Understanding NASH as a metabolic disease



Guideline recommendations for NAFLD/NASH diagnosis and management

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Understanding NASH as a metabolic disease



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NAFLD, nonalcoholic fatty liver disease; NAFL, nonalcoholic fatty liver; NASH, nonalcoholic steatohepatitis. Chalasani N et al. Hepatology 2018;67:328–57.

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Patients living with NASH have unspecific symptoms and are often undiagnosed until later stages of disease

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Results in delayed diagnosis while NASH progresses

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Patients with NASH have a higher burden of health-related comorbidities

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NASH-driven fibrosis progression increases risk of cardiovascular events and liver-related and all-cause mortality



1. Dulai PS et al. Hepatology 2017;65:1557–65; 2. Ekstedt M et al. Hepatology 2015;61:1547–54.

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Patients living with NASH have a higher economic burden

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All costs converted from Danish Kroner values on October 12, 2022. NASH, nonalcoholic steatohepatitis; OTC, over-the-counter. 1. O'Hara J et al. JHEP Rep 2020;2:100142.

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Guideline recommendations for NAFLD/NASH diagnosis and management





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Professional associations have developed guidelines/guidance on NAFLD/NASH management



AGA Clinical Care Pathway 2021

EASL Clinical Practice Guideline 2021

AASLD Practice Guidance Practice 2023

AACE Clinical Practice Guideline 2022



AGA Clinical Care Pathway 2021

Screening for advanced fibrosis related to NAFLD/NASH

Primary care, endocrinologists, gastroenterologists and obesity specialists should screen for NAFLD with advanced fibrosis **Step 1:** Identify patients at risk Steatosis on any imaging modality 2 or more metabolic risk factors¹ Type 2 diabetes or elevated aminotransferases Step 2: History & lab tests: Excessive alcohol intake, CBC, liver function tests **Step 3:** Non-invasive testing (NIT) for fibrosis^{2,3} (FIB-4 is a calculated value⁴ based on age, AST, ALT & platelet count) FIB-4 <1.3 FIB-4 >2.67 FIB-4 1.3-2.67 **Indeterminate Risk** Step 4: Liver stiffness measurement (LSM)^{,5,6,7} LSM <8 kPa LSM 8 to 12 kPa LSM >12 kPa Indeterminate Risk Low Risk **High Risk** Refer to hepatologist for liver biopsy or Repeat NIT in 2-3 years unless clinical MR elastography or monitoring with re-Refer to hepatologist circumstances change eval of risk in 2–3 years

1. Metabolic risk factors: central obesity, high triglycerides, low HDL cholesterol, hypertension, prediabetes, or insulin resistance. 2. For patients age >65, use FIB-4 <2.0 as the lower cutoff. Higher cutoff does not change. 3. Other NITs derived from routine laboratories can be used instead of FIB-4. A Many online FIB-4 calculators are available such as https://www.mdcalc.com/lbrosis-4-fib-4-index-liver-fibrosis. 5. Utrasound acceptable if vibration-controlled transient elastography (VCTE, FibroScan®) is unavailable. Consider referral to hepatologist for patients with hepatic steatosis on ultrasound who are indeterminate or high risk based on FIB-4. 6. LSM values are for VCTE (FibroScan®). Other techniques such as bidimensional shear wave elastography or point shear wave elastography can also be use used to measure LSM. Proprietary commercially available blood NITs may be considered for patients considered indeterminate or high risk based on FIB-4 or APRI, or where LSM unavailable. 7. Eddowes et al. uses 8.2 and 12.1 kPa as cutoffs for LSM using VCTE. Valdiation of simple (rounded) cutoffs reported by Papatheodoridi et al.

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Adapted from: Kanwal F et al. Gastroenterol. 2021;161:1657–69.

AASLD Practice Guidance 2023

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Clinical practice across caregiver spectrum

Clinical Suspicion for Fatty Liver Disease Primary Care or Non-GI/Hepatology Care Goal: Exclude advanced fibrosis in low-prevalence populations Primary risk assessment, e.g., FIB-4 FIB-4 >1.3 FIB-4 >2.67 No Yes Consider referral **GI/Hepatology care** Persistent \rightarrow Goal: Identify/manage patients with 'at risk' ↑ ALT and AST **NASH or cirrhosis Reassess periodically:** Secondary risk assessment • FIB-4 every 1-2 years if T2D/preT2D **Risk Level** VCTE or ELF™ Review/perform primary/secondary risk assessment Referral Consider additional stratification with MRE, cT1 or Low < 8.0 <7.7 \geq 2 metabolic risk factors • FIB-4 every 2–3 years if no T2D and <2 Intermediate/high risk Intermediate 8-12 7.7-9.8 Low risk metabolic risk factors PCP follow-up High >12 >9.8 or reassess All patients: Cardiometabolic risk reduction and preferential use of meds with potential NAFLD benefit **Consider liver biopsy** Ongoing assessment of alcohol intake Indeterminate NITs Lifestyle management Diagnostic uncertainty **Either care setting** Suspect cirrhosis (clinical, imaging or ELF™ >11.3) **Biopsy Staging** Stage 0–1 Stage 2-3 Stage 4 Reassess annually Cirrhosis-based Reassess in Consider pharmacotherapy 2-3 years management

AASLD, American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases; ALT, alanine aminotransferase; AST, aspartate aminotransferase; cT1, corrected T1; ELF^{IM}, enhanced liver fibrosis;

FIB-4, fibrosis-4 index; GI, gastroenterology; MRE, magnetic resonance elastography; NAFLD, non-alcoholic fatty liver disease;

NASH, non-alcoholic steatohepatitis; PCP, primary care physician; T2D, type 2 diabetes; VCTE, vibration-controlled elastography. Rinella ME et al. Hepatology. 2023;doi: 10.1097/HEP.0000000000323.



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A global company with a heritage of patient-focused innovation

Novo Nordisk has a heritage of 100 years of innovation and leadership, primarily in diabetes care.

This has given us experience and capabilities that enable us to help in defeating other serious chronic diseases: hemophilia, growth disorders, obesity, and now nonalcoholic steatohepatitis.









Monotherapy or combination therapies for NASH should address the individual's disease stage and existing comorbidities

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