# Primary hepatic angiosarcoma: Treatment options for a rare tumor

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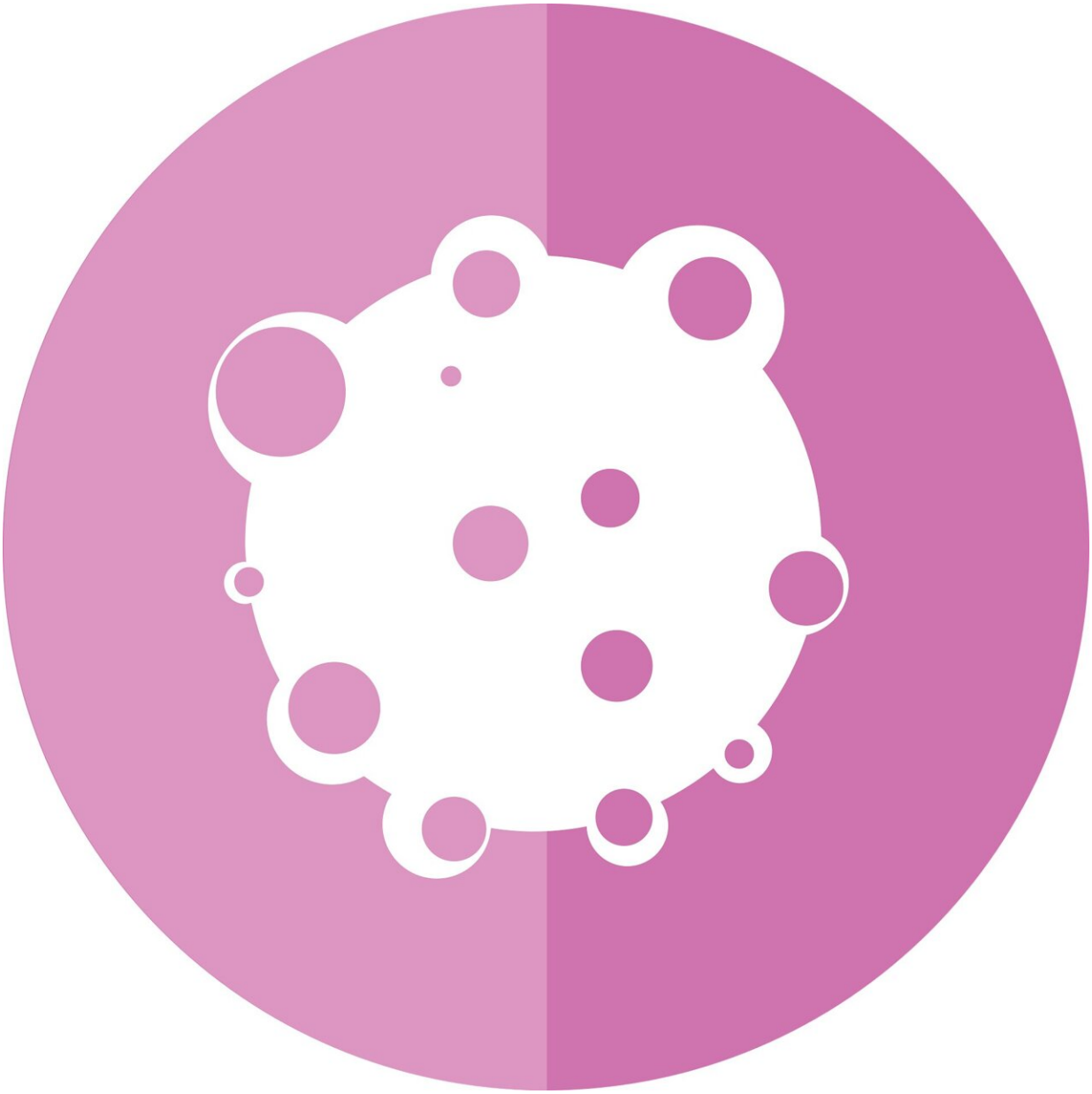

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In an editorial, researchers Gregory L. Guzik and Ankit Mangla from University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center, University Hospitals Seidman Cancer Center, Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, and Case Comprehensive Cancer Center discuss angiosarcomas—mesenchymal tumors that arise from the endothelium of blood or lymphatic vessels. Primary hepatic angiosarcoma (PHA) is the most common mesenchymal tumor of the liver, yet very rare.

"In our analysis of the National Cancer Database (2004–2014), the incidence of PHA was only 0.29% compared to hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC), which is the most common epithelial tumor of the liver," said the researchers.

The editorial paper was published in *Oncoscience* on May 20, 2024, titled "Primary hepatic angiosarcoma: Treatment options for a rare tumor."

A high index of suspicion is needed to diagnose PHA. The clinical presentation of PHA is very similar to that of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). In a patient with liver cirrhosis presenting with a liver mass, typical imaging findings are usually sufficient to diagnose HCC.

Where a biopsy is seldom performed to establish the diagnosis of HCC, the diagnosis of PHA is exclusively based on pathologic confirmation. The prognosis of patients with PHA is much worse compared to those with HCC (1.9 versus 10.3 months, adjusted hazard ratio (aHR) 2.41, 95% Confidence Interval (CI): 2.1–2.77, p
"Hence, diagnosing PHA at the outset is critical to determine prognosis and direct the correct treatment," they added.

**More information:** Gregory L. Guzik et al, Primary hepatic angiosarcoma: Treatment options for a rare tumor, *Oncoscience* (2024). DOI: 10.18632/oncoscience.602