



# NASH Core Curriculum: Risk Factors and Prognostic Indicators

#### Manal F. Abdelmalek, MD, MPH

Professor of Medicine Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology Duke University Durham, North Carolina

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## Agenda

- How Prevalent Are NASH and NASH with Advanced Hepatic Fibrosis?
- How Quickly Does NASH Progress?
- Who Is at Risk for Progression to Advanced Fibrosis?
- Who Should Be Evaluated?

# How Prevalent Are NASH and NASH with Advanced Hepatic Fibrosis?



# Worldwide Prevalence of NAFLD and NASH



1. Younossi. J Hepatol. 2019;70:351. 2. Kabbany. Am J Hepatol. 2017;112:581.

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## **Prevalence of NAFLD**



Younossi. Hepatology. 2016;64:73

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## **Prevalence of NAFLD in T2D**



Younossi. J Hepatology. 2019;71:793

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# **Despite Prevalence, NAFLD Is Rarely Examined, Referred**

- Review of N = 100 Australian patients with cirrhosis from a prospectively collected NAFLD database
- NAFLD diagnosis more likely to be made incidentally by general practitioners, surgeons, internal medicine physicians

**NAFLD** Diagnosis

 Patients not put into an HCC screening more likely to have stage C cancer at time of HCC diagnosis

#### BCLC Stage at Diagnosis in Patients With vs Without HCC Screening



# **How Quickly Does NASH Progress?**



# NASH Advanced Hepatic Fibrosis May Quickly Progress to Cirrhosis



In n = 217 NASH patients with F3, after median 29 mos, 22% had cirrhosis

- In n = 258 NASH patients with F4, after median 30.9 mos, 19% had a clinical event
  - Death, ascites, hepatic encephalopathy, esophageal variceal bleed, new varices, ≥ 2-pt increase in Child-Pugh score and or MELD ≥ 15

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# PRELHIN Study: Liver Fibrosis Associated With Long-term Outcomes in Patients With NAFLD

 Retrospective analysis in patients with NAFLD (N = 619); median follow-up: 12.6 yrs (range: 0.3-35.1)



Only fibrosis stage was associated with overall mortality, OLT, and liver-related events. Presence of NASH, NAS (or any of its components) had no independent prognostic effect.

Angulo. Gastroenterology. 2015;149:389.

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# Who Is at Risk for Progression to Advanced Hepatic Fibrosis?



# Who Is at Risk for NASH and Advanced Hepatic Fibrosis?



 Risk of advanced fibrosis higher in first-degree relatives of patients with NAFLD cirrhosis<sup>[2]</sup>

1. Chalasani. Hepatology. 2018;67:328. 2. Caussy. J Clin Invest. 2017;127:2697.

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# **Case Finding and High-Risk Populations**

#### Strong Clinical Predictors of NASH and Fibrosis

- Age > 50 yrs
- T2D
- First-degree relative with NAFLD cirrhosis



#### **Other Risk Factors**

- Sedentary lifestyle/Western diet (high fructose consumption)
- Overweight/obese
- Metabolic syndrome (3 or more features)
- Ethnicity (Hispanic/Asian)
- Dyslipidemia
- Polycystic ovary syndrome
- Endocrinopathies (panhypopituitarism)
- Obstructive sleep apnea

## Who Should Be Evaluated?



# **Case Finding and Screening**

Need to identify individuals at risk of progression BEFORE bad outcomes occur



# Guideline Recommendations: Who Is at Risk for NASH and Advanced Fibrosis?

AASLD <sup>[1]</sup>	EASL-EASD-EASO <sup>[2]</sup>	ADA <sup>[3]</sup>
In T2D, suspect NAFLD and NASH and determine patient's risk of advanced fibrosis	NASH and advanced fibrosis <b>screening recommended</b> in persons at high risk (age > 50 yrs, T2D, metabolic syndrome)	NASH and fibrosis <b>screening recommended</b> in persons with T2D or prediabetes and elevated ALT or fatty liver
Increasing number of metabolic diseases = increasing risk of progressive liver disease		

#### AASLD, EASL, and ADA guidelines call out patients with T2D as warranting workup

1. Chalasani. Hepatology. 2018;67:328. 2. EASL, EASD, EASO. J Hepatol. 2016;64:1388. 3. ADA. Diabetes Care. 2019;42:S34.



# Should NASH be Part of Standard Screening for Everyone With T2D?



## **Summary**

- NAFLD is highly prevalent with variable rates of progression to NASH and advanced hepatic fibrosis
- Crucial to identify those with NASH advanced hepatic fibrosis because it can quickly progress to cirrhosis and HCC, liver transplant, mortality
- Patients with T2D warrant evaluation
  - Other risk factors include obesity, metabolic syndrome, first-degree relative with NASH cirrhosis
- Non-invasive prognostic biomarkers may facilitate risk-stratification

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