

# Paracentesis underutilized in patients with cirrhosis, ascites

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(HealthDay)—For patients admitted with diagnoses of cirrhosis and ascites, paracentesis is associated with decreased in-hospital mortality but is underutilized, according to a study published online Dec. 8 in the *Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology*.

John N. Gaetano, M.D., from the University of Chicago, and colleagues identified 31,614 adults, non-electively admitted with diagnoses of cirrhosis and ascites. Utilization and outcomes of paracentesis were examined.

The researchers found that 51 percent of the hospitalized patients underwent paracentesis. The overall in-hospital [mortality](#) rate was 7.6 percent, with increased mortality seen among patients who did not versus those who did undergo paracentesis (8.9 versus 6.3 percent; P patients

diagnosed with spontaneous bacterial peritonitis (both P

"[These data support] the use of paracentesis as a key inpatient quality measure among hospitalized adults with [cirrhosis](#)," the authors write.

"Future studies are needed to investigate the barriers to paracentesis use on admission."

**More information:** [Abstract](#)

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