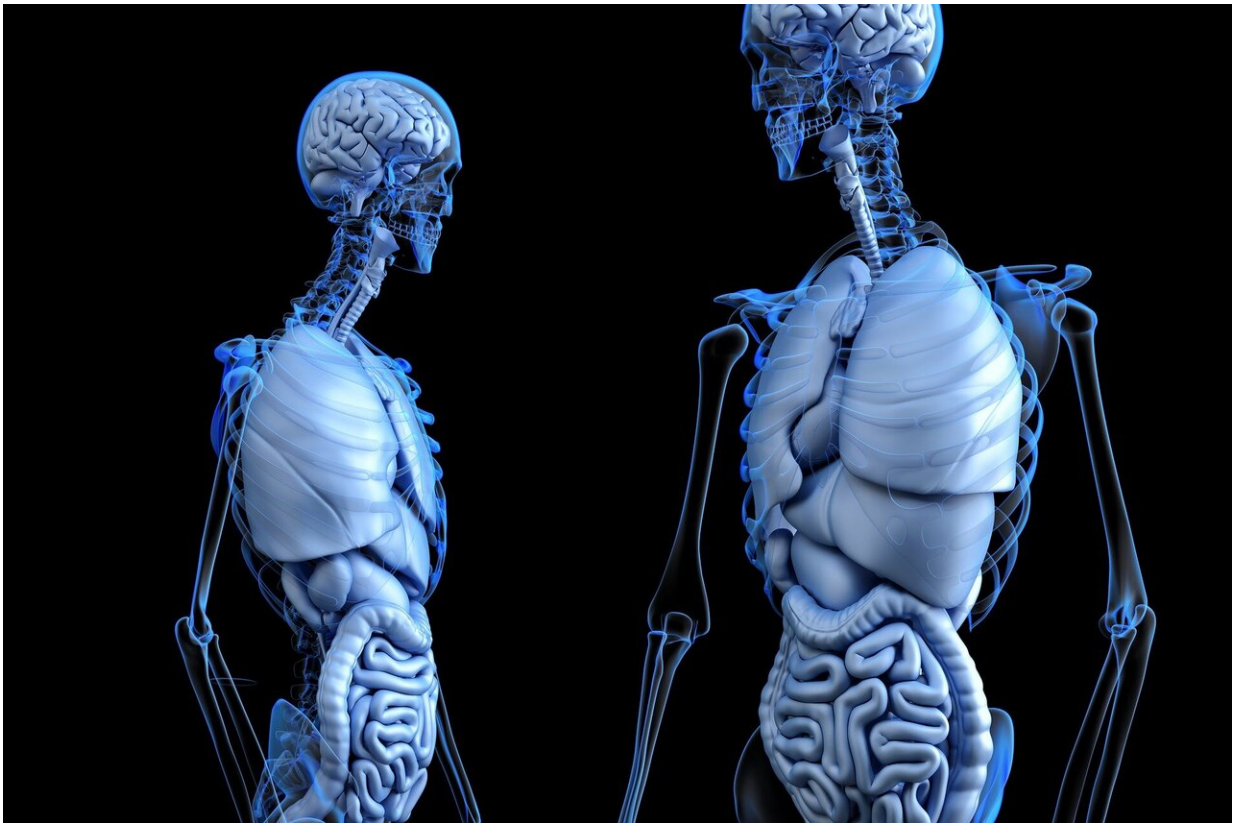


Fatty liver disease is underdiagnosed in the US

May 6 2020



Credit: CC0 Public Domain

A condition involving excess fat buildup in the liver is grossly underdiagnosed in the United States, according to an analysis of Medicare claims data. The condition, called nonalcoholic fatty liver

disease (NAFLD), is often associated with obesity and is not related to alcohol consumption.

In the *Alimentary Pharmacology & Therapeutics* analysis of information on 10,826,456 adults, the prevalence of NAFLD was 5.7%. NAFLD progressed to the more serious liver disease called cirrhosis in 39% of patients with NAFLD over 8 years of follow-up. Cardiovascular disease, kidney impairment, high cholesterol, and diabetes were linked with higher risks of disease progression.

"The study provides us with evidence regarding the real world natural history of NAFLD and long-term clinical outcomes," said lead author Rohit Loomba, MBBS, of the University of California, San Diego.

More information: *Alimentary Pharmacology & Therapeutics*, [DOI: 10.1111/apt.15679](https://doi.org/10.1111/apt.15679)

Provided by Wiley

Citation: Fatty liver disease is underdiagnosed in the US (2020, May 6) retrieved 5 May 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2020-05-fatty-liver-disease-underdiagnosed.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.