

## Modulating a specific protein could lead to new liver disease treatments

April 19 2023





Credit: Pixabay/CC0 Public Domain

In research published in *The FASEB Journal*, scientists have discovered that a molecule called Yes-associated protein (YAP) plays a key role in the development of liver scarring, or fibrosis, by influencing the behavior of premature cells called liver progenitor cells.

By manipulating YAP expression in these cells, the investigators were able to improve the cells' ability to regenerate and repair liver tissue.

"Collectively, our findings indicate that liver progenitor cells' expansion and differentiation during liver <u>fibrosis</u> could be modulated by YAP, further suggesting the possibility of manipulating YAP expression in these cells as a potential treatment for <u>chronic liver diseases</u>," said corresponding author Xiaobo Cai, MD, Ph.D., of Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine, in China.

**More information:** Yes-associated protein promotes the proliferation and differentiation of liver progenitor cells during liver fibrosis, *The FASEB Journal* (2023). DOI: 10.1096/fj.202201919R

## Provided by Wiley

Citation: Modulating a specific protein could lead to new liver disease treatments (2023, April 19) retrieved 27 April 2024 from <u>https://medicalxpress.com/news/2023-04-modulating-specific-protein-liver-disease.html</u>

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.