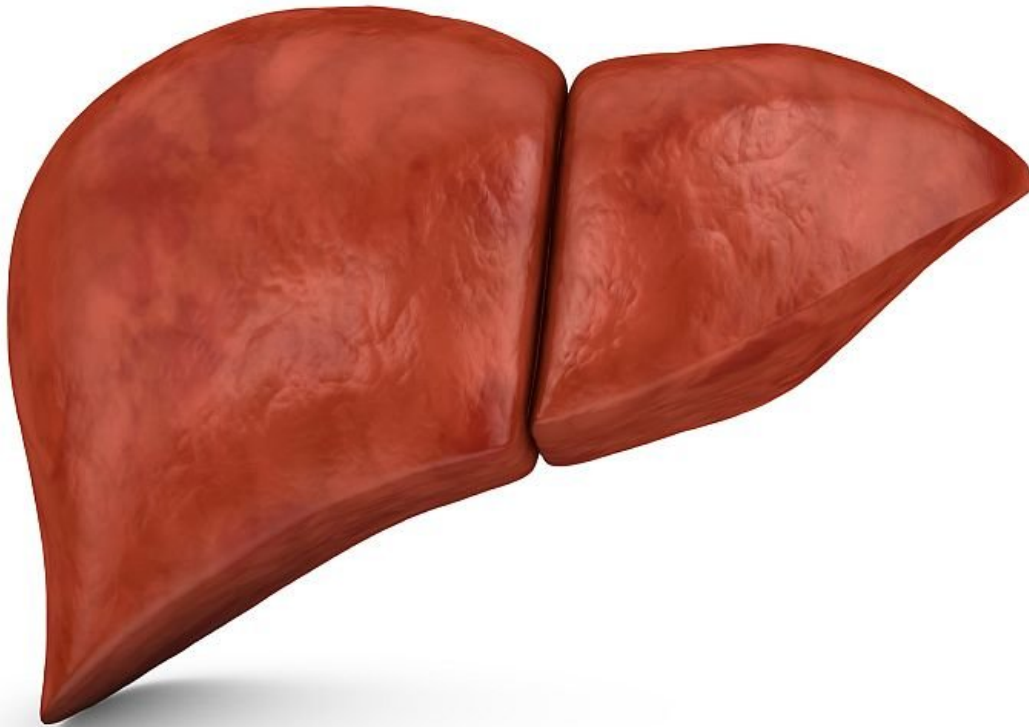


# Hepatitis B viral load, surface antigen may ID liver cancer risk

November 1 2017

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(HealthDay)—Elevated levels of hepatitis B virus (HBV) DNA and

hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) are associated with increased risks of liver cancer, according to a study published online Oct. 24 in the *Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology*.

Yang Yang, from the Shanghai Jiaotong University School of Medicine in China, and colleagues assessed the potential of HBsAg and viral load to stratify [liver cancer](#) risk. They performed a nested case-control study in 211 liver cancer cases and 221 controls who were sero-positive for HBsAg within two population-based cohorts in Shanghai.

The researchers found that the risk of liver cancer was positively associated with increasing levels of HBV DNA and HBsAg in dose-response manners. The adjusted odds ratios [ORs] increased from 2.11 (95 percent confidence interval [CI], 0.99 to 4.5) to 10.47 (95 percent CI, 5.06 to 21.68) for those with HBV DNA level of 2,000-19,999 IU/ml or  $\geq 20,000$  IU/ml compared with subjects with HBV DNA

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