

Gold standard monitoring of HCC in patients with cirrhosis is cost-effective

February 8 2017

Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) is the leading cause of death in patients with cirrhosis. A new analysis indicates that following screening guidelines for HCC in cirrhotic patients is lifesaving and cost-effective compared with 'real life' monitoring.

Compared with 'real life' monitoring, following the guidelines for screening—which recommends biannual ultrasound—increased life expectancy by an average of 5 months and was cost-effective at \$1754 per additional life year gained with French costs and at \$32,415 per additional life year gained with US costs.

"The large difference between French and US costs was explained by the 4- to 10-fold difference in unit costs for surveillance—clinic visits, tests—and for first-line curative treatments," said Dr. Isabelle Durand-Zaleski, co-author of the *Hepatology* study.

More information: Benjamin Cadier et al, Early detection and curative treatment of hepatocellular carcinoma: A cost-effectiveness analysis in France and in the United States, *Hepatology* (2017). [DOI: 10.1002/hep.28961](https://doi.org/10.1002/hep.28961)

Provided by Wiley

Citation: Gold standard monitoring of HCC in patients with cirrhosis is cost-effective (2017,

February 8) retrieved 27 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2017-02-gold-standard-hcc-patients-cirrhosis.html>

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