AASLD practice guidance on risk stratification and management of portal hypertension and varices in cirrhosis.

Guideline ID: 763 Published: 2024 May 1

American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD)

Kaplan DE, Ripoll C, Thiele M, et al. AASLD practice guidance on risk stratification and management of portal hypertension and varices in cirrhosis. Hepatology. 2024 May 1;79(5):1180-1211. [308 references] PubMed

View Original Guideline

Overview

Guideline Objective

To coalesce best practice recommendations for the identification of portal hypertension (PH), for prevention of initial hepatic decompensation, for the management of acute variceal hemorrhage (AVH), and for reduction of the risk of recurrent variceal hemorrhage in chronic liver disease

Note: The present guidance does not focus on ascites as a complication of PH because this was recently covered in the AASLD Practice Guidance on ascites and related complications and vascular causes of PH.

Patient Population

Adults with or at risk for PH and cirrhosis

Recommendations

Recommendation Statements

Major interventions covered in this guideline include:

- Noninvasive diagnostic testing and monitoring for changes of mild or clinically significant portal hypertension (CSPH), varices, and high-risk varices
- Considerations for use and dosing of nonselective beta-blockers (NSBBs)
- Treatment and management of stage-specific PH, including compensated cirrhosis without CSPH but with mild PH, with proven or likely CSPH, and for patients with a contraindication to beta blockers
- Prevention and management of hemorrhage and rebleeding from gastric or ectopic varices
- Guidance on management of specific topics, including patients with hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) or who are pregnant; and use of portal gastropathy, endoscopy before transesophageal echocardiography (TEE), and preoperative TIPS prior to nonhepatic operation

Note: Full recommendation statements have not been provided because this guideline does not meet EGT's systematic review of the evidence criteria. Refer to the original guideline for more information.

Evidence Rating Scheme

Refer to the original guideline documentation for more information.

Recommendation Rating Scheme

Refer to the original guideline documentation for more information.

Related Content

Supporting Documents

- Supplemental Content.
- AASLD Policy on Development and Use of Practice Guidelines, Guidances, and Position Papers.

Implementation Tools

- Liver*Learning*® website.

Patient Education

No patient education materials available.

Disclaimer

If you desire to use content from the original clinical practice guideline cited herein, you must contact the guideline developer directly to obtain permission rights.

ECRI's Guideline Profiles are designed to provide information and assist decision-making. Variations in practice will inevitably, and appropriately, occur when clinicians take into account the needs and preferences of individual patients, available resources, and limitations unique to an institution or type of practice. Every healthcare professional using these Guideline Profiles is responsible for evaluating the appropriateness of applying them in a clinical setting.

Copyright © 2025 ECRI