Simple blood tests to diagnose compensated advanced chronic liver disease and stratify the risk of clinically significant portal hypertension

Semmler G, Hartl L, Mendoza YP, et al.

Hepatology <u>80(4):p 887-900, October 2024.</u> DOI: 10.1097/HEP.000000000000829

Abstract

Background and Aims:

Compensated advanced chronic liver disease (cACLD) identifies patients at risk for clinically significant portal hypertension (CSPH), and thus, for liver-related complications. The limited availability of liver stiffness measurements (LSM) impedes the identification of patients at risk for cACLD/CSPH outside of specialized clinics. We aimed to develop a blood-based algorithm to identify cACLD by fibrosis-4 (FIB-4) and CSPH by von Willebrand factor/platelet count ratio (VITRO).

Approach and Results:

Patients with (suspected) compensated chronic liver disease undergoing FIB-4+LSM were included in the LSM/FIB-4 cohorts from Vienna and Salzburg. The HVPG/VITRO cohorts included patients undergoing HVPG-measurement + VITRO from Vienna and Bern.

LSM/FIB-4-derivation-cohort: We included 6143 patients, of whom 211 (3.4%) developed hepatic decompensation. In all, 1724 (28.1%) had LSM \geq 10 kPa, which corresponded to FIB-4 \geq 1.75. Importantly, both LSM (AUROC:0.897 [95% CI:0.865-0.929]) and FIB-4 (AUROC:0.914 [95% CI:0.885-0.944]) were similarly accurate in predicting hepatic decompensation within 3 years. FIB-4 \geq 1.75 identified patients at risk for first hepatic decompensation (5 y-cumulative incidence:7.6%), while in those <1.75, the risk was negligible (0.3%).

HVPG/VITRO-derivation cohort: 247 patients of whom 202 had cACLD/FIB-4 ≥ 1.75 were included. VITRO exhibited an excellent diagnostic performance for CSPH (AUROC:0.889 [95% CI:0.844-0.934]), similar to LSM (AUROC:0.856 [95% CI:0.801–0.910], p = 0.351) and the ANTICIPATE model (AUROC:0.910 [95%] CI:0.869-0.952], p =0.498). **VITRO** 1.0/ ≥ 2.5 ruled-out The (sensitivity:100.0%)/ruled-in (specificity:92.4%) CSPH. diagnostic performance was comparable to the Baveno-VII criteria.

LSM/FIB-4—derivation cohort findings were externally validated in n=1560 patients, while HVPG/VITRO—derivation-cohort findings were internally (n=133) and externally (n=55) validated.

Diagnosis of cACLD and CSPH without need for LSM - feasible in primary and secondary care Blood-based 1st step: FIB-4 to detect cACLD diagnosis of cACLD SMFB4-colore 6143 patients with spected) (ver disease FIB-4 ≥1.75 = equivalent to LSM ≥10kPa Prognostic performance (hepatic *** decompensation) LSMFIB 4-validation-coh n=1560 patients with (huspected) fiver disease FIB-4 < 1.75 FIB-4 ≥1.75 comparable to LSM Negligible risk of cACLD = at risk hepatic decompensation 2nd step: VITRO for CSPH risk stratification HVPG/VITRO-derivation e=247 with (suspected) cACLD VITRO ≥2.5 VITRO <1.0 Grey zone comparable to HVPG/VITRO-internal-validation-co n=133 with (suspected) cACLD **CSPH** ruled-out CSPH ruled-in Baveno VII criteria Diagnostic performance for CSPH comparable HVPG/VITRO-external-validation-c n=55 with (suspected) cACLD to LSM and the ANTICIPATE model HEPATO Semmler et Hartl, et al. Hepatology.

Conclusions:

Simple, broadly available laboratory tests (FIB-4/VITRO) facilitate cACLD detection and CSPH risk stratification in patients with (suspected) liver disease. This blood-based approach is applicable outside of specialized clinics and may promote early intervention.

Σχόλιο:

Η αντιρροπούμενη προχωρημένη χρόνια ηπατική νόσος (cACLD) προσδιορίζει τους ασθενείς σε κίνδυνο για κλινικά σημαντική πυλαία υπέρταση (CSPH). Η περιορισμένη διαθεσιμότητα εκτίμησης της ηπατικής δυσκαμψίας (LSM) με τη χρήση του VCTE, με την οποία εντοπίζονται οι ασθενείς με cACLD, εμποδίζει τον εντοπισμό των ασθενών που διατρέχουν κίνδυνο για cACLD/CSPH. Σε αυτή τη μεγάλη πολυκεντρική μελέτη, οι συγγραφείς στοχεύσαν στην ανάπτυξη ενός αλγορίθμου για την αναγνώριση της cACLD με τη χρήση του FIB- 4 και την αναγνώριση της CSPH μέσω του λόγου παράγοντα von Willebrand/αριθμό αιμοπεταλίων (VITRO).

Όπως προκύπτει από τη μελέτη, το όριο που τίθεται για την διάγνωση της cACLD είναι FIB-4 \geq 1.75 και για την διάκριση της ύπαρξης ή μη της CSPH το όριο VITRO < 1.0/ \geq 2.5. Η χρήση αυτών των βιοδεικτών μπορεί να διευκολύνει τη διάγνωση της cACLD και CSPH σε μη εξειδικευμένα κέντρα και στην πρωτοβάθμια φροντίδα υγείας προάγοντας την έγκαιρη αξιολόγηση κινδύνου και την έναρξη κατάλληλων θεραπευτικών χειρισμών.

Ορέστης Σιδηρόπουλος Γαστρεντερολόγος – Ηπατολόγος