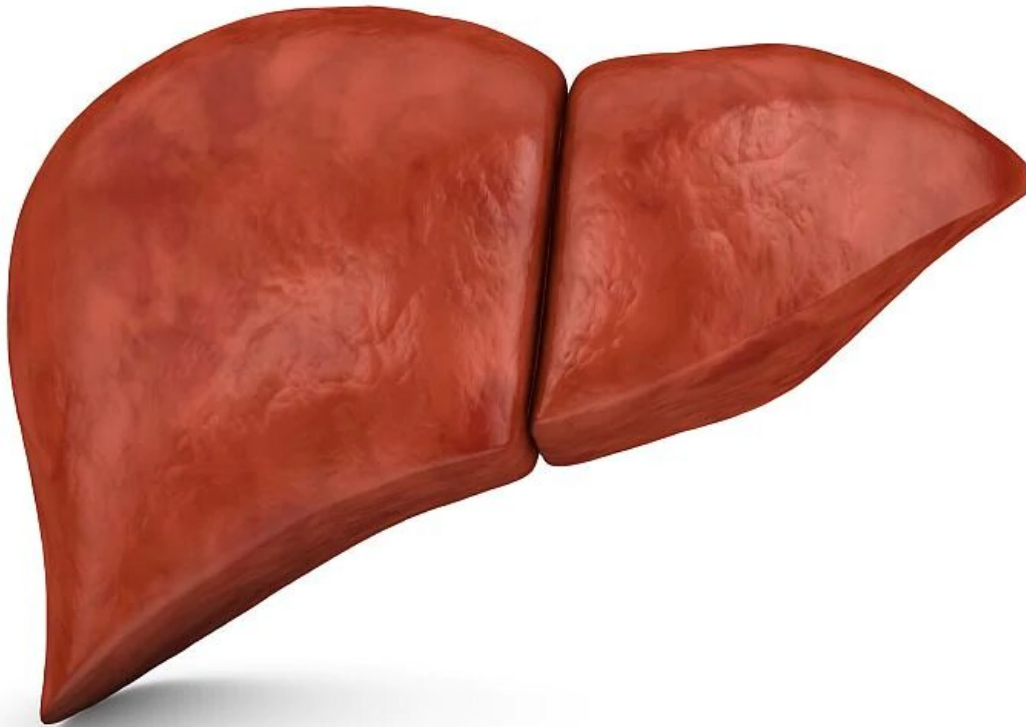


Frailty assessment may aid liver transplant evaluation

September 19 2019



(HealthDay)—A frailty assessment as part of liver transplant evaluation

may help identify transplant candidates at higher risk for death, according to a study published online Sept. 11 in *JAMA Surgery*.

Christine E. Haugen, M.D., Ph.D., from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, and colleagues used data from 1,108 liver [transplant candidates](#) at nine U.S. transplant centers (March 1, 2012, to May 1, 2018; mean age, 55 years) to evaluate differences in the association between liver transplant wait-list mortality and frailty by body mass index (BMI). The Liver Frailty Index score was calculated based on [grip strength](#), chair stands, and balance, with [frailty](#) defined as a Liver Frailty Index score of ≥ 4.5 .

The researchers found that 26.2 percent of the candidates were frail, including 25.4 percent of the 670 nonobese candidates, 26 percent of 246 candidates with class 1 obesity, and 29.2 percent of the 192 candidates with at least class 2 obesity ($P = 0.57$). There was a higher risk for wait-list mortality among frail nonobese candidates and frail candidates with class 1 obesity versus their nonfrail counterparts (nonobese candidates: adjusted subhazard ratio [sHR], 1.54; 95 percent confidence interval [CI], 1.02 to 2.33; $P = 0.04$; candidates with class 1 obesity: adjusted sHR, 1.72; 95 percent CI, 0.99 to 2.99; $P = 0.06$; $P = 0.75$ for interaction). There was a 3.19-fold higher adjusted risk for wait-list mortality among frail candidates with at least class 2 obesity versus nonfrail candidates with at least class 2 [obesity](#) (95 percent CI, 1.75 to 5.82; P

"Frailty assessments may help to identify vulnerable patients, particularly those with a BMI of 35.0 or more, in whom a clinician's visual evaluation may be less reliable to assess [muscle mass](#) and [nutritional status](#)," the authors write.

Several authors disclosed financial ties to the pharmaceutical industry.

More information: [Abstract/Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

Copyright © 2019 [HealthDay](#). All rights reserved.

Citation: Frailty assessment may aid liver transplant evaluation (2019, September 19) retrieved 25 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2019-09-frailty-aid-liver-transplant.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.