

Rush University Medical Center

Pharmacological Advances in the Treatment of MASLD

5th Annual CURRENT PERSPECTIVES IN HEPATOLOGY

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Disclosures

- Consultation: AbbVie, Gilead, Arbutus, Intercept, Salix, VIR
- Research Support: AbbVie, Gilead, Salix

DISCLAIMER:

I know the terminology has changed to MASLD/MASH, however if the publication occurred prior to this I am leaving the original terminology

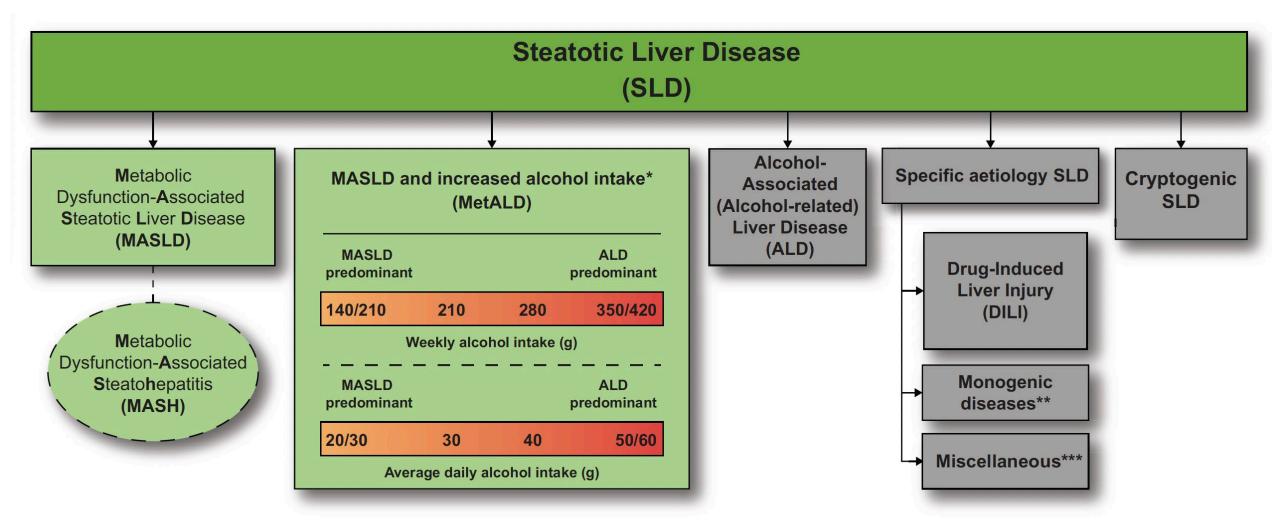


New Terminology



Definition

- Affirmative set of diagnostic criteria for MASLD
- Near universal agreement to err on side of being inclusive
- Simple, readily available and easily measurable parameters
- The diagnostic criteria were also selected to align with cardiometabolic risk factors already well established and validated in other metabolic health disorders

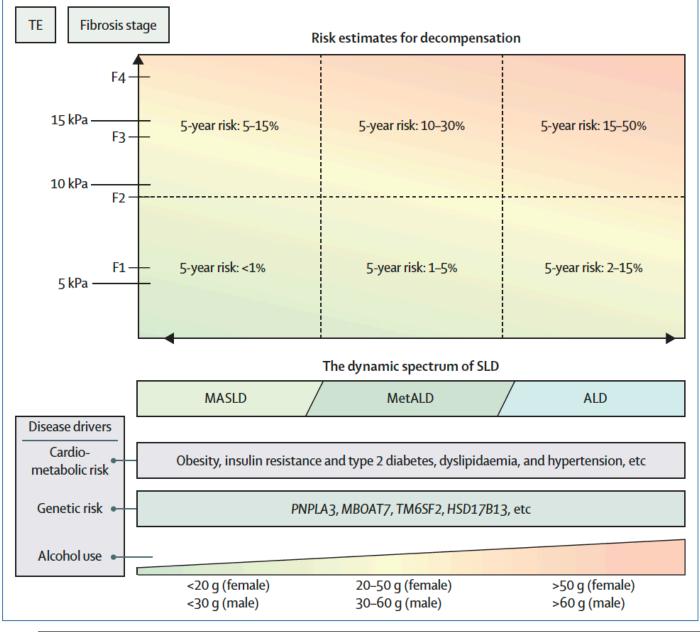


^{*}Weekly intake 140-350g female, 210-420g male (average daily 20-50g female, 30-60g male)

^{***}e.g. Hepatitis C virus (HCV), malnutrition, celiac disease, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)



^{**}e.g. Lysosomal Acid Lipase Deficiency (LALD), Wilson disease, hypobetalipoproteinemia, inborn errors of metabolism



Dynamic spectrum of MASLD-MetALD-ALD

Alcohol use interacts with cardiometabolic risk factors and impacts risk of decompensation

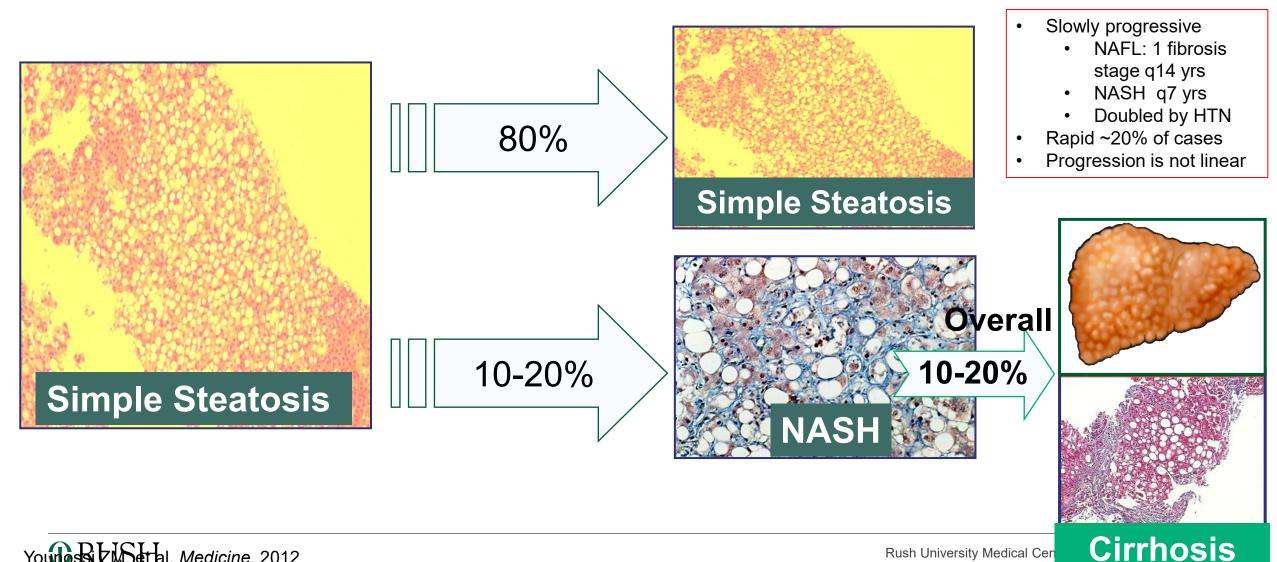


Israelsen et al. MetALD: new opportunities to understand the role of alcohol in steatotic/liverndiseasentlrancet/2014Hep 2023

Context



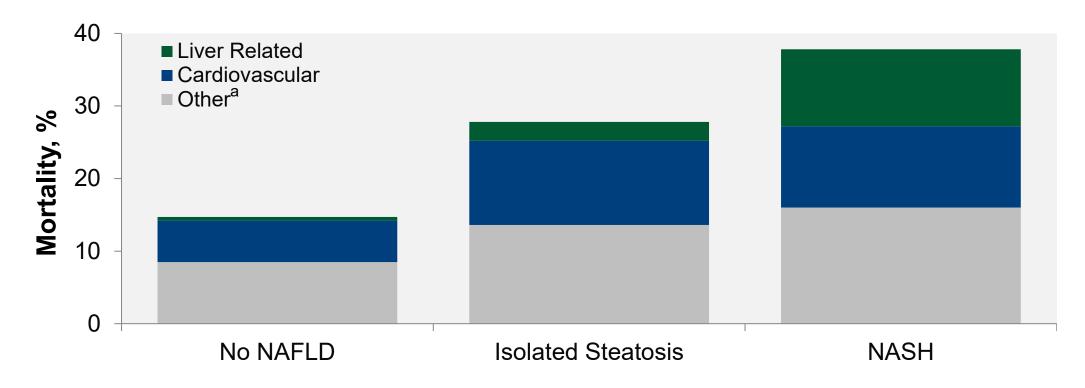
Natural History of NAFL and NASH



Rush University Medical Cen

Mortality Is Higher in Those With NASH Compared to Those With Isolated Steatosis

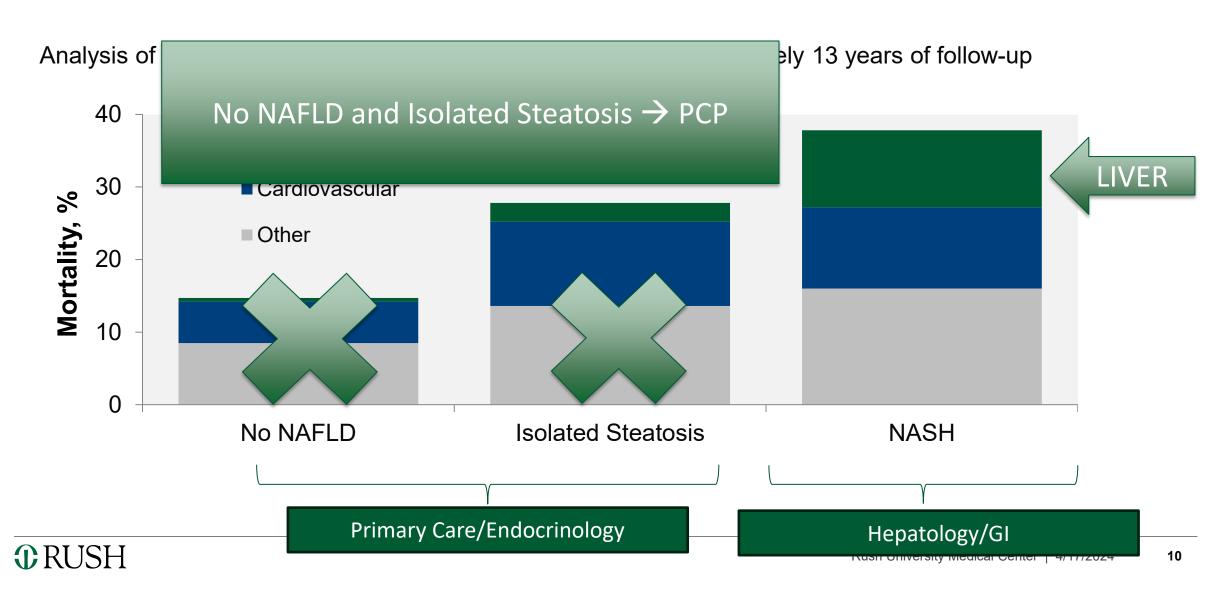
Analysis of all-cause mortality in six separate studies with approximately 13 years of follow-up



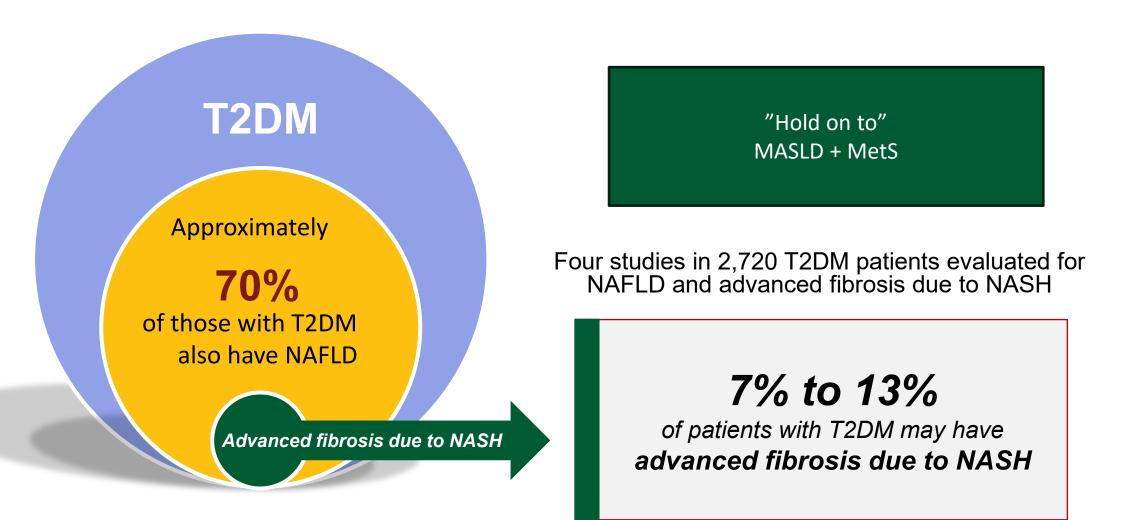
^aOther causes of death include extrahepatic malignancy, diabetes-related complications, renal disease, neurological disease, respiratory disease, infections, and accidents. Bril F and Cusi K. *Endocrinol Metab Clin North Am.* 2016;45:765–781.



Mortality Is Higher in Those With MASH Compared to Those With Isolated Steatosis



Approximately 7% to 13% of Those With T2DM Have Advanced Fibrosis Due to NASH



Analysis of a Simulation Model to Estimate Long-term Outcomes in Patients with Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Disease



JAMA Netw Open. 2022;5(9):e2230426. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2022.30426

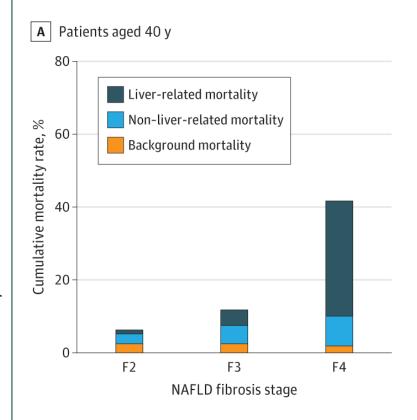
Patients aged 65 years, estimated 10-year non-liverrelated mortality was higher than liver-related mortality in all fibrosis stages

F2: 16.7% vs 0.8%

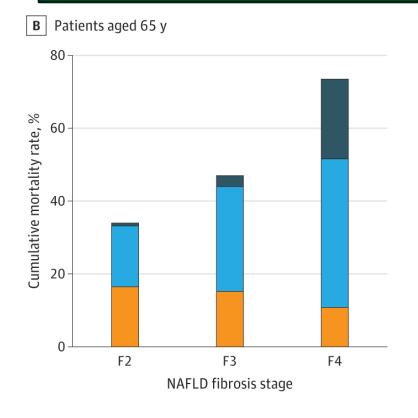
F3: 28.8% vs 3.0%

F4: 40.8% vs 21.9%

Patients aged 40 years, nonliver-related mortality was higher than liver-related mortality in stage F2 (2.7% vs 1.1%) or F3 (5.0% vs 4.3%); But reversed in stage F4 (8.2% vs 31.6%)



"Hold on to" the Young



Tools to help you



American Association of Clinical Endocrinology Clinical Practice Guideline for the Diagnosis and Management of Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Disease in Primary Care and **Endocrinology Clinical Settings**



AACE. **Endocrine** Practice[™]

2022 AACE Clinical **Practice Guideline**



Co-Sponsored by the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD)

Received: 18 January 2023 | Accepted: 18 January 2023

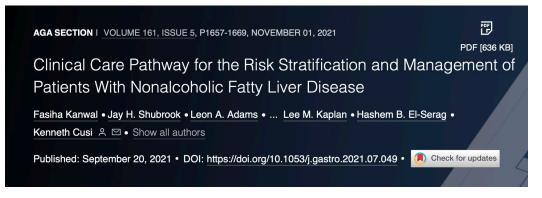
DOI: 10.1097/HEP.0000000000000323

PRACTICE GUIDANCE



AASLD Practice Guidance on the clinical assessment and management of nonalcoholic fatty liver disease

Mary E. Rinella¹ | Brent A. Neuschwander-Tetri² |



https://www.gastrojournal.org/article/S0016-5085(21)03384-9/fulltext



CONFERENCE | FACULTY | ABOUT | RESOURCES >



⊳aga

DOWNLOAD THE APP

The Let's Smash NASH! clinical care pathway mobile app is a tool for use at the point-of-care, providing evidence-based recommendations about the timing, sequence and provision of nterventions, assisting practitioners in identifying, evaluating and managing patients with NASH





The AGA's Call-to-Action initiative is a multidisciplinary effort to align gastroenterologists, hepatologists, endocrinologists, and primary care providers to improve diagnosis and management of NAFLD/NASH.

Screen AND Stage

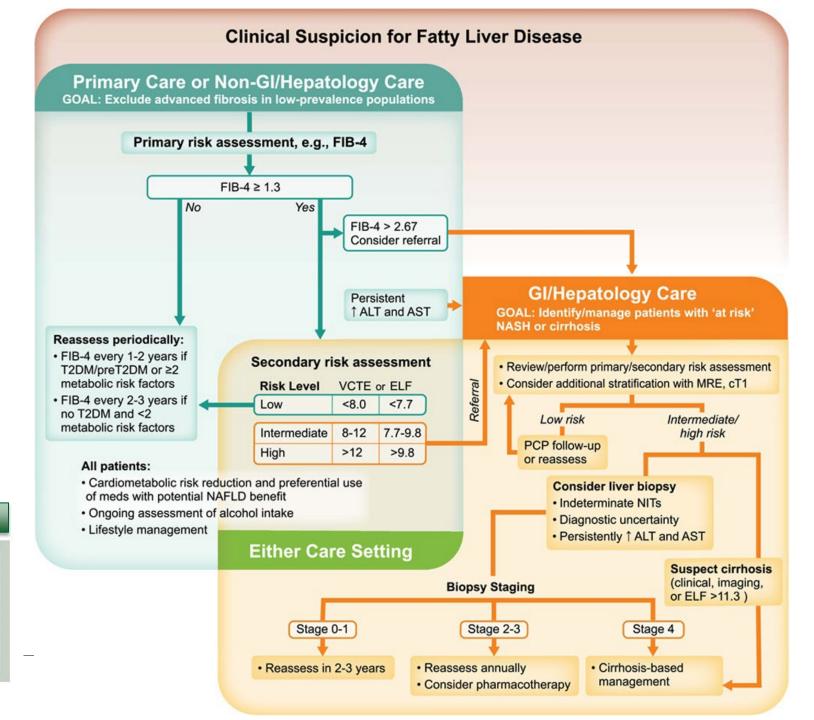


If you return patients to primary care that are not currently at risk for liver related disease

- Offer clear plan on follow with links to guidelines and FIB4 calculator and ELF CPT code
- Radiology offers both LSM and MRE
- Place recall reminder to get staging in chart
- Schedule follow-up at 5 year interval in those <65 years old

This could change w/ drug development

13. Patients with NASH cirrhosis are at the highest risk for liver-related outcomes and require routine surveillance for HCC, esophageal varices, and monitoring for decompensation.



16. First-degree relatives of patients with NASH cirrhosis should be counseled regarding their increased individual risk and offered screening for advanced hepatic fibrosis.

Prevalence of advanced fibrosis in background MASLD population (0.9-2%) 20-23

Screening recommended	Prevalence of advanced fibrosis
Type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM)	6-19% 1-8
Medically complicated obesity	4-33% 9-17
MASLD in context of moderate alcohol use	17% 18
First degree relative of a patient with cirrhosis due to NAFLD	18% 19



Treat Co-Morbid Conditions like a Hepatologist (would want you to) Off Label Therapy



Weight Management in NAFLD



Fibrosis Risk Stratification

Low Risk	Indeterminat	te Risk	High Risk	
	4: <1.3 <8 kPa <7.7	FIB-4: 1.3 - 2.67 LSM 8 - 12 kPa ELF 7.7 - 9.8	1	FIB-4: >2.67 LSM >12 kPa ELF >9.8

	ELF <7.7	ELF 7.7 - 9.8	ELF >9.8	
General lifestyle changes	Decrease sedentary time and increase daily movement. Stress reduction through exercise and other methods.			
Dietary recommendations	Creating an energy deficit is the priority with reduction of saturated fat, starch, & added sugars. Persons with cirrhosis need an individualized nutritional assessment and treatment plan.			
Exercise	To improve cardiometabolic health, support weight loss and mitigate sarcopenia. Aerobic exercise for 30-60 min (3-5 days/week) + resistance training 20-30 min (2-3 times/week).			
Alcohol intake	Minimize	Minimize	Avoid if F3 or cirrhosis (F4)1	
Weight loss goal to treat NAFLD (if overweight or obesity) ²	Greater weight loss associated with greater liver and cardiometabolic benefit.			
Weight loss tools	Behavioral modification counseling. In person or remote programs.	Greater intensity of weight loss to reverse steatohepatitis and fibrosis.	Specialized obesity management, with a structured program, anti-obesity medications, bariatric surgery.	
Medical therapy to treat obesity	Phentermine, phentermine/topiramate ER, naltrexone/bupropion, orlistat, liragluitde 3 mg/d, semaglutide 2.4 mg/wk	GLP-1 RA preferred for NASH.3,4	GLP-1 RA preferred for NASH. ^{3,4}	
Bariatric surgery	Consider to treat obesity and comorbidities.	Strong consideration to treat steatohepatitis and fibrosis.	Stronger consideration to treat steatohepatitis and fibrosis. Avoid in decompensated cirrhosis.	

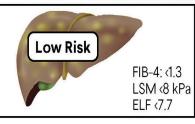
GLP1

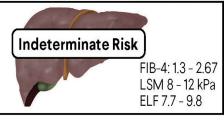


Diabetes Management in NAFLD

Fibrosis Risk Stratification









Optimize glycemic control using preferred agents that reverse steatohepatitis, whenever possible.

General goal

Prefer GLP-1 RA and SGLT2i in CVD.

Prefer SGLT2i in CKD and HF.

Dietary recommendations

Glycemic load reduction via emphasis on whole food carbohydrates (vegetables, legumes, fruit) versus sugar/processed carbohydrates.

Individualize A1c target

≤6.5% for persons without concurrent serious illness and at low hypoglycemic risk (>6.5% otherwise).

In advanced cirrhosis¹, caution with risk of hypoglycemia and avoid oral agents²

Preferred diabetes pharmacotherapy

Preferred diabetes pharmacotherapy Consider agents that reduce liver fat (pioglitazone, GLP-1 RA, SGLT2i).

Strongly consider agents with efficacy in NASH: Pioglitazone and/or GLP-1 RA³. No evidence that SGLT2i improve steatohepatitis.

Strongly consider agents with efficacy in NASH: Pioglitazone and/or GLP-1RA³. No efficacy data in cirrhosis.

Metformin, sulfonylurea, DPP-4i, acarbose and insulin

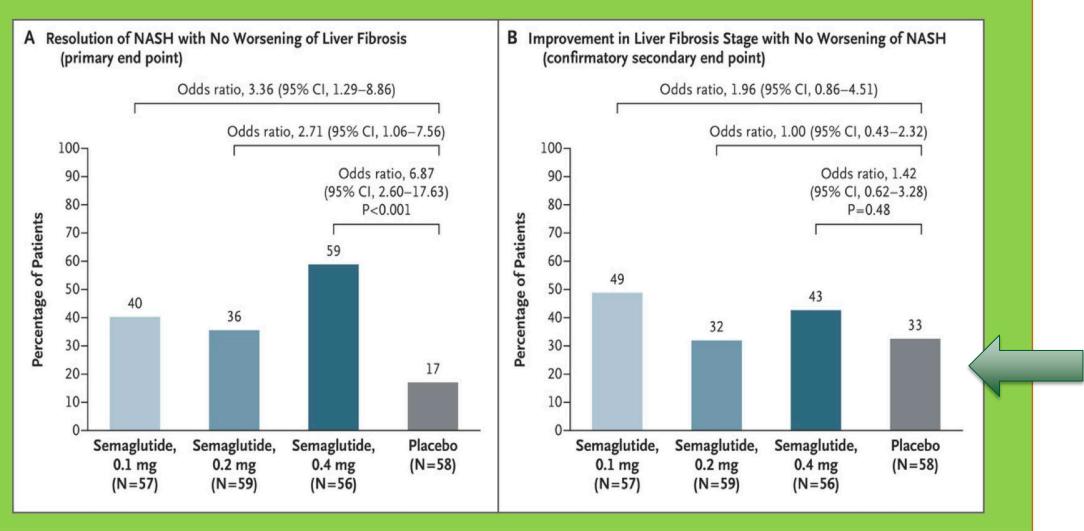
May continue but limited benefit on liver histology in NAFLD.

May continue but limited benefit on liver histology in NAFLD.

May continue (F2-F3) but avoid oral agents if advanced cirrhosis present.
Cannot avoid insulin in patients with advanced liver cirrhosis – often only option

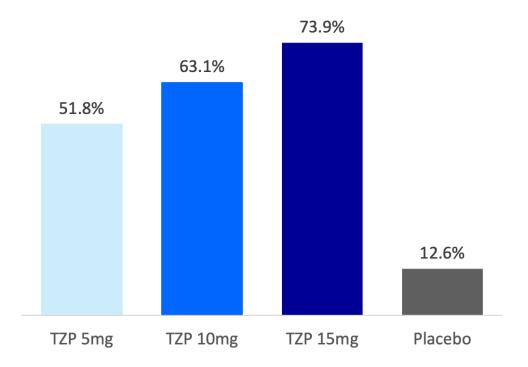


Semaglutide in NASH: Primary and Secondary Endpoints



Tirzepatide SYNERGY-NASH Phase 2 Study

Proportion of participants with absence of MASH and no worsening of fibrosis on liver histology at 52 weeks



Phase 2 study in adults with biopsy-proven MASH with stage 2 or 3 fibrosis

All doses met primary endpoint of absence of MASH with no worsening of liver histology

Secondary endpoint of decrease in fibrosis by at least one stage with no worsening of MASH on liver histology was clinically meaningful across doses

Adverse events were consistent with other tirzepatide studies in people living with obesity or type 2 diabetes

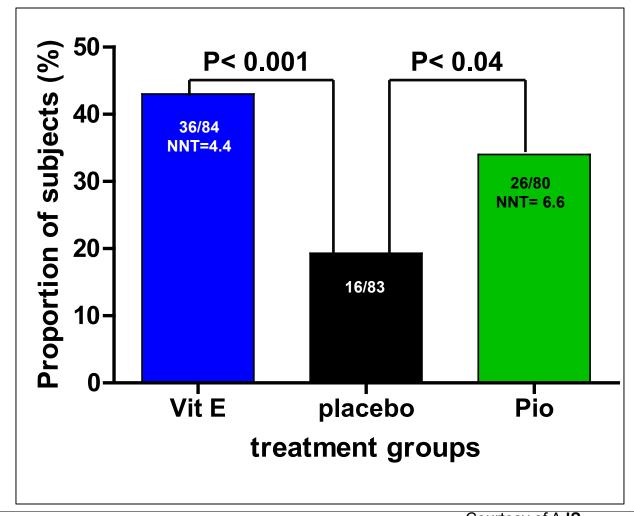
TZP = tirzepatide; MASH = metabolic dysfunction-associated steatohepatitis



PIVENS: Vitamin E not Pioglitazone met primary endpoint

- Improved histology
 - •> 1 drop in ballooning
 - •No increase in fibrosis AND
- •Reduction in NAS ≤ 3 or
- •NAS decrease of > 2
- Both resolved NASH
- Neither impacted Fibrosis

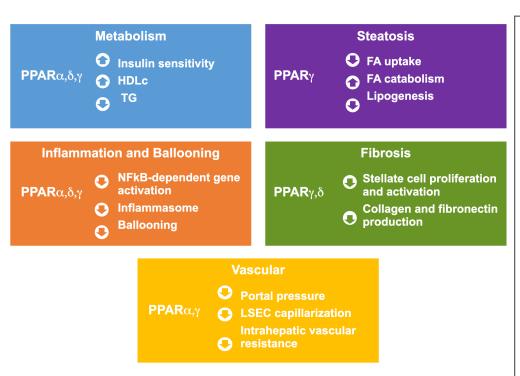
Pioglitazone improves insulin sensitivity @ PPAR gamma ½ and lipid metabolism through PPAR alpha

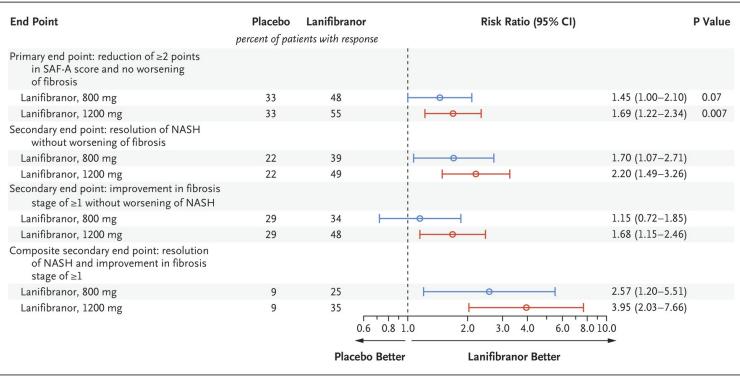


A Randomized, Controlled Trial of the Pan-PPAR Agonist Lanifibranor in NASH

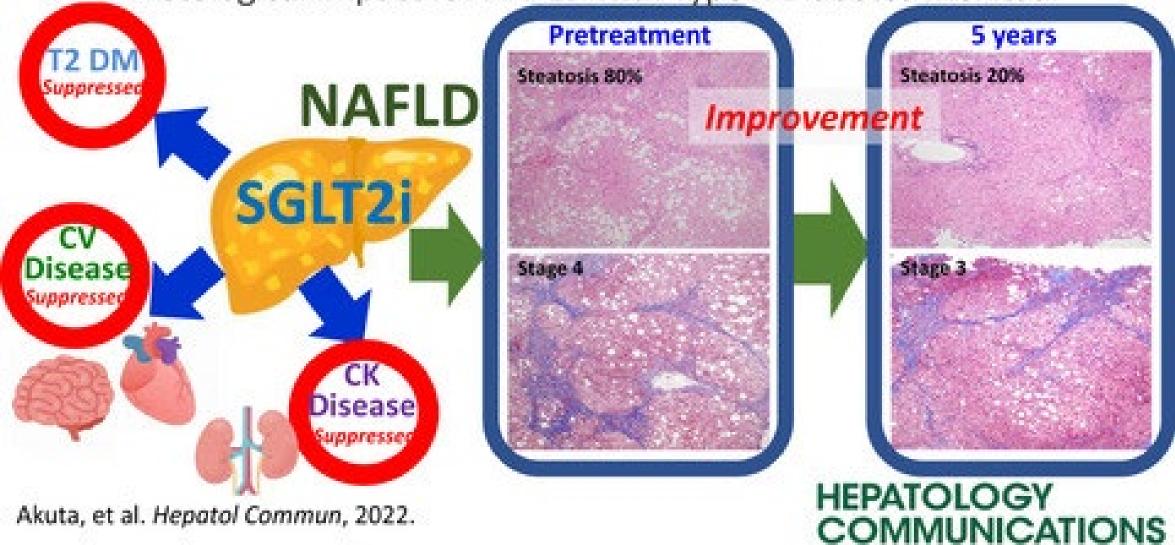
PPAR Agonist

Francque SM et al. DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa2036205





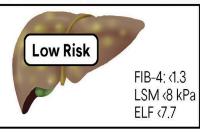
5-year Follow-Up Study with SGLT2 Inhibitor Indicated the Favorable Histological Impact for NAFLD with Type II Diabetes Mellitus



Hypertension Management in NAFLD



Fibrosis Risk Stratification







General goal	Optimize BP control and improve cardiovascular health using preferred agents, whenever possible. Assess every 3 months and intensify therapy until goal achieved.			
Goal (individualize) ^{2,3,4}	Systolic <130 mm Hg / Diastolic <80 mm Hg	Systolic < 130 mm Hg / Diastolic < 80 mm Hg	Systolic < 130 mm Hg / Diastolic < 80 mm Hg; individualize if decompensated cirrhosis	
Dietary recommendations	In addition to general dietary recommendations, reduce sodium & increase high potassium foods (e.g., DASH diet).			
Pharmacotherapy for hypertension ⁵	First-line therapy: ACEIs and ARBs.	First-line therapy: ACEIs and ARBs.	Same but avoid ACEI or ARB if decompensated cirrhosis.	
Intensification of therapy	Second agent: CCB, BB ⁶ or thiazide diuretic (as additional agents as needed).		Same but individualize if decompensated cirrhosis. Use diuretics with caution (risk of excessive diuresis).	
Additional options	Additional BP medication choices: alpha blockers, central agents, vasodilators, aldosterone antagonist.		Same but individualize if decompensated cirrhosis.	



ACEi and ARBs associated with lower risk of HCC and cirrhotic complications in patients with NAFLD

BACKGROUND

 ACEi and ARBs inhibit hepatic stellate cells and liver fibrosis in animal studies

METHODS

Retrospective cohort study of patients with NAFLD

Overall cohort included 12,494 NAFLD patients

Received ACEi/ARB 7,428 (59.5%)

Did not receive ACEi/ARB 5,066 (40.5%)

Data analysis

RESULTS

	Weighted SHR (95% CI)	p-value
Liver-related events	0.44 (0.33–0.59)	<0.001
HCC	0.46 (0.30-0.72)	<0.001
Cirrhotic complications	0.42 (0.29–0.61)	<0.001

CONCLUSION

 ACEi/ARB treatment was associated with a lower risk of liver-related events, HCC, and cirrhotic complications in patients with NAFLD



Atherogenic Dyslipidemia Management in NAFLD

Lipid risk levels are similar in the presence of NAFLD or NASH

General goal	Early intensive management of dyslipidemia needed to reduce cardiovascular risk. Intensify therapy until lipid goal is reached.			
Dietary recommendations	Increase fiber intake (>25 g/d), prioritize vegetables, fruits whole grains, nuts, reduce saturated fat & added sugars (e.g., Mediterranean diet).			
Lipid risk levels	High CV Risk¹ ≥2 risk factors and 10-year risk 10-20% Diabetes or CKD ≥3 with no other risk factors	Very high CV Risk¹ Established CVD or 10-year risk >20% Diabetes with >1 risk factor, CKD ≥3, HeFH	Extreme CV Risk ¹ Progressive CVD CVD + diabetes or CKD 23 or HeFH FHx premature CVD (455 yrs male 465 yrs female)	
LDL-C goal (mg/dL)	<100	<70	<55	
Non-HDL-C goal (mg/dL)	<130	100	<80	
Triglycerides goal (mg/dL)	<150	d50	⊲150	
איס ב פספו (ווופּ/ מבי	100	(00	1	
First line pharmacotherapy: Statins	Use a moderate-to-high intensity statin², unless contraindicated. Statins are safe in NAFLD or NASH but do not use in decompensated cirrhosis (Child C).			
Intensify statin therapy		Ose higher dose or higher potency statin		
If LDL-C not at goal (or statin intolerant) ⁴ : add 2nd agent, then	Ezetemibe, PCSK9 inhibitor, bempedoic acid, colesevelam, inclisiran.			
add 3rd agent				
	Fibrates, Rx grade omega 3 FA, icosa	apent ethyl (if diabetes, optimize glycemic	c control and consider pioglitazone).5	

Abbreviations: CKD = Chronic kidney disease, CVD = cardiovascular disease, FA = Fatty acids, HeFH = Heterozygous familial hypercholesterolemia, HTN = Hypertension, Rx = Prescription

- 1. Major risk factors: age 340, DM, HTN, FHx of early CVD, low HDL C, elevated LDL, Smoking, CKD 3,4
- 2. High intensity statin therapy: rosuvastatin 20, 40 mg/d, atorvastatin 40, 80 mg/d.
- 3. Other lipid modifying agents should be used in combination with maximally tolerated statins if goals not reached: ezetimibe, PCSK9 inhibitor, bempedoic acid, colesevelam, or inclisiran.
- 4. Assess adequacy and tolerance of therapy with focused laboratory evaluations and patient follow up.
- 5. Niacin may lower triglycerides but does not reduce CVD and worsens insulin resistance. It may promote hyperglycemia in a population at high-risk of diabetes.
- 6. Icosapent ethyl 4g/d is recommended as an adjunct to maximally tolerated statin therapy to reduce risk of cardiovascular disease in high-risk persons.





Treat MASLD in those at risk for progression



• LIFESTYLE MODIFICATIONS FOR ALL

- Referral to preventative health or behavioral therapy
- Therapy in those at highest risk for progression (F2/F3)
- Bariatrics/Endo-bariatrics
- Consider clinical trials



Lifestyle modifications

Energy restriction

- Calorie restriction (500–1,000/day)
- 7–10% weight loss target
- Long-term maintenance approach

Coffee consumption

No liver-related limitations

Macronutrient composition

- Low-to-moderate fat
- Moderate-to-high carbohydrate
- Low-carbohydrate ketogenic diets or high protein

Comprehensive lifestyle approach

Weight loss works!

Don't forget Bariatrics

Fructose intake

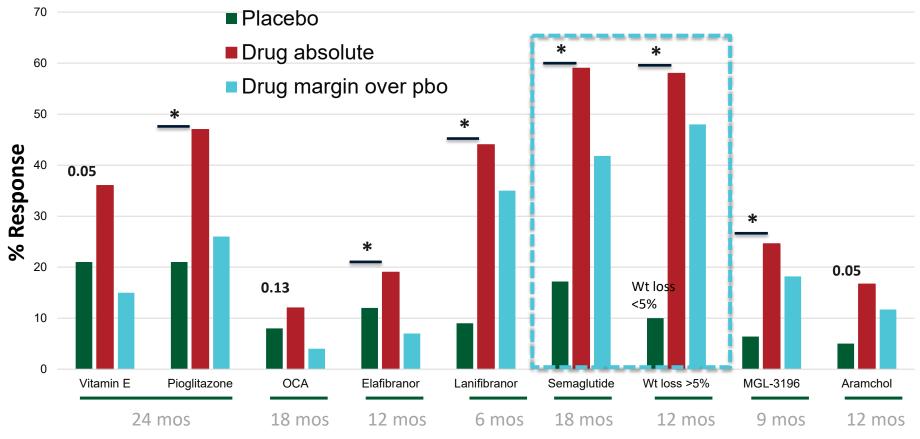
 Avoid fructose-containing food and drink

Daily alcohol intake

 Strictly below 30 g men and 20 g women

Physical activity

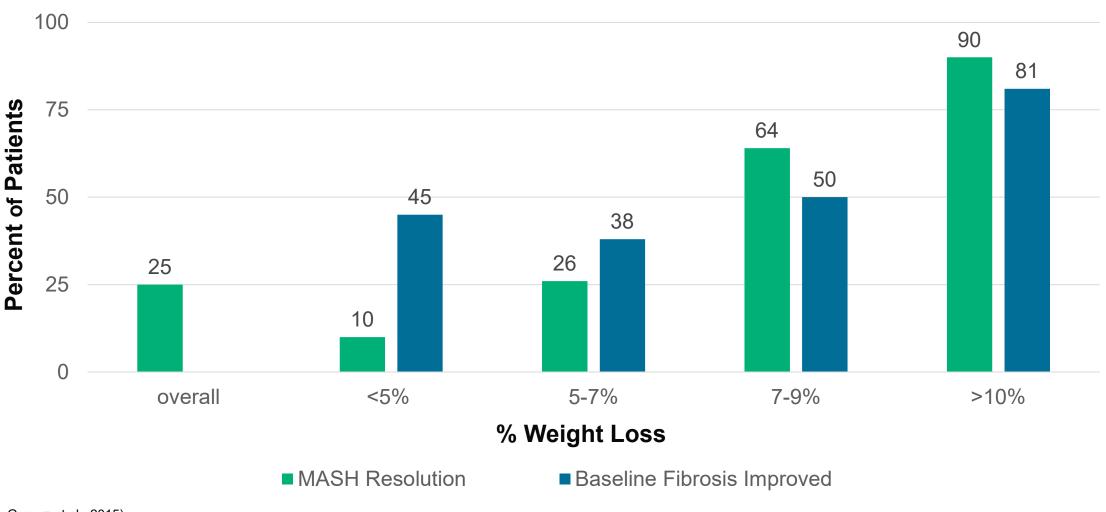
- 150–200 min/week moderate intensity in 3–5 sessions
- Resistance training to promote musculoskeletal fitness and improve metabolic factors

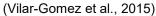






Weight Loss Reverses Fibrosis







1 INDICATIONS AND USAGE



- REZDIFFRA is indicated in conjunction with diet and exercise for the treatment of adults with noncirrhotic nonalcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH) with moderate to advanced liver fibrosis (consistent with stages F2 to F3 fibrosis).
- This indication is approved under accelerated approval based on improvement of NASH and fibrosis [see <u>Clinical Studies</u> (14)].
 Continued approval for this indication may be contingent upon verification and description of clinical benefit in confirmatory trials.

Limitations of use:

Avoid use of REZDIFFRA in patients with decompensated cirrhosis [see Use in <u>Specific Populations</u> (8.7), <u>Clinical Pharmacology</u> (12.3)].

Rezdiffra: resmetirom tablets 60mg · 80mg · 100mg

NOW APPROVED

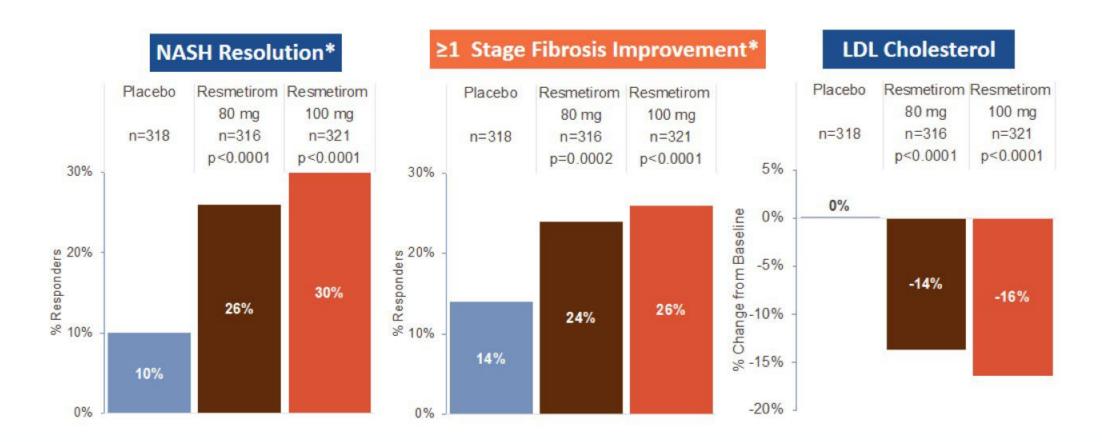
A new treatment for NASH with liver scarring* without cirrhosis

The **first and only** FDA-approved once-daily treatment, along with diet and exercise, for adults with NASH with liver scarring.

*Moderate to advanced liver scarring (fibrosis).

NASH is nonalcoholic steatohepatitis.

Dual Primary Endpoints (Week 52): Primary Analysis

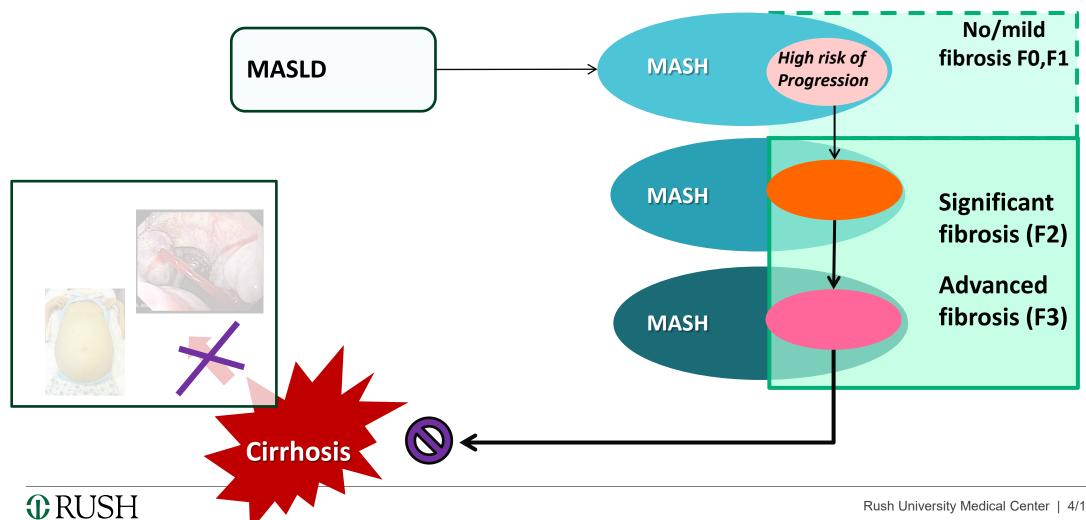


Both primary liver biopsy endpoints and the key secondary endpoint of LDL cholesterol lowering were met

*NASH Resolution with no worsening of fibrosis; ≥1 Stage Fibrosis Improvement with no worsening of NAS

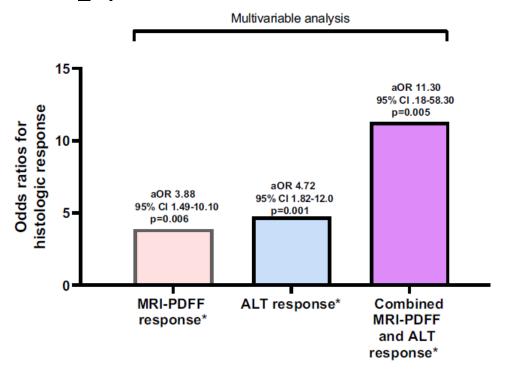


Current view of candidates for pharmacotherapy: non-cirrhotic MASH

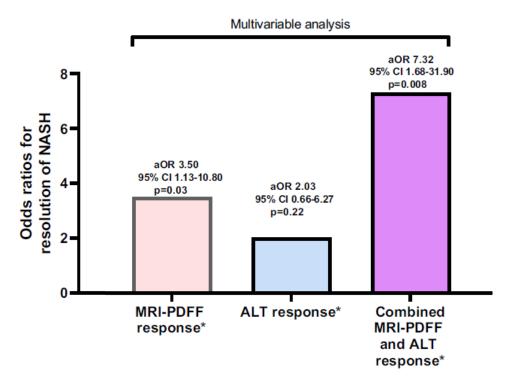


Liver fat content (>30% relative decrease) and a ≥17 IU/L ALT reduction predict histological improvement

NAS >2 pt reduction



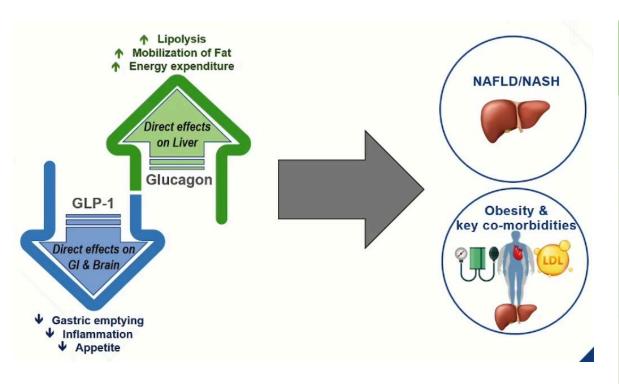
NASH resolution



Huang, Clin Gastro Hepatol 2023



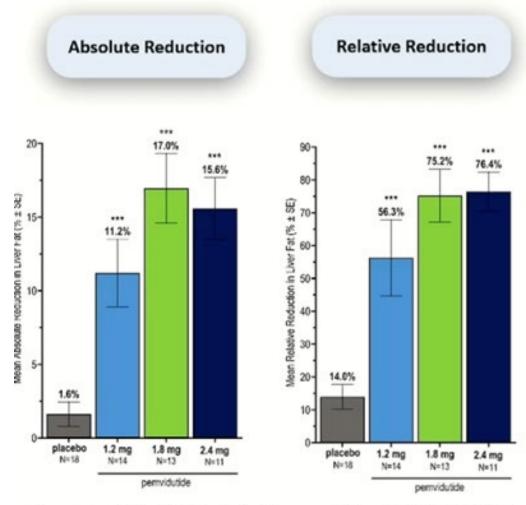
GLP1 dual and triple agonism



Active name	brand name	GLP 1 agonist	GIP	Glucagon
Semaglutide	Ozempic, Wegovy and Rybelsus	✓		
Tirzepatide	Mounjaro	✓	✓	
Retatrutide	Phase III	✓	✓	✓
Survodutide	Phase III	✓		✓

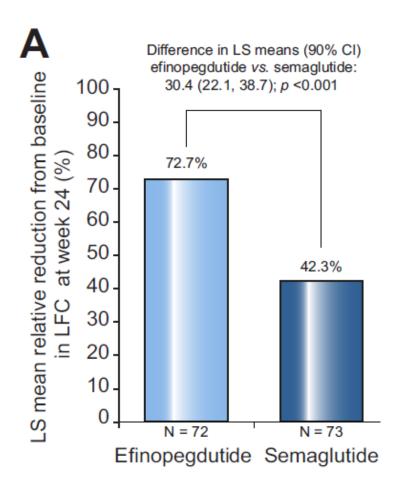


Liver fat reduction at week 24 GLP1-Glucogon R co-agonist



Comparison to Week 0 (Baseline) of the parent Phase 1b NAFLD trial, LS mean ± SE

*** p < 0.001 vs. placebo, (ANCOVA)



Romero-Gomez, J Hepatol 2023

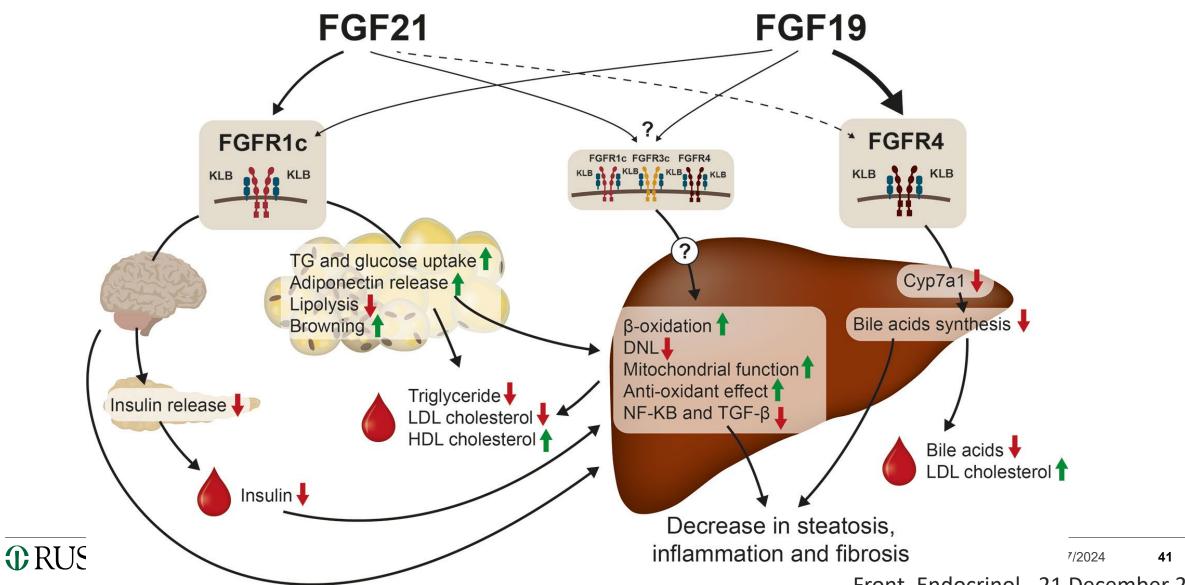


Survodutide Phase II trial shows 83% of adults treated achieved groundbreaking results in liver disease due to MASH, with significant improvements in fibrosis

Ingelheim, Germany, Mon, 02/26/2024 - 06:00

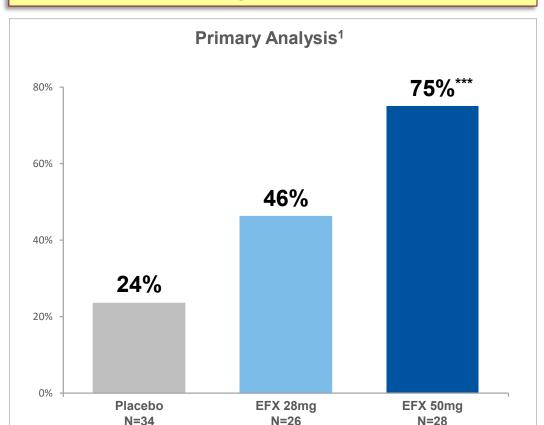
- 83.0% of adults treated with survodutide achieved a statistically significant improvement of metabolic dysfunction-associated steatohepatitis (MASH) versus placebo (18.2%)
- Primary endpoint biopsy-proven improvement in MASH after 48 weeks, without worsening of fibrosis
- Survodutide also met all secondary endpoints, including a statistically significant improvement in liver fibrosis

Metabolic Regulators: FGF21 and FGF19

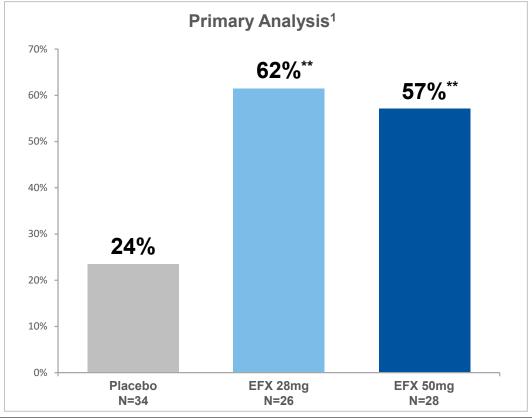


Histological improvement in efruxifermin Phase 2b HARMONY study (F2-F3 NASH)

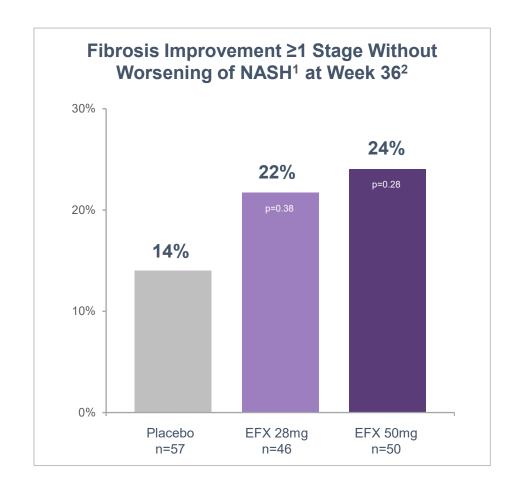
Fibrosis Improvement ≥1 Stage & No Worsening of MASH at Week 96

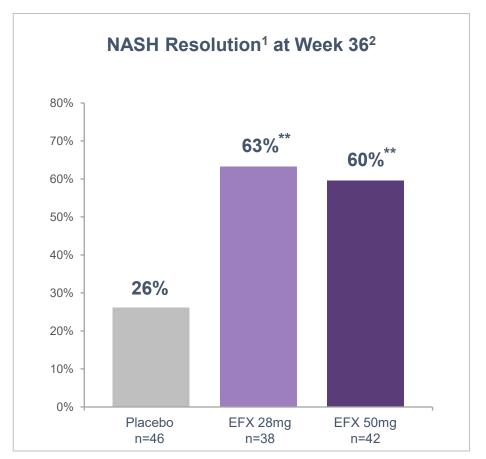


MASH Resolution & No Worsening of Fibrosis at Week 96



Improvements in Fibrosis and Steatohepatitis





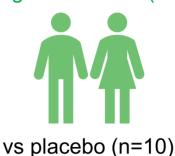
** p<0.01, versus placebo (Cochran–Mantel–Haenszel test [CMH])

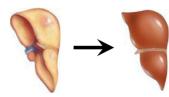


Safety and Efficacy of Efruxifermin in Combination With a GLP-1 Receptor Agonist in Patients With NASH/MASH and Type 2 Diabetes

Administration of once-weekly efruxifermin, for 12 weeks, to patients with type 2 diabetes and MASH with fibrosis (F1–F3) receiving a stable GLP1-RA:

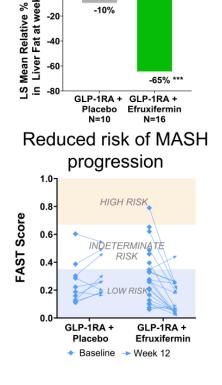
50 mg efruxifermin (n=21)



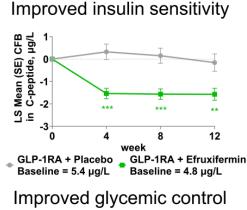


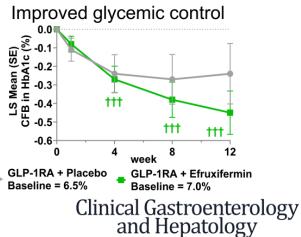
Improved liver and metabolic health:





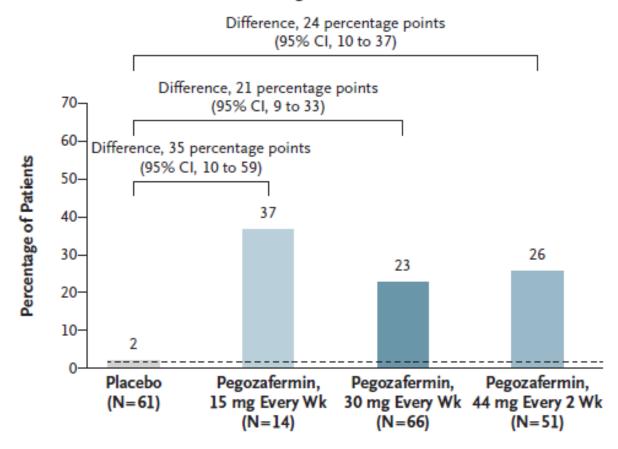
Decreased liver fat



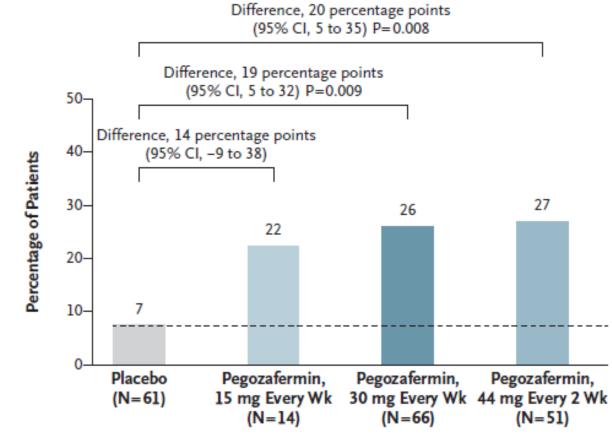


FGF21 Analogue Pegozafermin in NASH

B NASH Resolution without Worsening of Fibrosis



A Fibrosis Improvement ≥1 Stage without Worsening of NASH



Agents in phase 3 trials for NASH –efficacy data available

Oheticholic acid

Resmetirom- Approved

Lanifibranor

GLP1, GLP/GIP

GLP/Glucagon

FGF21

Hepatic effects

Yes

Yes

Yes

?

Yes

Yes

Metabolic effects

No

Yes (lipids)

Yes (glycemia, lipids)

Yes

Yes

Yes

Weight loss

No

No

No

+ (major)

+ (moderate)

No

Conclusions:

- MASLD is present in more than 30% of Americans
 - Concentrate the effort in those with risk for liver disease
- Fibrosis is associated with liver related morbidity and mortality
 - We have our first agent for F2/F3!!!
- Lifestyle intervention is the cornerstone of therapy
- Treat co-morbid conditions in a liver friendly way
 - Treat Obesity
- Follow your patient (on or off therapy!)
- Drug pipeline is rich...



Thank you.

