

The liver is an essential organ performing over 500 vital functions, including cleansing blood, eliminating toxins, transforming nutrients into energy, synthesising clotting factors and albumin, and storing vitamins and minerals.

Primary liver cancer is a cancer that originates in the liver. Usually, it develops in a damaged liver, although patients can be without symptoms during the early stages.

The two main types of primary liver cancer are hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC), which makes up 85-90% of all liver cancers, and cholangiocarcinoma (CCA - otherwise known as bile duct cancer), which accounts for about 15% of primary liver cancers. There are also rare types of primary liver cancer.

Hepatitis B, D, and C infection, rising alcohol consumption, smoking and obesity are contributing to a 'perfect storm' of factors leading to increasing rates of liver cancer in Europe. The risk factors for liver disease interact with and are amplified by one another.

Almost 50% of liver cancer cases are preventable, and 35% of deaths could be avoided through preventive measures and lifestyle choices.

In Europe, the incident cases of liver cancer have increased by 61% while deaths by 56% since 2000.

Public health prevention and health promotion initiatives that address the social and commercial drivers of risk factors, such as unhealthy diets, physical inactivity, and alcohol consumption, are essential for reducing liver cancer incidence.

In addition, universal surveillance programmes should be implemented, and screening programmes to identify at-risk candidate populations should be improved - without fragmentation at a pan-European level - with a view to early diagnosis so that potentially curative therapy can be offered. Such programmes are a public health goal, aiming to decrease HCC-related and overall liver-related deaths.

In Europe, there are patient advocacy groups that help patients, their families, and carers navigate the liver cancer landscape. While they can be local, national or international, they all work to ensure patients receive appropriate and timely care and education to achieve the best possible outcomes.



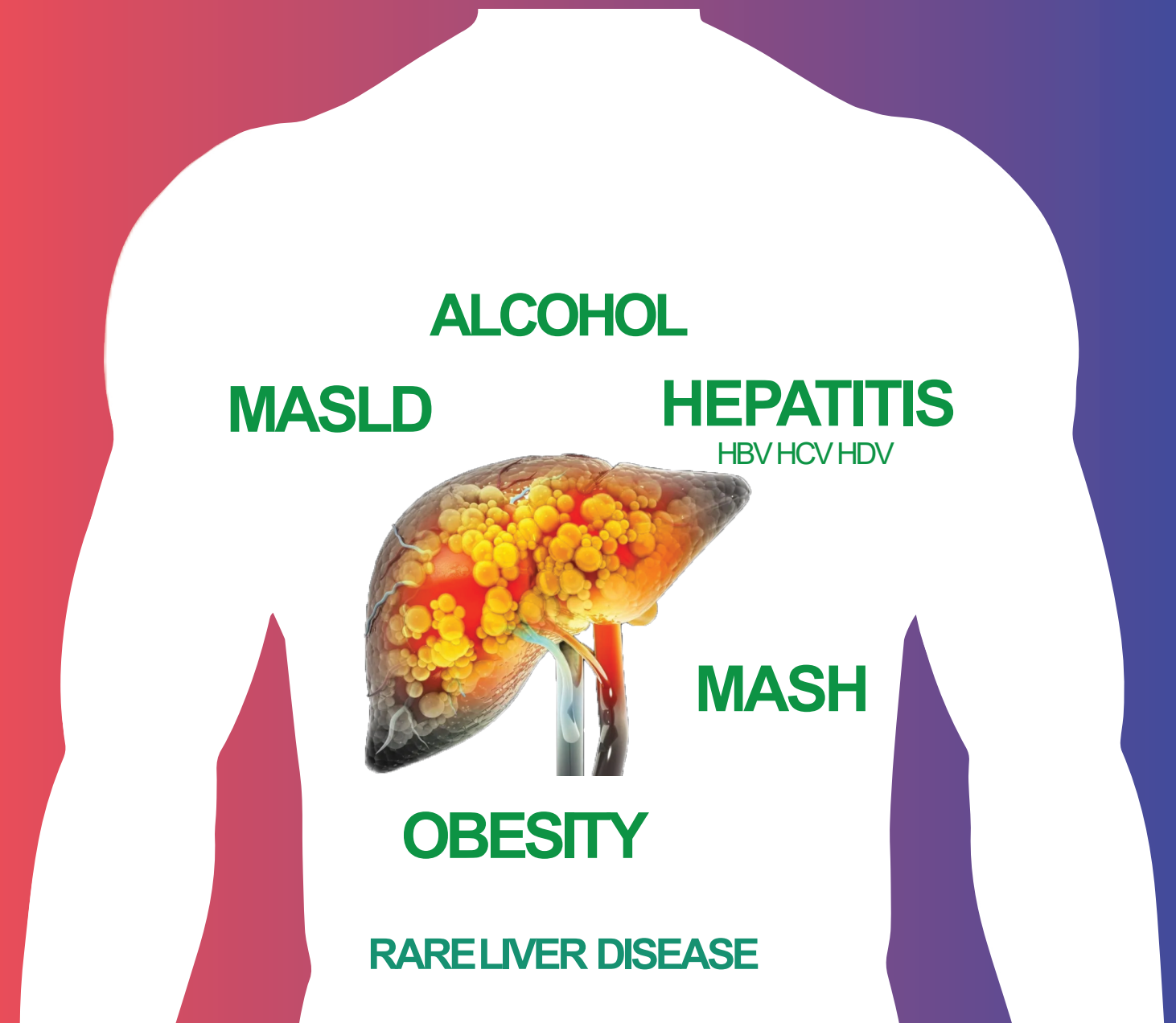
under the patronage
of the European Parliament



October Liver Cancer
Awareness Month
#livercancerawarenessmonth

LIVER CANCER

European Liver Screening Week



LIVER CANCER IN EUROPE: URGENT ACTION NEEDED

Europe has the **largest burden of liver disease in the world.**

~87.000
European citizens are diagnosed with liver cancer each year

~78.000
Europeans die from the disease every year

~€4 billion
is spent every year in Europe on liver cancer

MAJOR CAUSES INCLUDE:



HEPATITIS B



HEPATITIS C



ALCOHOL



SMOKING



OBESITY

As many as **half of liver cancer cases are preventable.**

(Cancer Research UK, 2015)

Outcomes vary considerably across Europe.

CALL TO ACTION

At DiCE and ELPA, we call upon all stakeholders across Europe to **work together** to ensure that best practices are implemented at every stage of the patient pathway. We have proposed a range of recommendations across **five key areas**, aiming to optimise:



KNOWLEDGE



PREVENTION



EARLY DIAGNOSIS



TREATMENT AND CARE



PATIENT INVOLVEMENT AND EMPOWERMENT

WANT TO FIND OUT MORE?

Visit <https://digestivecancers.eu/publication/white-paper-liver-cancer-no-patient-left-behind/> or <https://elpa.eu/liver-cancer/> for the full white paper.

This document was made possible with the financial support of Gilead, BMS, Ipsen, Astra Zeneca, Novartis, and Roche. The funders had no role in the content or design of this document.

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For further information

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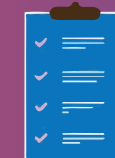
EUROPE'S BEATING CANCER PLAN STRENGTHENING OUR APPROACH AT EVERY STAGE



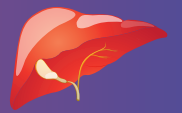
Prevention



Treatment

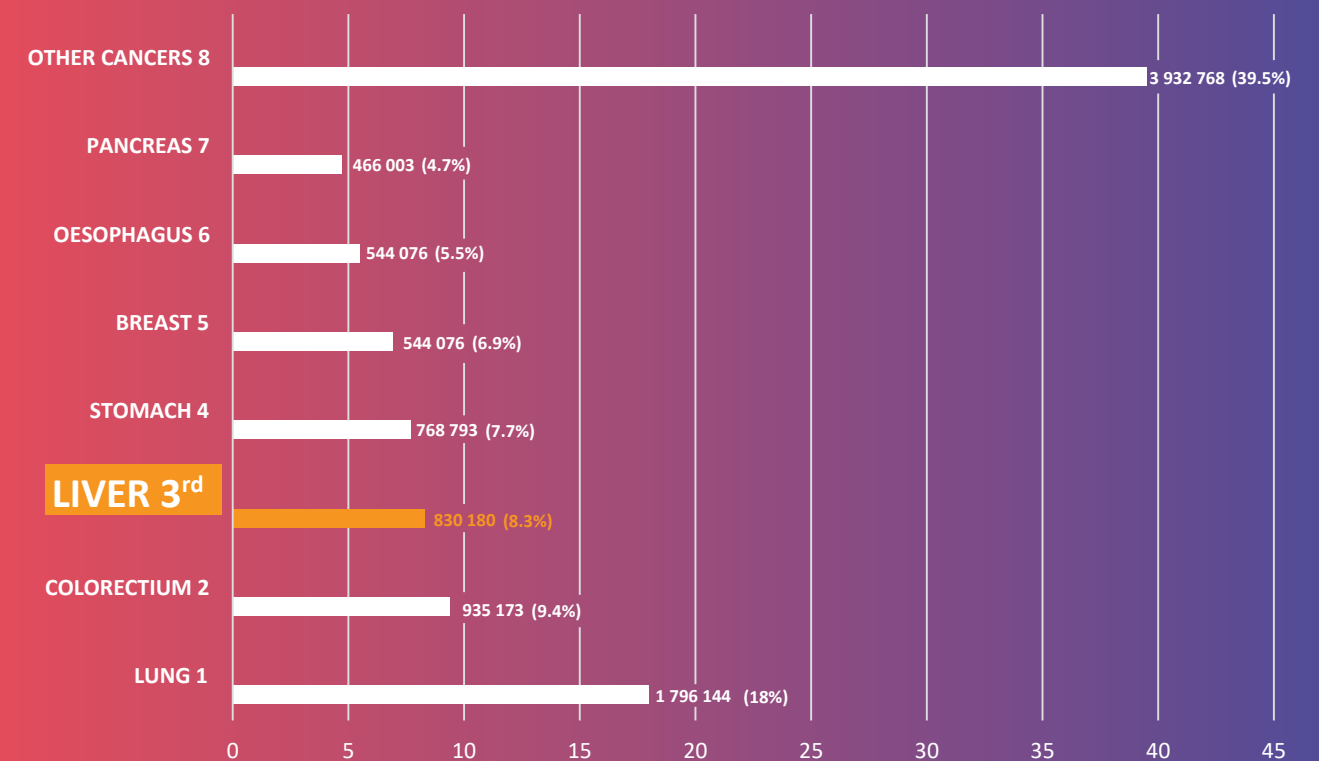


Diagnosis



Quality of life of patients & survivors

LESS THAN 900.000 PEOPLE DIED FROM LIVER CANCER IN 2020, MAKING LIVER CANCER THE 3rd MOST COMMON CAUSE OF CANCER DEATH GLOBALLY



PREVENTING CANCERS CAUSED BY INFECTIONS

ACTION	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	PROGRESS INDICATOR(S)
20.1 Reduce liver cancer caused by Hepatitis B & C virus	Calls launched	Consortia operational	HBV vaccination, HCV treatment and asymptomatic patients detection events in target Member States			Number of events in target countries; Data on HBV/ HCV asymptomatic patients detection, HBV vaccination coverage, HCV treatment access in target Member States
20.2 Propose a Council Recommendation on vaccine-preventable cancers		Preparatory work, discussions with Member States	Commission proposal			Commission proposal adopted in 2023
Best Practice Call on Non Communicable Diseases under Steering Group on Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Management of Non-Communicable Diseases (SGPP)	Launch implementation of best practices, related to NCDs prevention and health promotion implemented under EU4Health 2021 Work Plan	Joint Action				Number of best practices selected and implemented in Member States