

Hepatocellular carcinoma

A 'silent killer'



Liver cancer is the **6th most common cancer** in the world¹

and **hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC)** accounts for **90%** of primary liver cancer cases.²



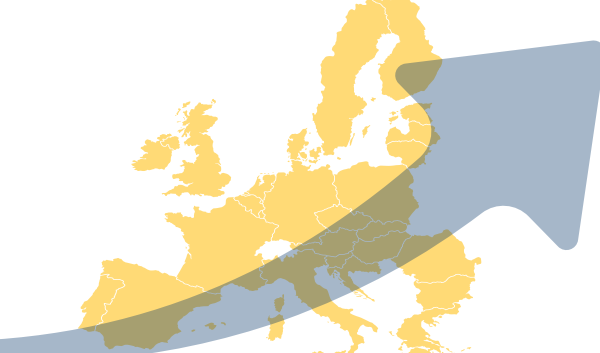
Globally, in 2020 **over 815,000**

people were diagnosed with HCC,^{1,2} about 40% of which were in late stages of the disease.³

Risk factors of HCC

Almost 50% of all cases

are diagnosed in **China**,^{1,4} in large part due to the prevalence of hepatitis B and C.⁵

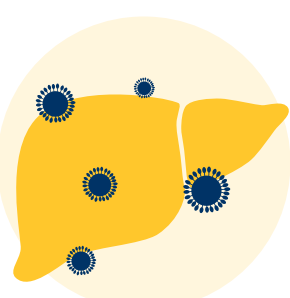


In **recent years**, the incidence and number of deaths from liver cancer has increased around the world.^{6,7}

In the US, this increase is faster than any other cancer, having more than tripled since 1980, which in part is due to the rising prevalence of **fatty foods and obesity**, a factor that is increasing the risk globally.⁶⁻⁹



Risk factors include:^{2,10}



Hepatitis B and C virus



Fatty foods and obesity



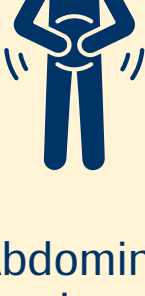
Alcohol



Aflatoxin (a carcinogenic mould found in contaminated food, especially rice)

Signs and symptoms

HCC often doesn't show symptoms until the advanced stages of the disease,² but some people may experience:¹⁰



Abdominal pain or tenderness



Easy bruising or bleeding



Enlarged abdomen



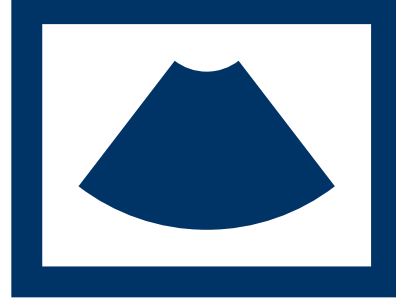
Unexplained weight loss



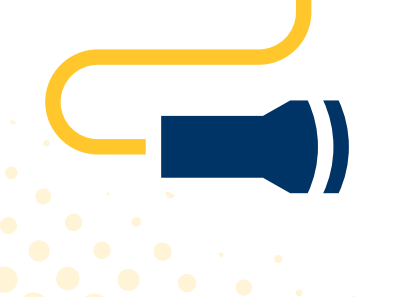
Jaundice

Screening and diagnosis

Surveillance programmes are associated with improved survival.¹¹



People at high-risk of developing liver cancer may undergo ultrasound examinations, which can be sensitive enough to detect small masses on the liver,¹² or blood tests for protein levels (AFP).¹³



If liver cancer is suspected, other methods of diagnosis are:^{10,13}

- Abdominal CT scan
- Abdominal MRI scan
- Liver biopsy



Current treatment landscape

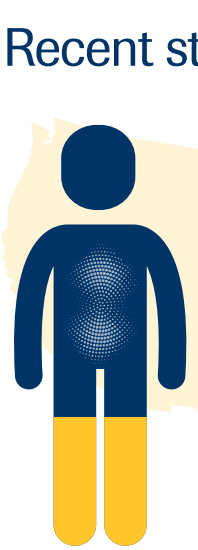
There are limited treatments available for people across all stages of liver cancer, and even less if diagnosed at the advanced stage.¹³

In fact, **less than 50%**

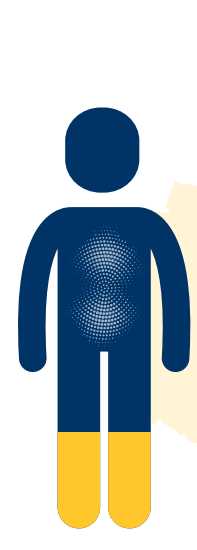
of people diagnosed with advanced HCC will survive more than a year after diagnosis.¹¹



Recent studies show:



Less than 30% of people diagnosed with HCC in the US received any treatment at all¹¹



Only 20% of people with HCC in China are diagnosed in early stages, when curative treatments are still an option¹⁴

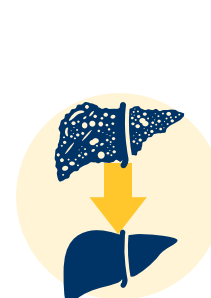
Treatments currently available across different stages of the disease include:¹³



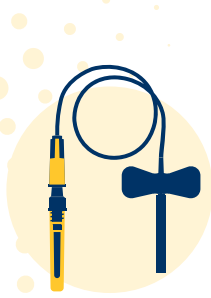
Surgery to remove masses



Radiation



Liver transplant



Transarterial chemoembolisation



Chemotherapy



Tyrosine kinase inhibitors



Immunotherapies

Future perspectives for people with HCC



Despite the high prevalence of HCC, people with the disease still have few options and a low survival rate.^{6,11}

Recently, immune checkpoint inhibitors, which target the PD-L1 and PD-1 proteins, have been approved and more are being explored for people with HCC.¹⁵



References

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