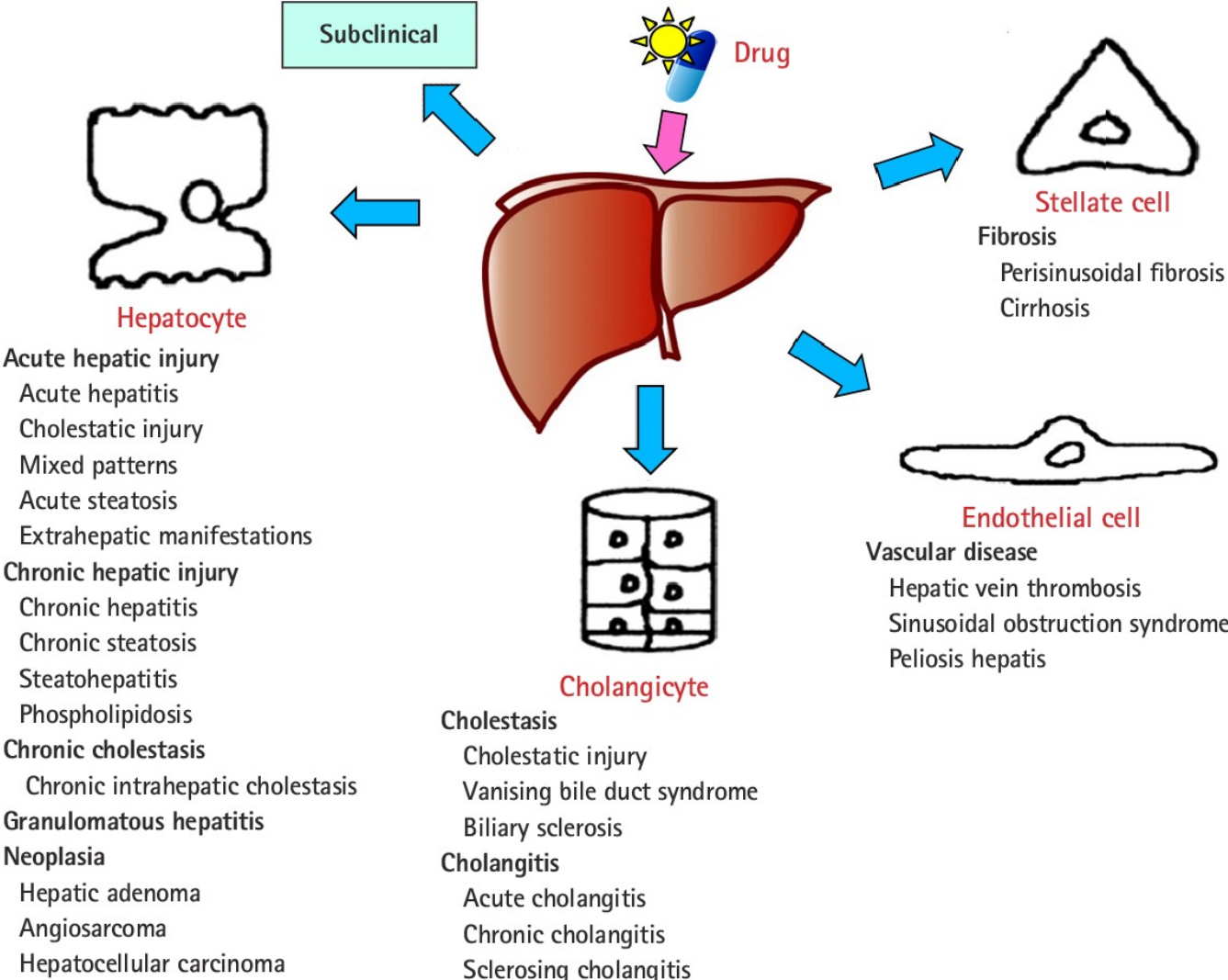
# Peritumoral Tertiary Lymphoid Structures Correlate With Protective Immunity and Improved Prognosis in Patients With Hepatocellular Carcinoma



<https://doi.org/10.3389/fimmu.2021.648812>



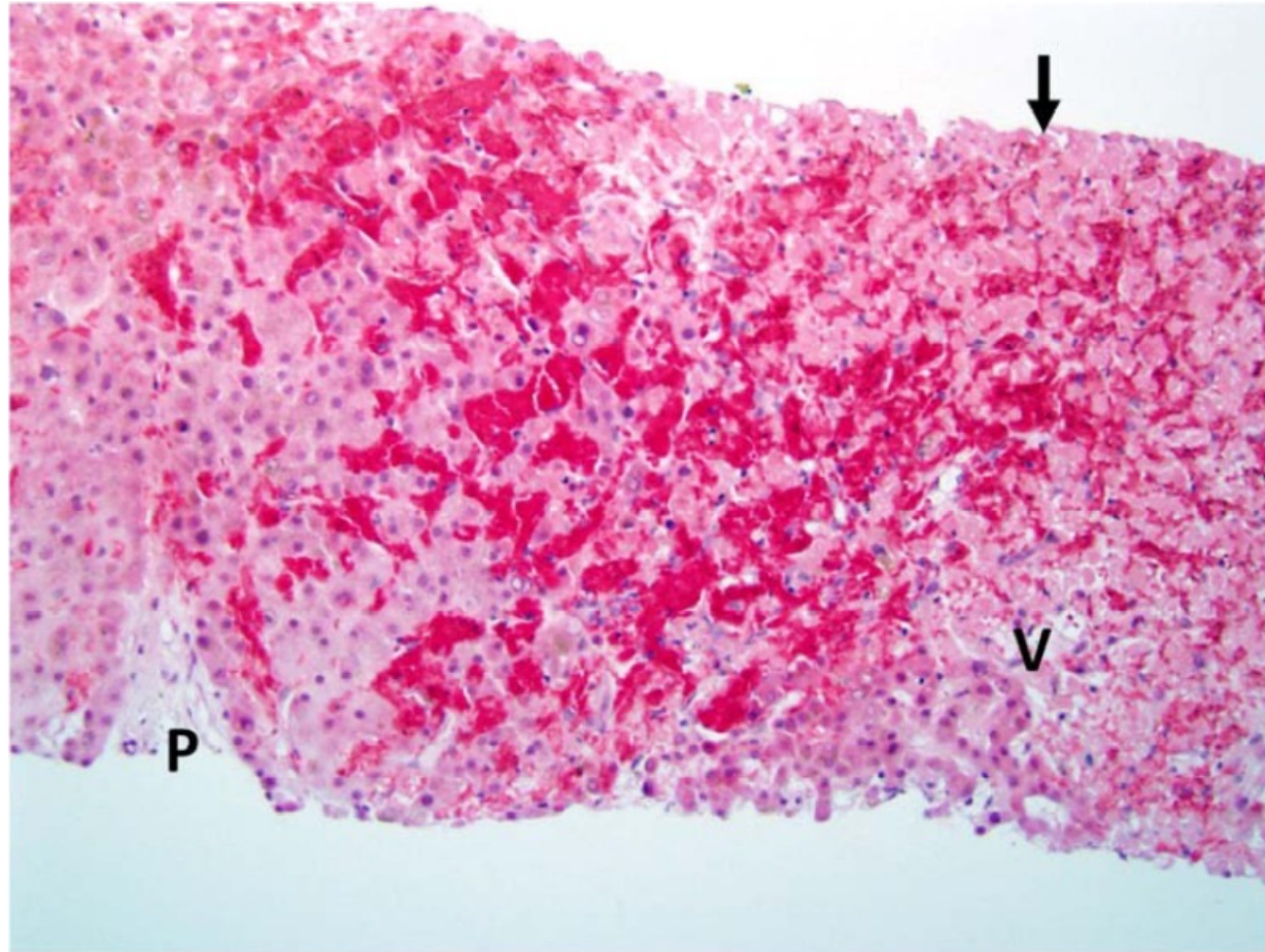
# Drug-induced Vascular Disease



# Drug-induced Vascular Disease

- Drug-induced vascular injury can affect different vascular structures of the liver, from the sinusoids to the large hepatic veins and hence.
- These include sinusoidal obstruction syndrome, nodular regenerative hyperplasia and peliosis hepatis.
- Budd-Chiari Syndrome, associated, with the contraceptive pill is now rare

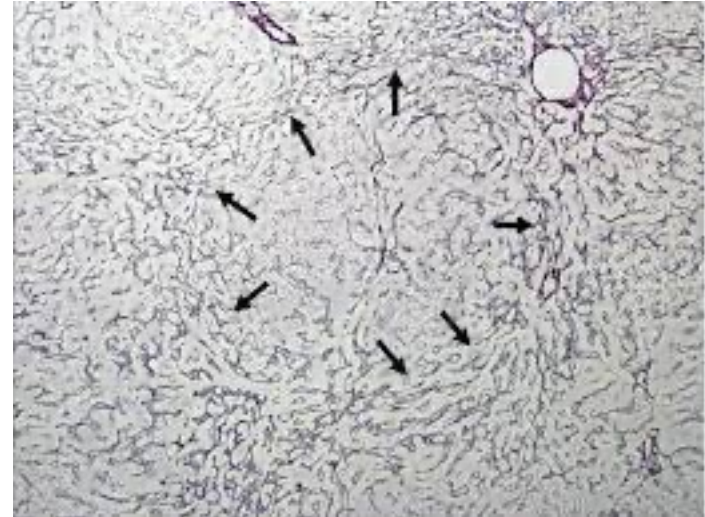
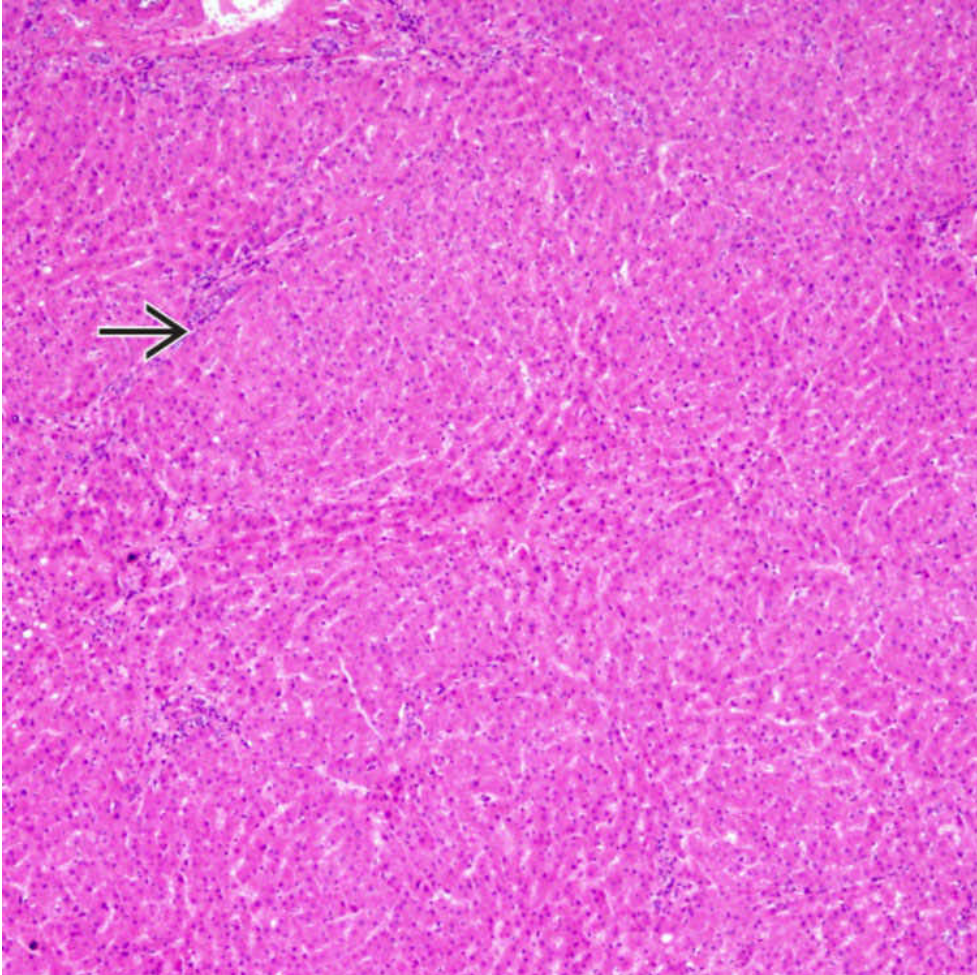
# Sinusoidal obstruction syndrome (veno-occlusive)



- Sinusoidal obstruction syndrome has also been reported as a complication of the cyclophosphamide-containing myeloablative regimens used in preparation for bone marrow transplantation<sup>1</sup>
- A number of other drugs have been associated with SOS including long-term use of thiopurines, such as azathioprine, mercaptopurine and thioguanine, dacarbazine, and gemtuzumab.
- However, in the subacute and chronic forms of SOS secondary to prolonged intake of herbal teas (containing pyrrolidizidine alkaloids) or long-term use of thioguanines, progressive fibrosis and cirrhosis may ensue

- Ninety percent of patients receiving oxaliplatin-based therapy developed parenchymal heterogeneity on abdominal CT scans, which was absent pre-treatment and was used as a surrogate of vascular changes.
- These changes were reversed in 68% of patients in 1 year, but imaging findings of portal hypertension persisted and progressed until the last follow-up in 1.4% of patients
- In a retrospective analysis of resected liver specimens from patients in 2 prospective non-randomised trials (5-fluorouracil/oxaliplatin ± bevacizumab) it was evident that bevacizumab protected against the development of SOS via an unknown mechanism.

# Nodular regenerative hyperplasia



# Nodular Regenerative Hyperplasia

- azathioprine (as a result of active metabolite 6-thioguanine)
- oxaliplatin, and
- chlorambucil

Various non–drug-related disease states

Peliosis

(Bacillary Peliosis)

