



# **A Silent Gut disease with a loud Hepatic voice**

**“A clinical case”**

**Supervised by:**

**Dr: Hussam Aldeen Al shaikh**

**Presented by:**

**Dr:Ahmad Helal**

**Dr: Mohammed Abdulrahman**



# Overview

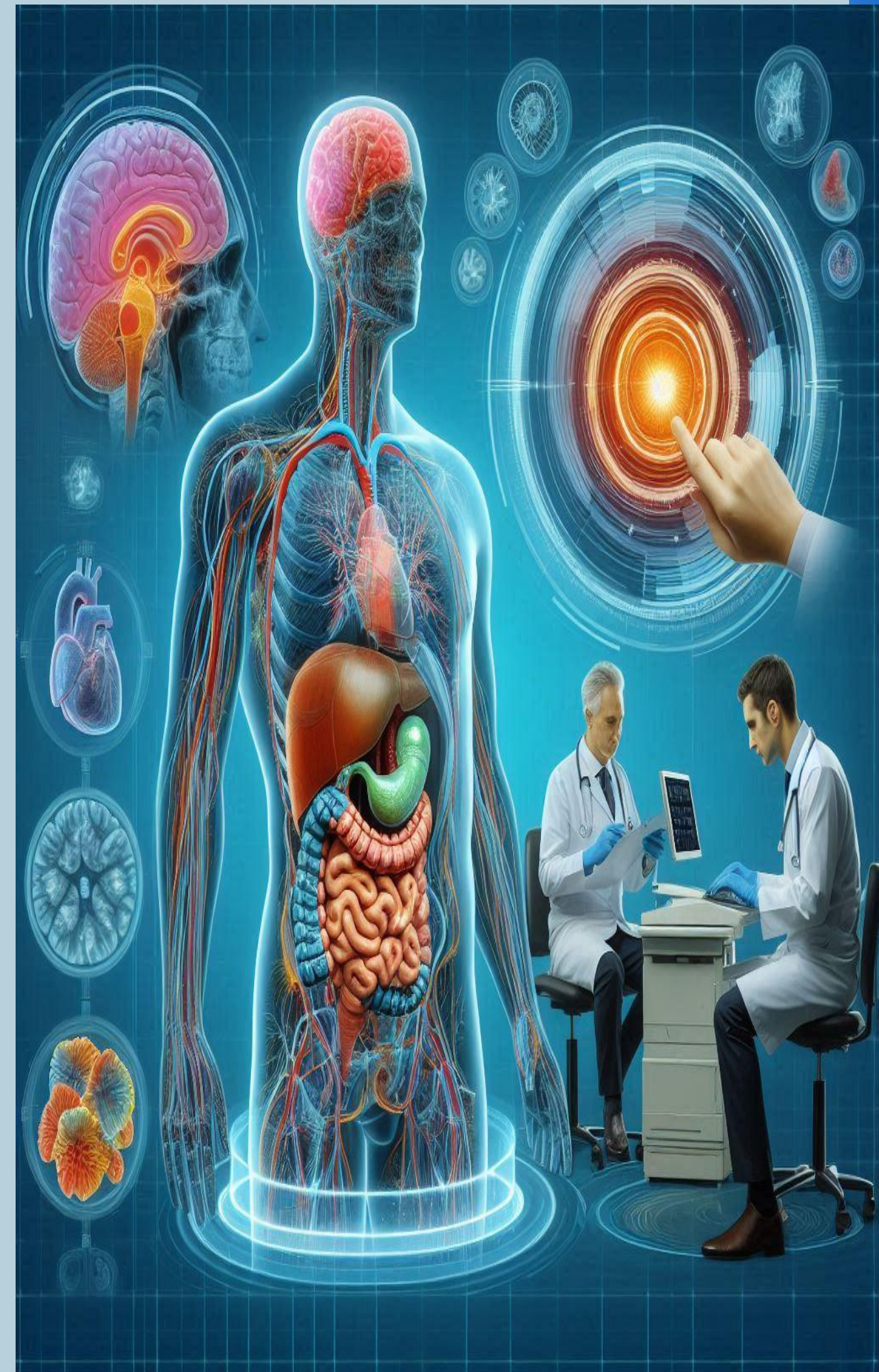
Case presentation

Clinical examination

Investigations

Discussion

Management





# Case Presentation:

- A 49-year-old female presents with generalized fatigue, weakness.
- Non specific abdominal pain, weight loss, and abdominal bloating.
- She has a history of unexplained iron deficiency anemia.
- Over the past several months, she has developed persistent diarrhea



## Clinical examination

The Examination Was Unremarkable Except For Conjunctival Pallor.

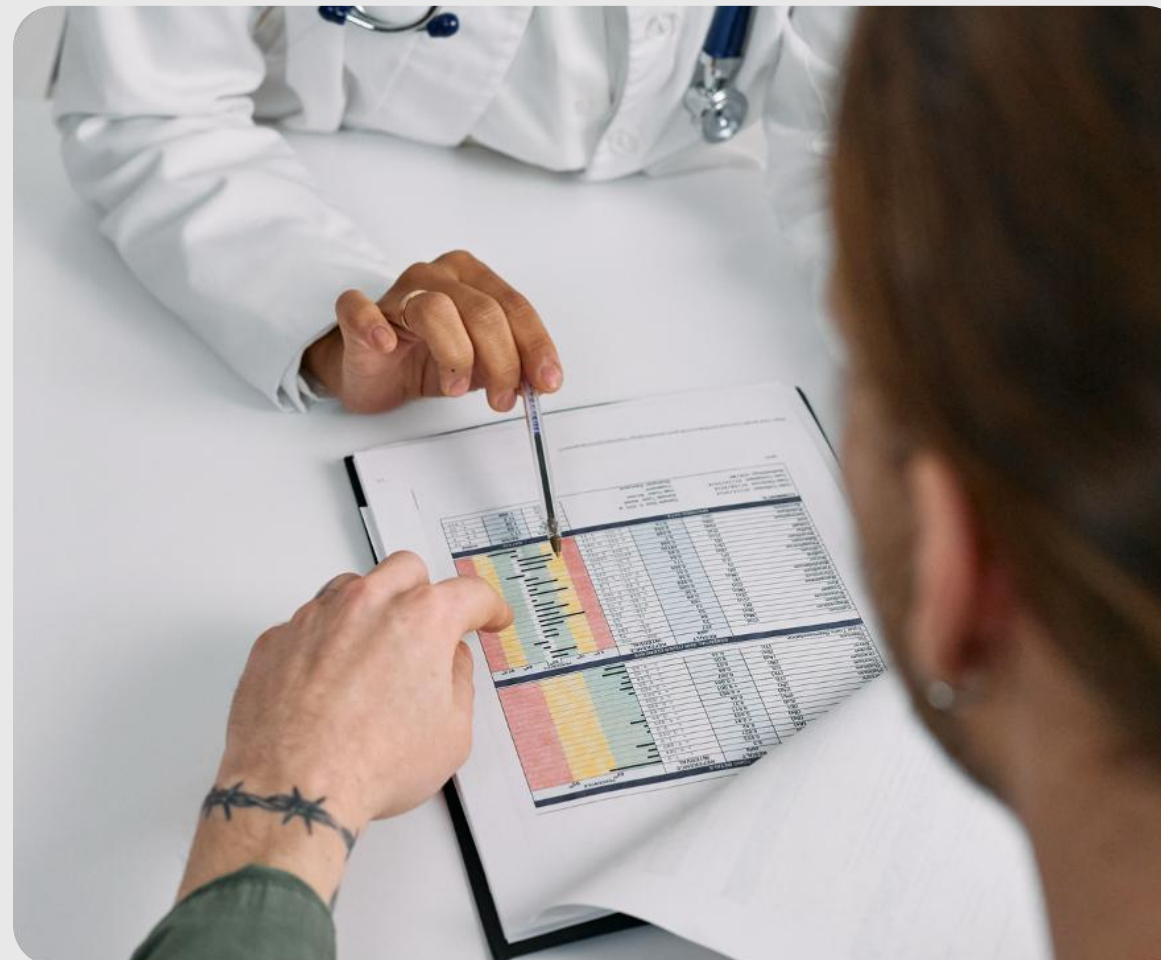
Abdominal Examination Revealed Palpable Splenomegaly.

No Tender Points Were Noted.



## Interventional History:

Upper Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Was Performed And Showed Normal Results??.



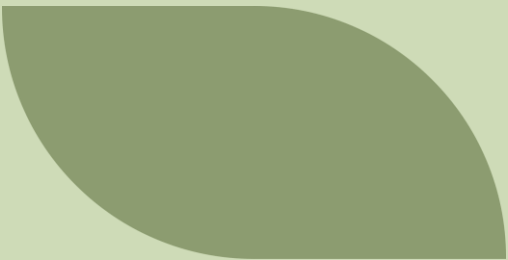
## The Vital Sign:

Blood Pressure: 90\70 mm Hg

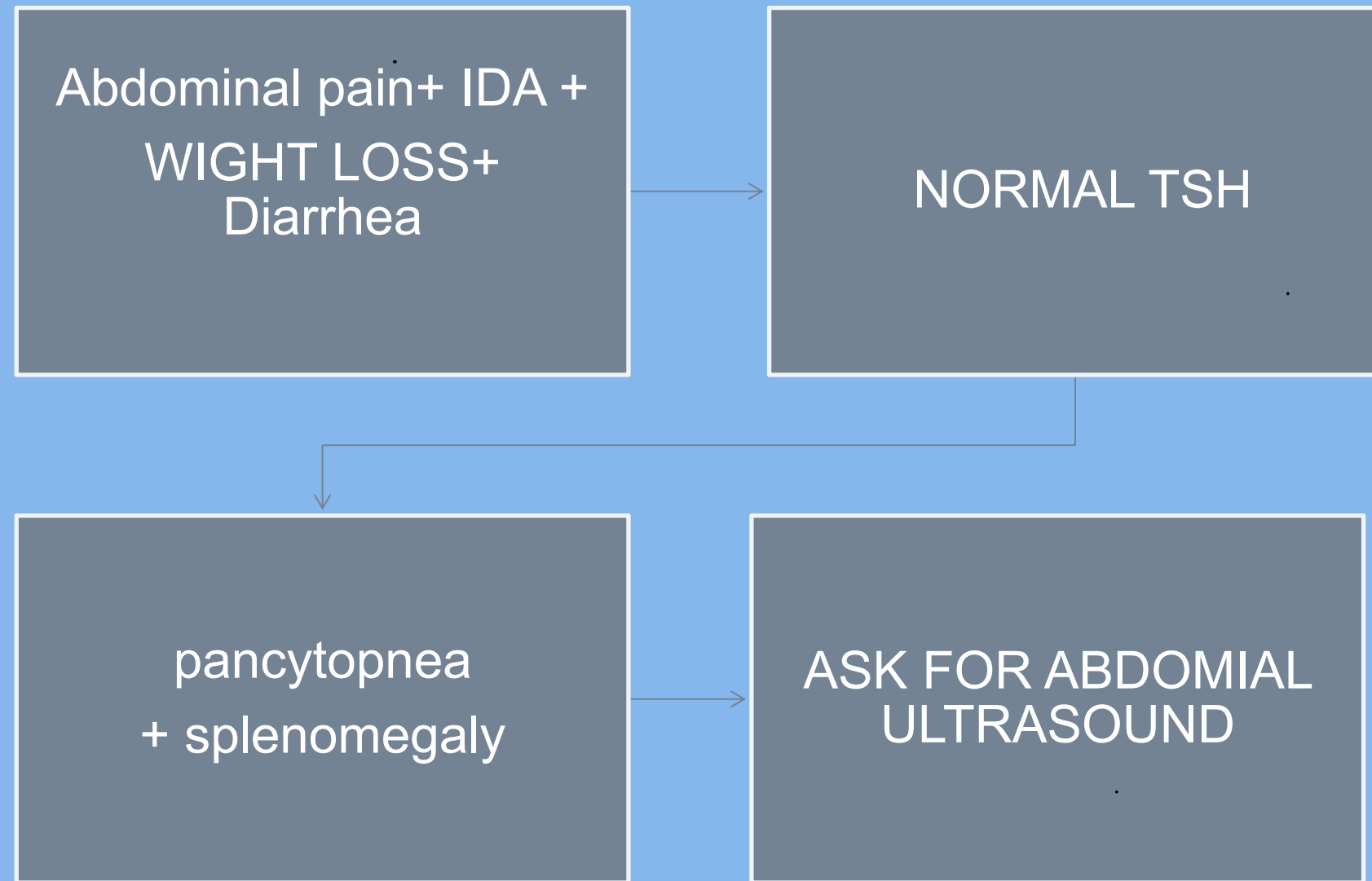
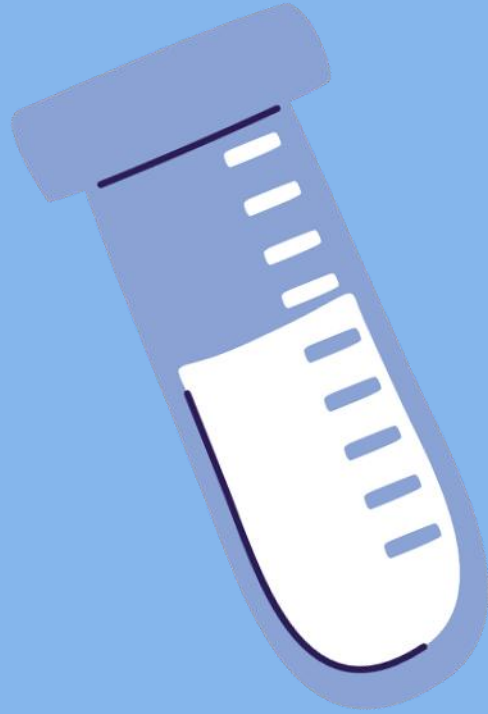
HR:100 bpm

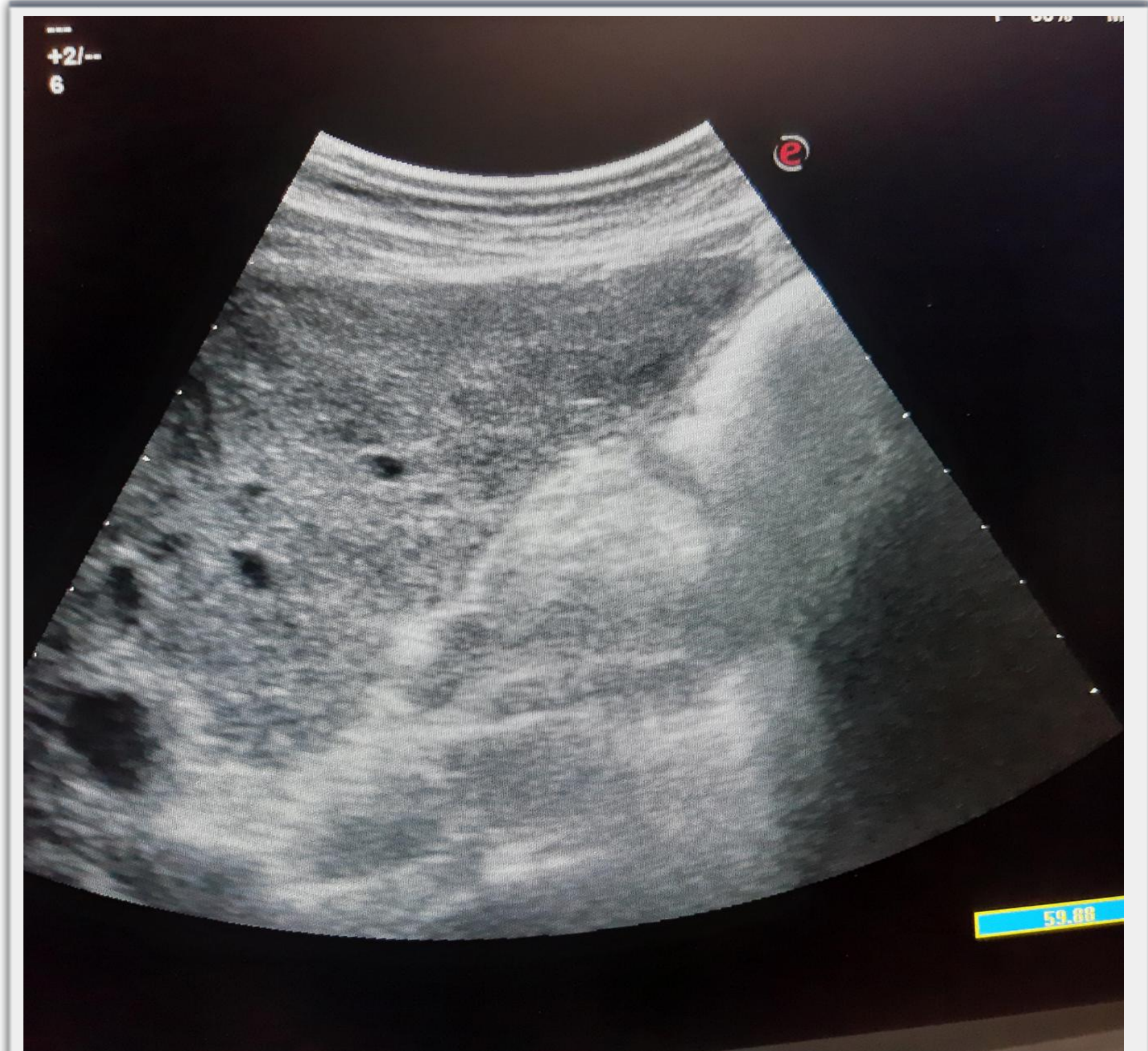
Spo2:98%

# Initial Laboratory Test



TEST	RESULT		
Hemoglobin (Hb)	8 g\dl		
MCV	71 FL		
Platelets	67000		
Whight Blood Count (WBC)	3500		
TSH	2.6		
TIBC	564		
Ferritin	12		





IMMUNOLOGY				
Tests	Results	Reference ranges	Units	Last results
ANA -HEP-2(Anti Nuclear Antibody)	Negative	Negative		
ASMA (Anti smooth muscle antibody)	Positive (1/20)	Negative		
Anti -LKM	Negative ( 2.3)	Negative: up to 18.0 Positive: more than 18.0	U/ml	
Ab(Anti-liver/kidney microsome)				
IgG4	61.3	7.0 - 89	mg/dl	

Reviewed by lab director  
Dr. Adnan Al-Khatib

## Hepatic profile

- ALT:25U\L
- AST:34U\L
- INR:1,7
- PT:40%
- Albumin: 2.9 g\dl

female 45 years				
887 15/06/2025				
HORMONES				
Tests	Results	Reference ranges	Units	Last results
Free T4	0.9	0.80 - 1.80	ng/dl	
TSH 3rd Generation	3.48	0.30 - 5.0	uIU/ml	

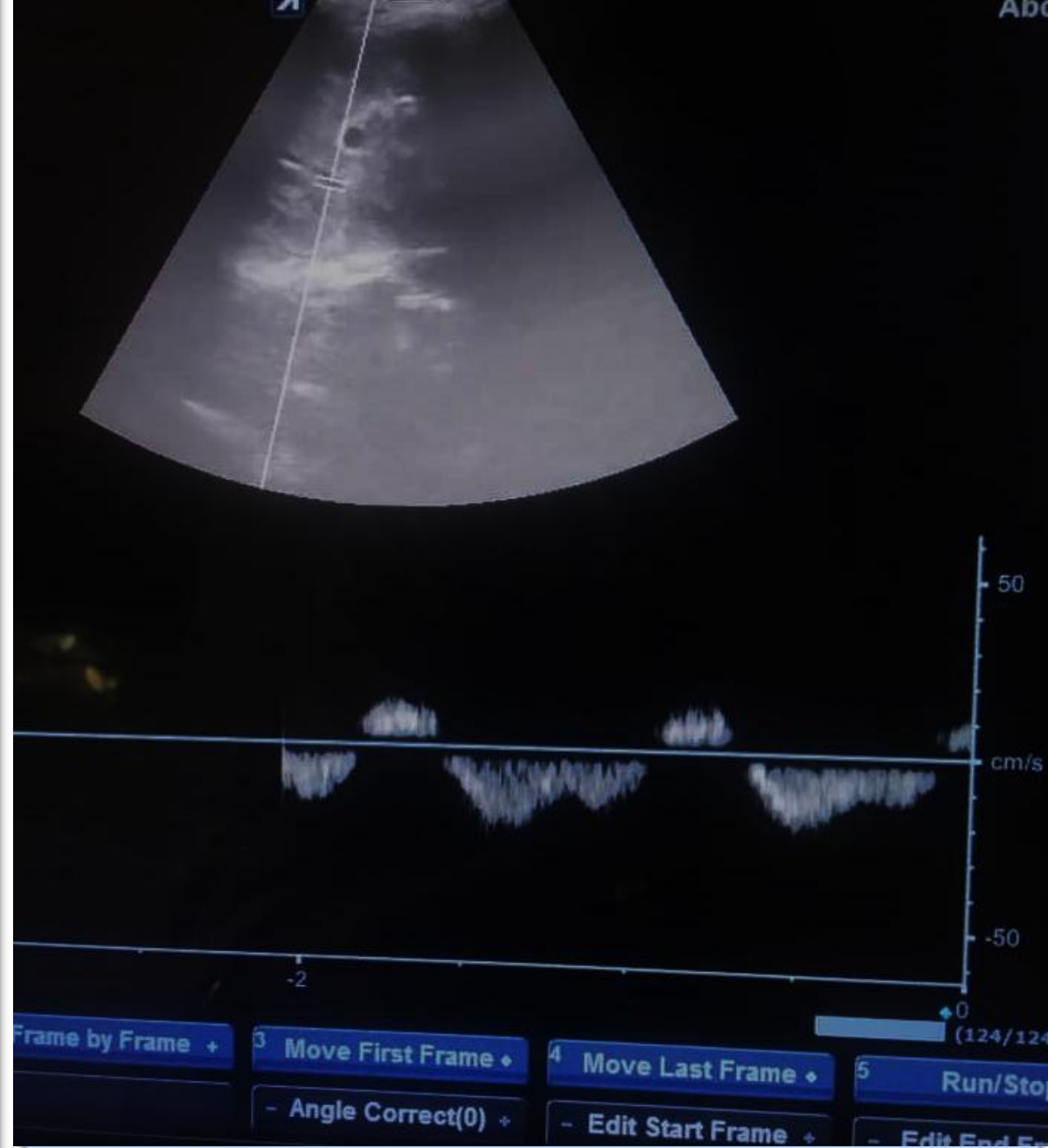
  

IMMUNOLOGY				
Tests	Results	Reference ranges	Units	Last results
AMA (M2)	Negative ( 6.8)	Negative: up to 18.0 Positive: more than 18.0	U/ml	

Reviewed by lab director  
Dr. Adnan Al-Khatib

## Causal Investigation

- HBS Ag,Anti HBc,Anti HCV
- Hemochromatosis,wellson'disease
- a-alpha-1 anti trypsin
- AIH(ANA,ASMA,Antil LKM-1,IGg4)
- AMA.M2

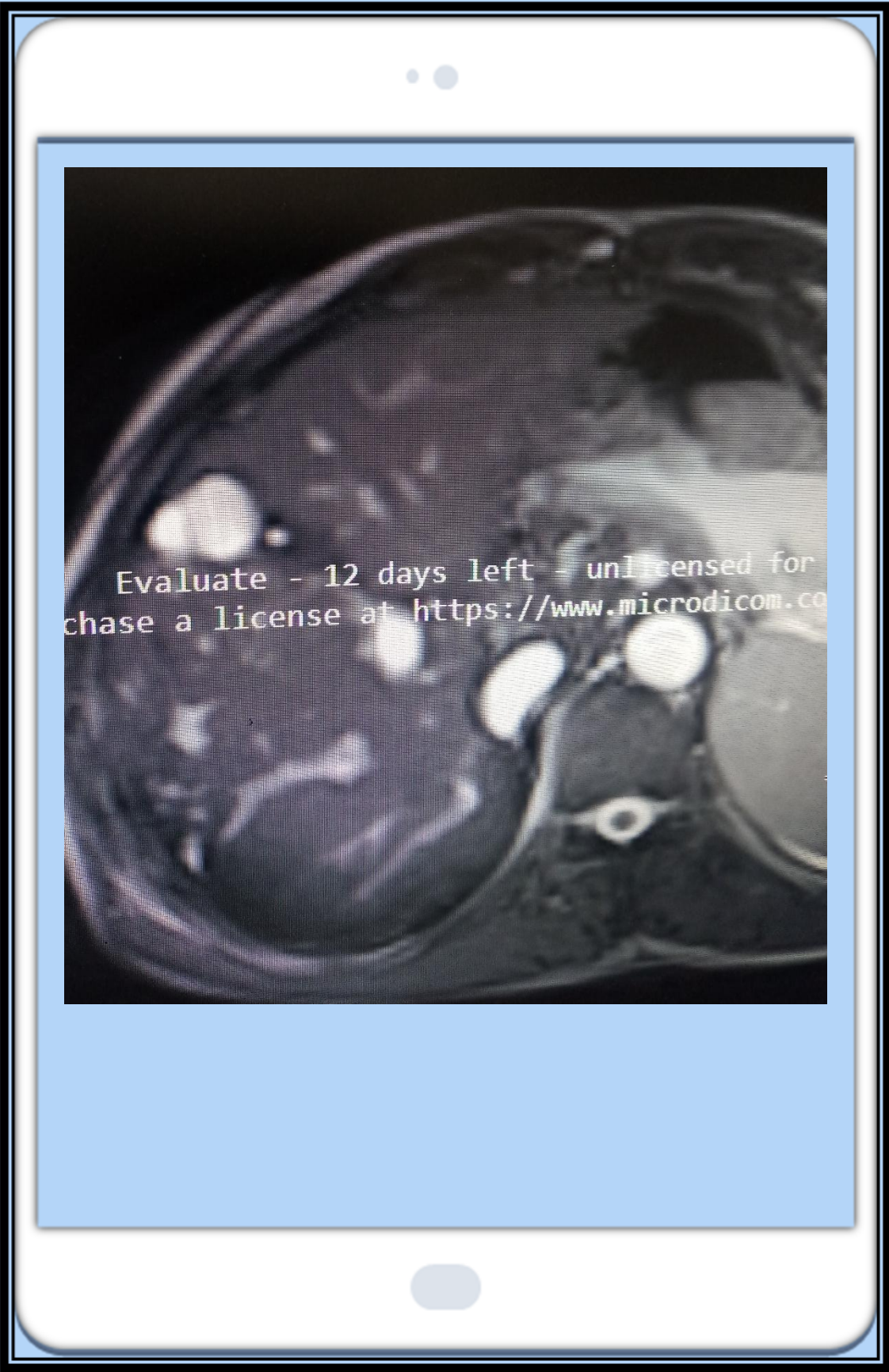


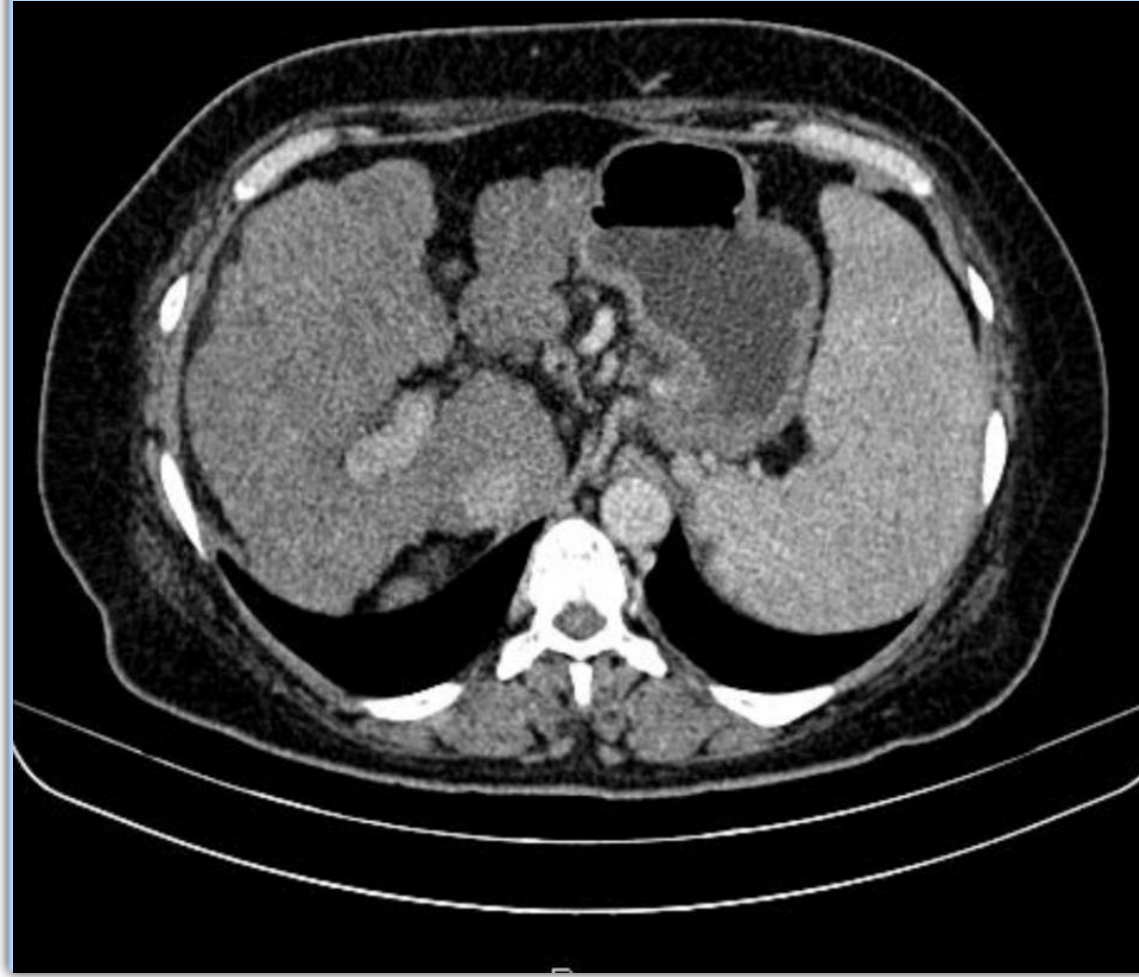
**المصرة:** طبيعية الجدار دون استسقاء أو حصيات.

**الطحال:** ضخامة طحالية ١٦ سم طبيعي الشكل والتجانس خال من الآفات الصلوية.

- **الأوردة الكبدية:** تبدو طبيعية الارتسام (ثلاث أوردة) ذات شكل موجة طبيعي.
- **وريد الباب:** قطره ضمن الطبيعي وفرعه الرئيسي الأيسر تبدو سالكة اللمعة طبيعية القطر مع اتجاه جريان طبيعي وشكل موجة وسرعات طبيعية، الفرع الرئيسي الأيمن مستدق بسرعة ٦ سم/ثا قد يكون في سياق خثار سابق للربط مع السوابق، علامات دوران جانبي بسرة الكبد وعود تقني للوريد السري.
- **الوريد الطحالي:** طبيعي القطر مع اتجاه جريان طبيعي وشكل موجة وسرعة جريان طبيعية، مع علامات لدوران جانبي بسرة الطحال، وتوسع بموجة وريدية شريانية يقيس  $2.2 \times 1.5$  سم للربط مع الطبقي المخري لنقي تشوه وعائي.
- **الشريان الكبدي:** سالك اللمعة، مع شكل موجة وسرعة جريان طبيعية.







تاريخ قراءة الطبقي 2025/9/15

طبقي محوري للبطن والحوض

- البرانشيم الرئوي بالقاعدتين طبيعي دون كثافات عقدية أو سنخية أو خلالية مشتبها.
- لا يوجد انصباب جنب بالقاعدتين.
- الكبد صغير الحجم ، البرانشيم غير متجانس دون كتل صريحة ، لا يوجد توسع بالطرق الصفراوية ، وريد الباب طبيعي مع عودة الجريان بمستوى الرباط المدور ، الأوردة فوق الكبد طبيعية .
- المرارة جدرها رقيقة منتظمة دون وجود حصيات متكلسة .
- البنكرياس قياساته طبيعية ، البرانشيم متجانس ، الحواف منتظمة.
- الطحال ييدي ضخامة متجانسة (17×9×15سم) مع توسعات وريدية بسرة الطحال حول الكلية اليسرى خاصة بالقسم العلوي منها ومن الناحية الشرسوفية بشكل خفيف أسفل المري .
- الكليتان طبيعيتان بالقياسات و سماكة القشر و انتظام الحواف ، دون استسقاء أو حصيات صريحة
- المثانة جدرها رقيقة منتظمة ، غير محصاة ، بدون رتوج أو بوليبيات .
- الأوعية الكبيرة خلف البريتوان طبيعية .
- لا يوجد ضخامات عقدية حرقفية أو خلف البريتوان .
- كمية قليلة من سائل حر بين العرى الحوضية .
- العرى المعوية تبدو طبيعية من حيث قطر اللمعة و انتظام الجدر.
- تبدلات تنكسية عظمية دون علامات اخلاالية أو تصلبية مشتبها.

# Liver Biopsy Challenge



- LIVER TISSUE WITHIN NORMAL LIMITS

الخاتم

Syria - Damascus - Arrawdah - Sibky Park  
Wholesale: 0904375000 Tel: 044 5938000

سورية - دمشق - الروضة - مقابل حديقة السبكي  
الجملة: 0904375000 هاتف: 044 5938000

## DIAGNOSIS:

- THE AVAILABLE BIOPSY IS NOT SUFFICIENT FOR EVALUATION

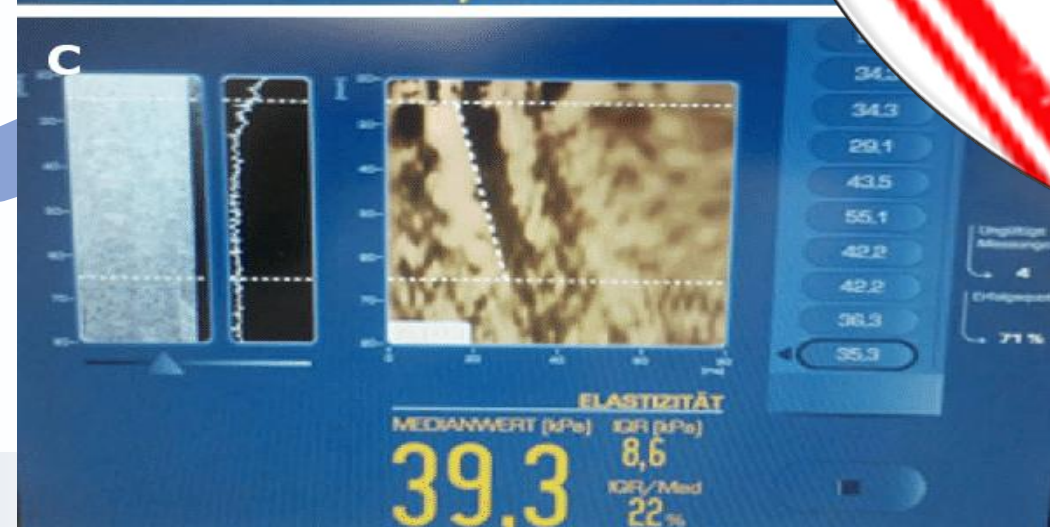
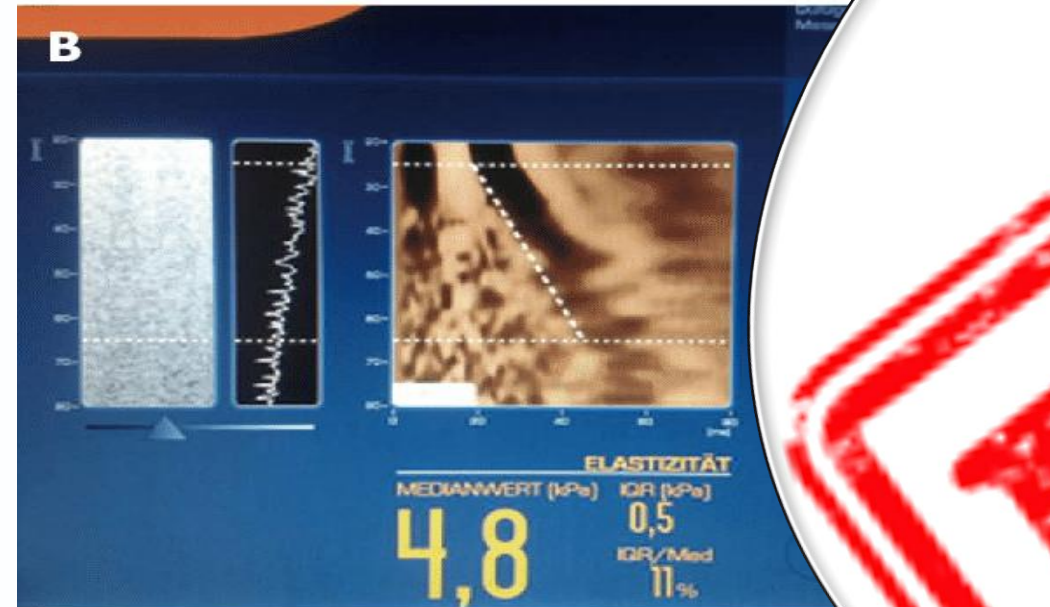
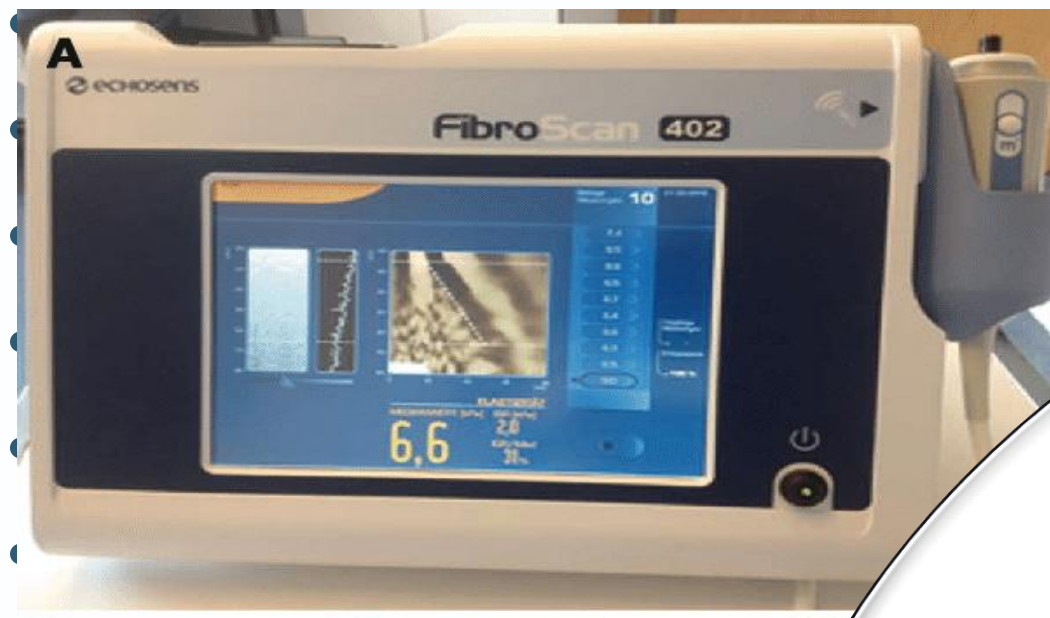


CONTROLLED

الخاتم

مستشار  
محمد إيهاب الشطي  
هاتف: 011 447 1111

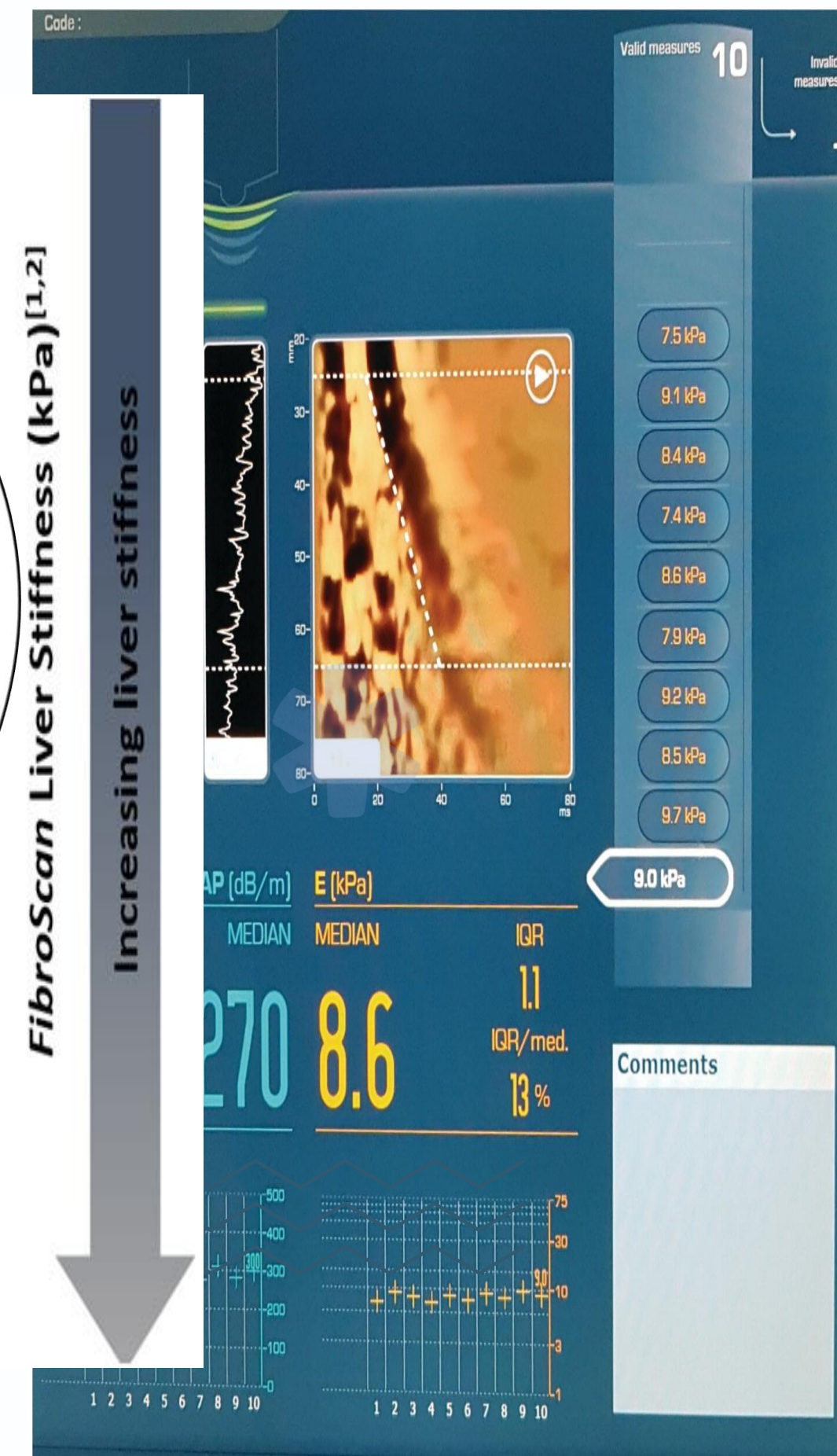
# Fibroscan, Elastography Challenging



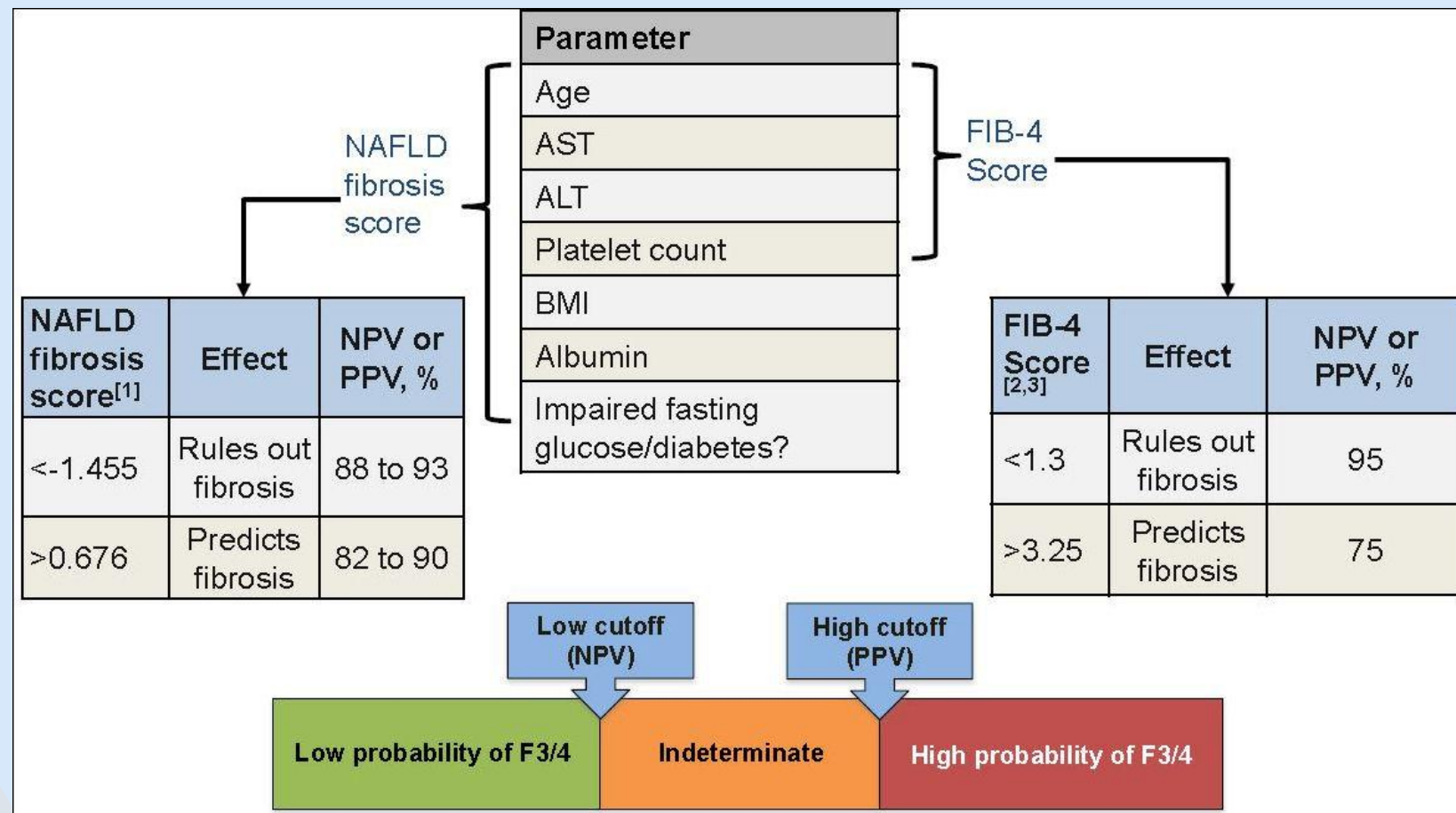
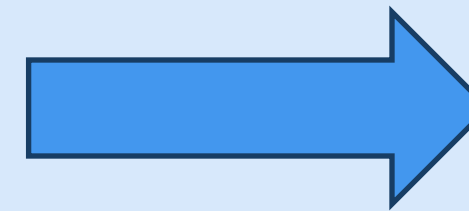
HEALTHY LIVER

DEGENERATION

F4: Cirrhosis



$$\text{FIB-4} = \frac{\text{Age (years)} \times \text{AST (U/L)}}{\text{Platelet Count (10}^9\text{/L)} \times \sqrt{\text{ALT (U/L)}}}$$



**FIB-4 for Noninvasive...**

**Questions**

Age? 50 Years

AST? 34 U/L

Platelet Count? 69 10<sup>9</sup>/L

ALT? 25 U/L

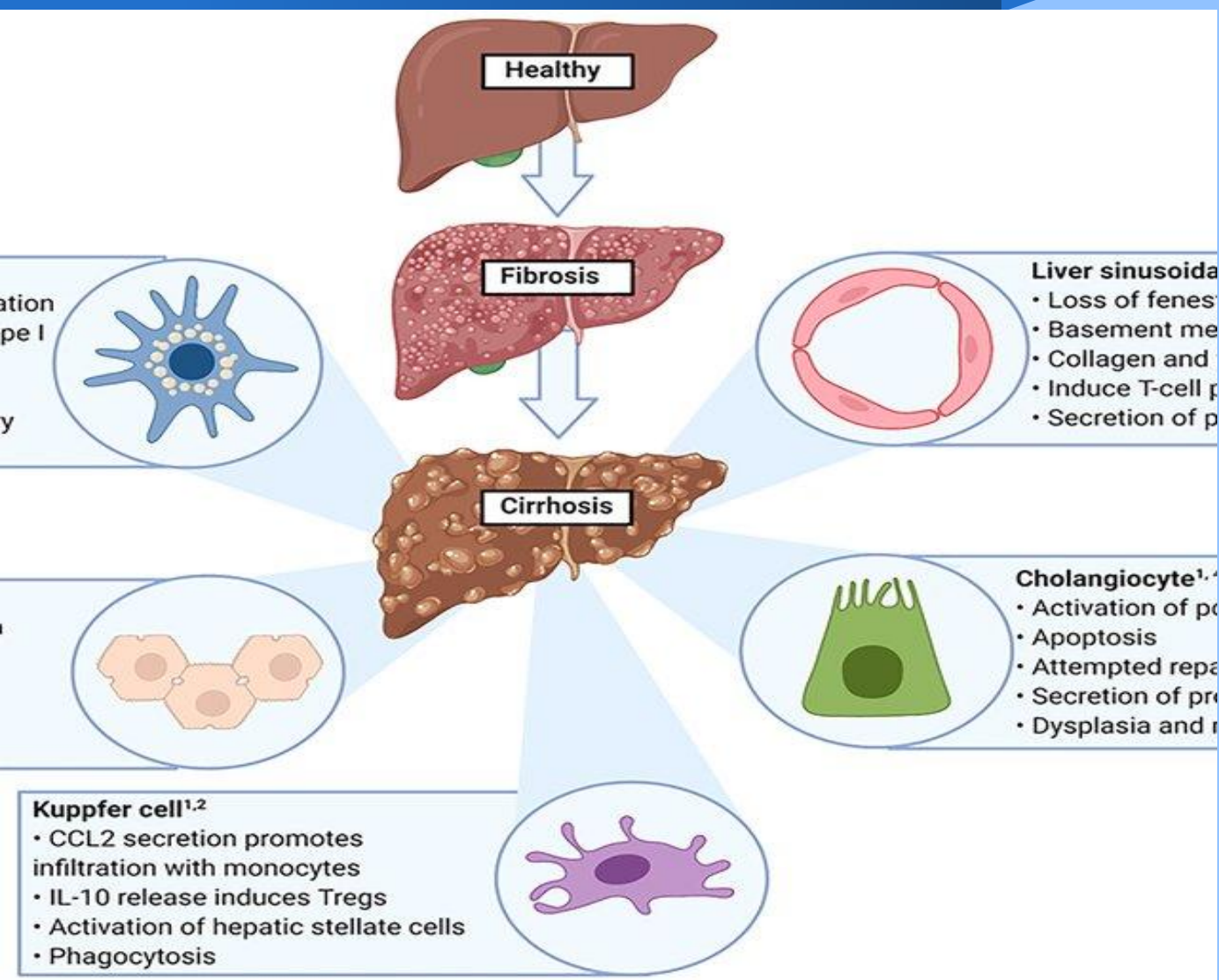
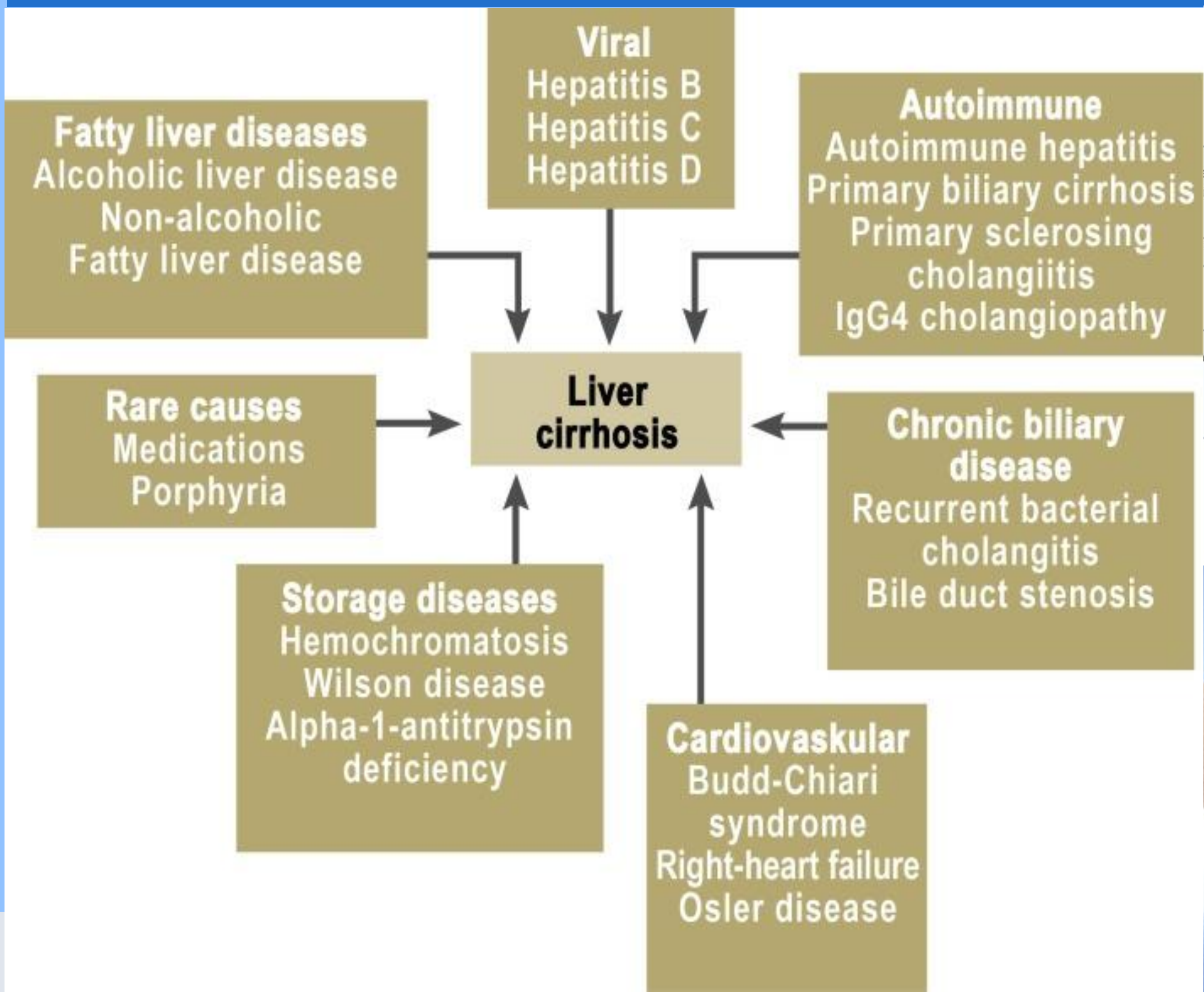
**Results**

**FIB-4 Score**

**4.93**

**Likelihood of Advanced Hepatic Fibrosis**

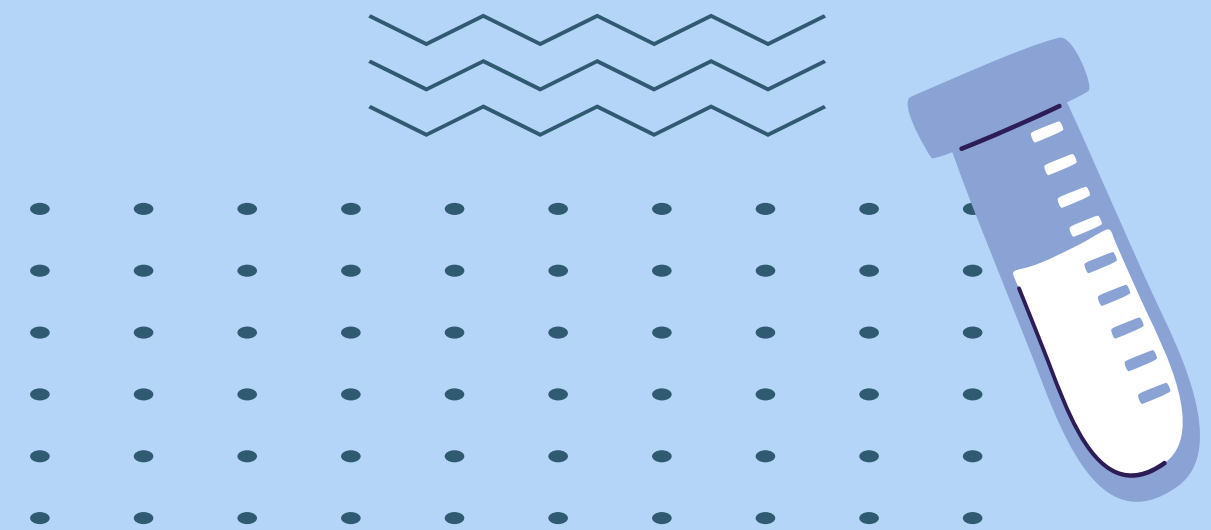
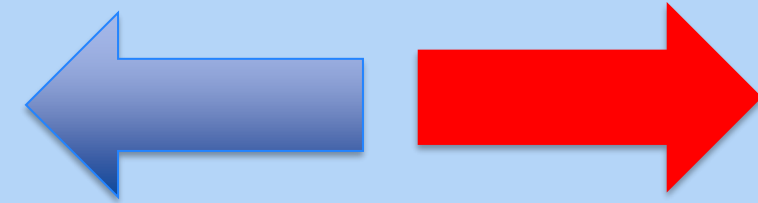
**97% specificity and 65% positive predictive value for advanced fibrosis**





# The Turning Point

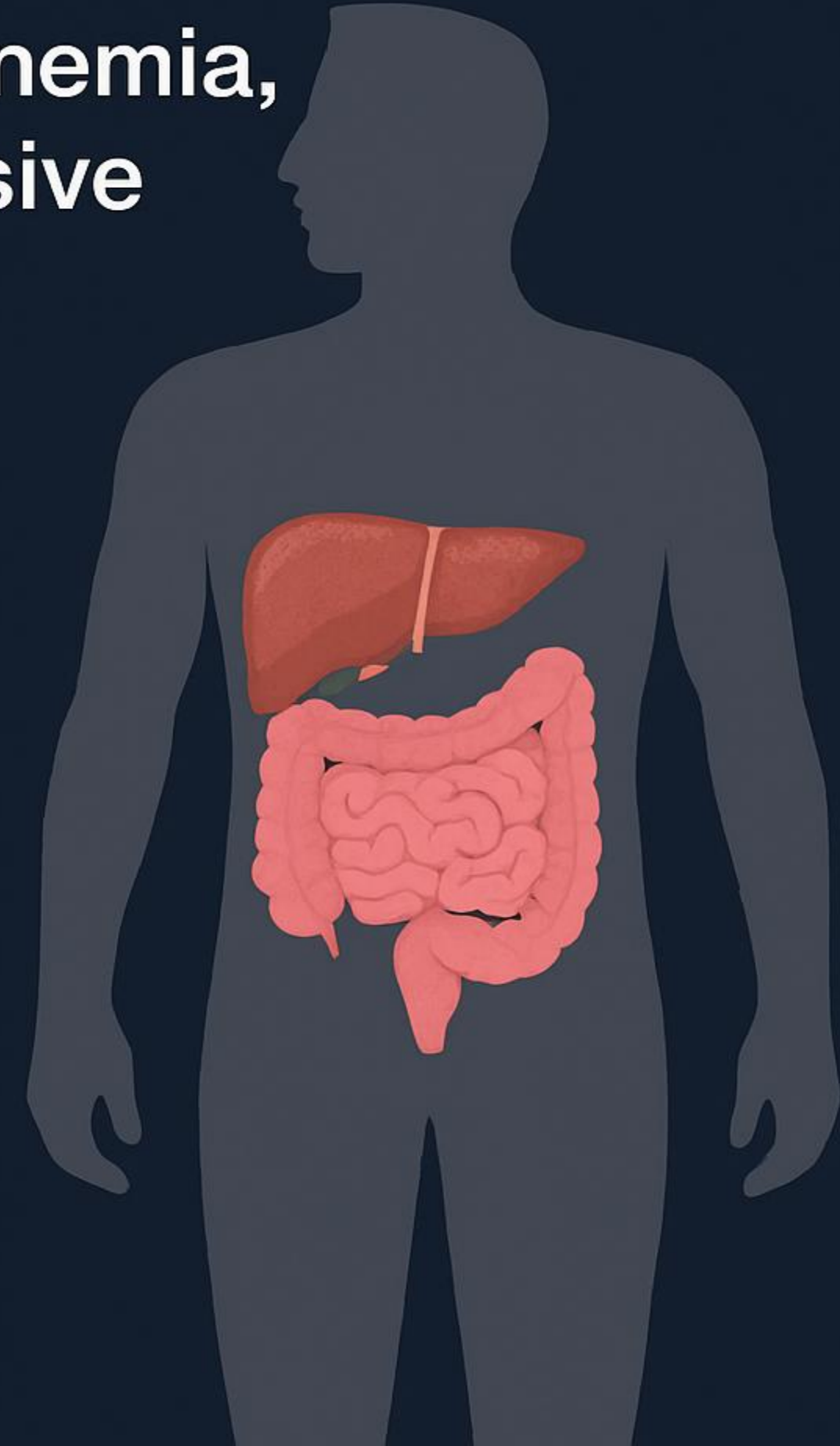
*"From confusion to clarity"*



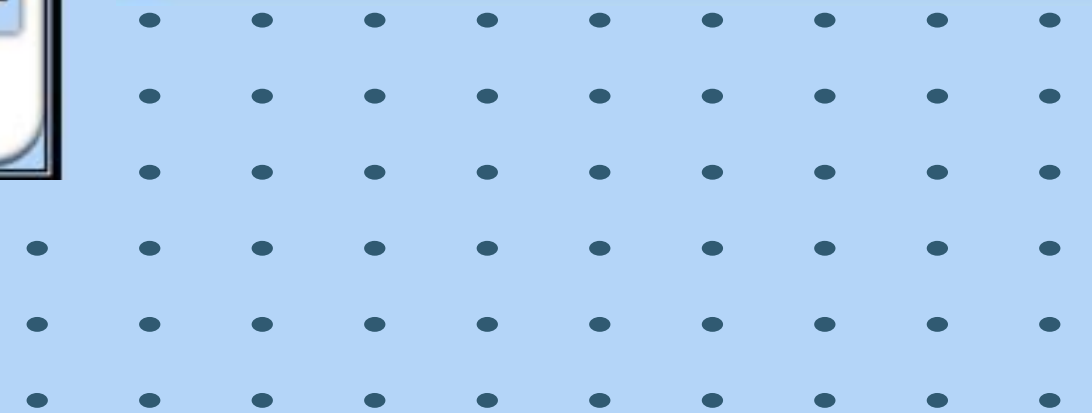
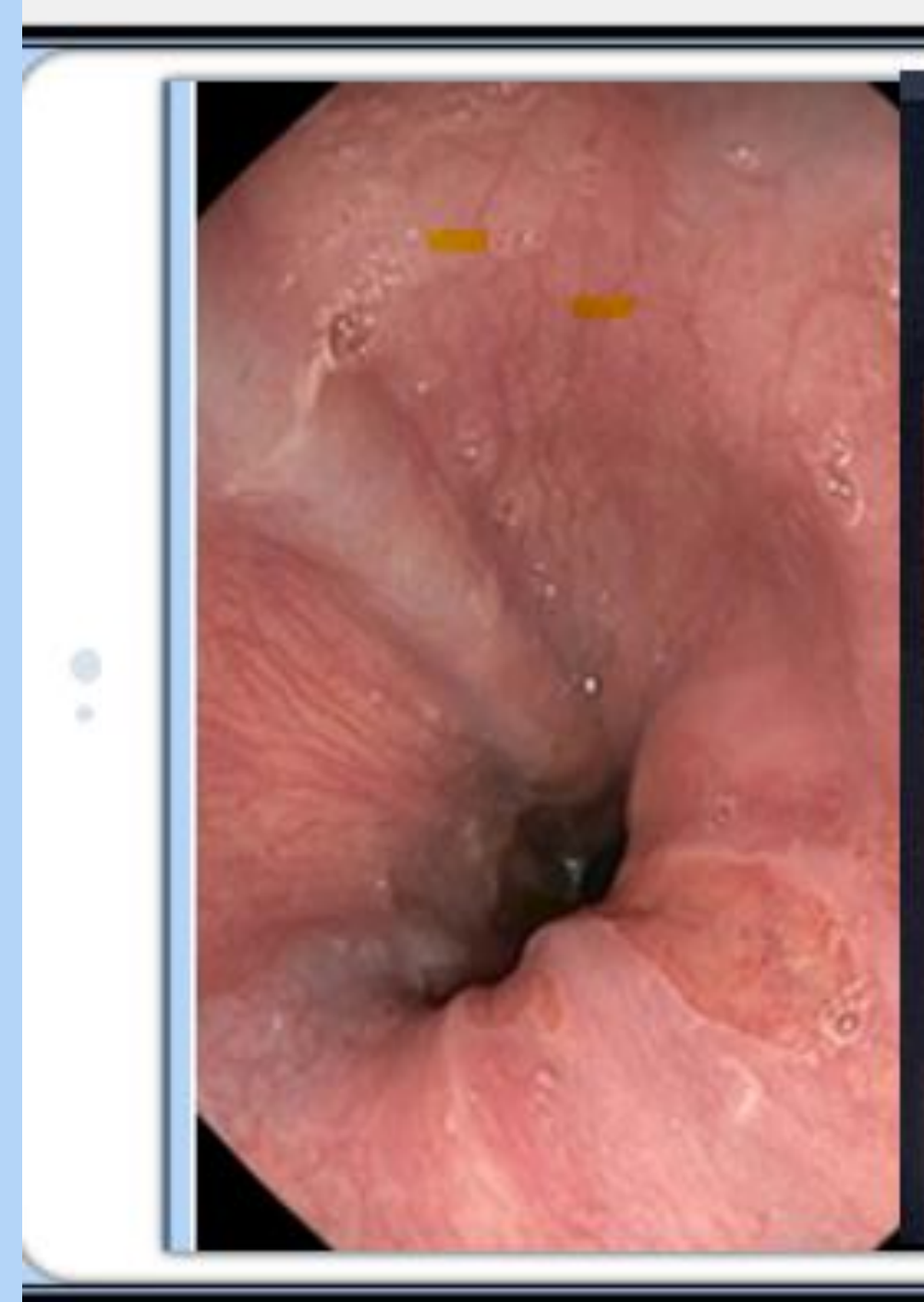
Unexplained iron-deficiency anemia,  
chronic diarrhea, and progressive  
weight loss...

IMMUNOCHEMISTRY				
Tests	Results	Reference Range	Units	Last Test
Immunoglobulin A, IgA	371	70-400	mg/dl	
Transglutaminase IgA Ab	Pos : 550	Negative Less Than 20 Positive More Than 20	U/L	

Are we facing the  
silent monster  
in the gut?

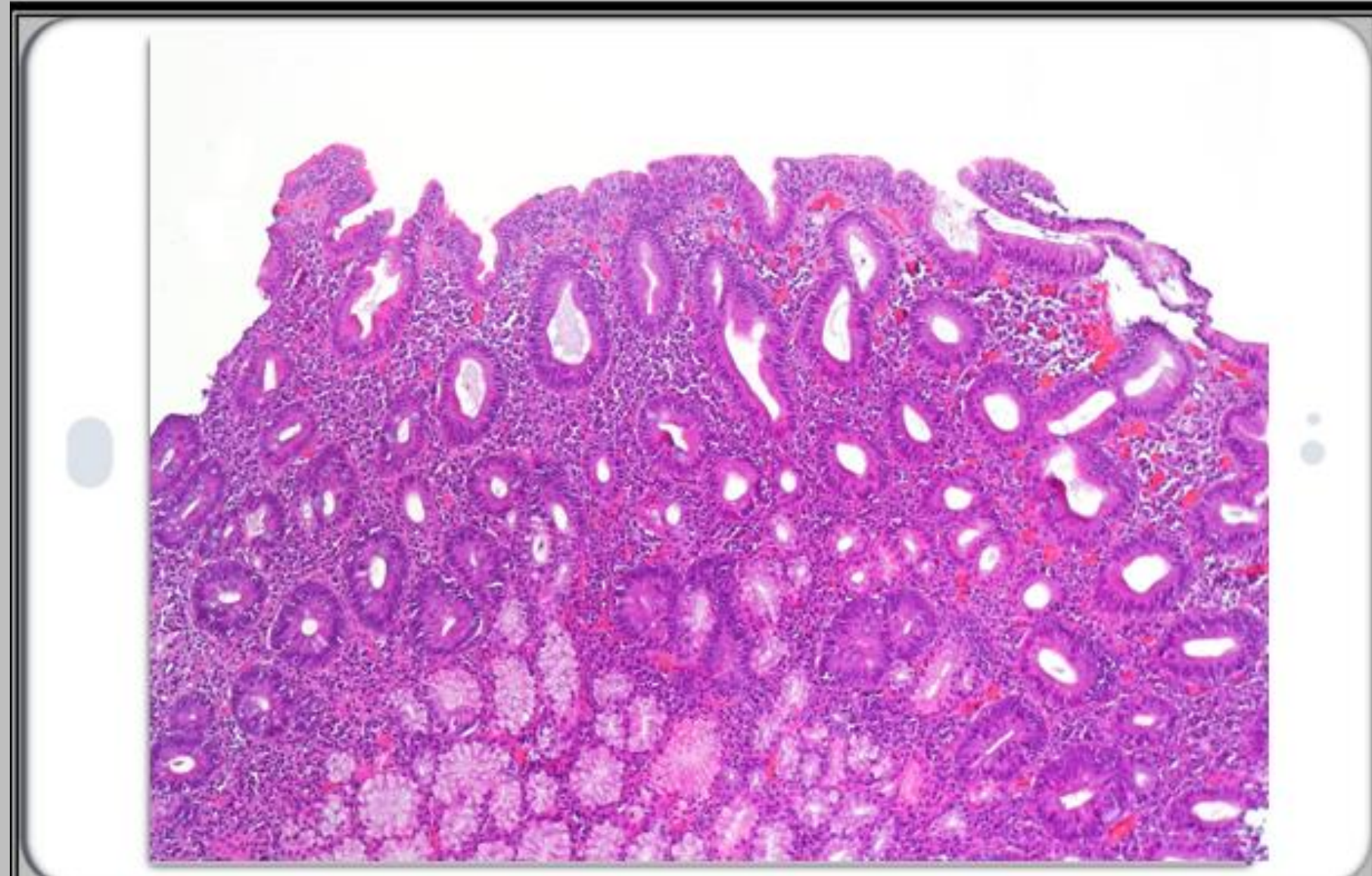


# Serologic and Endoscopic Findings



# Diagnosis

- Celiac disease
- Partial Villous atrophy :Marsh 3A



# Celiac disease as a rare cause for cryptogenic cirrhosis

distinguished from autoimmune liver disorder on the basis of its positive response to gluten-free diet (GFD).

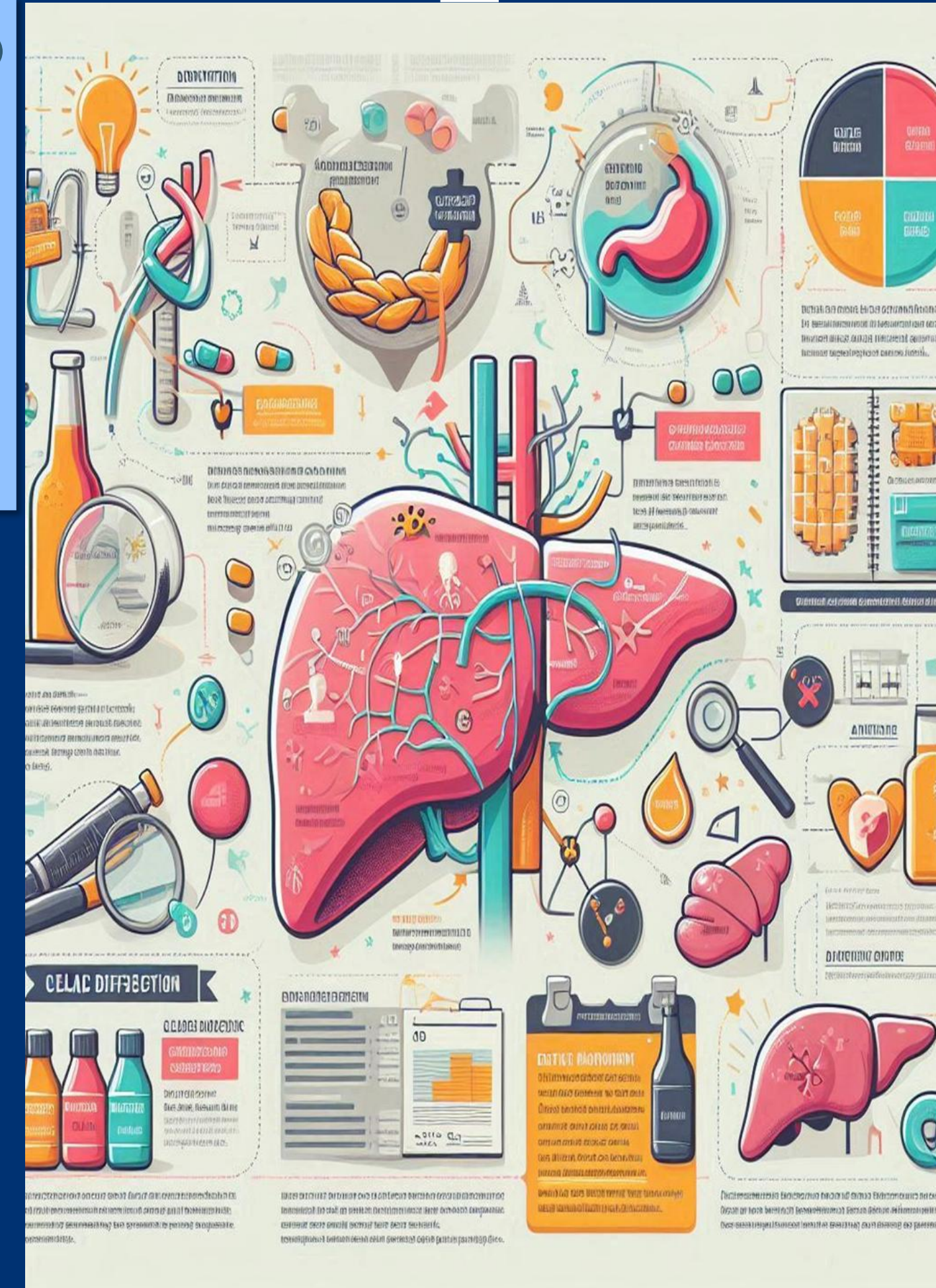
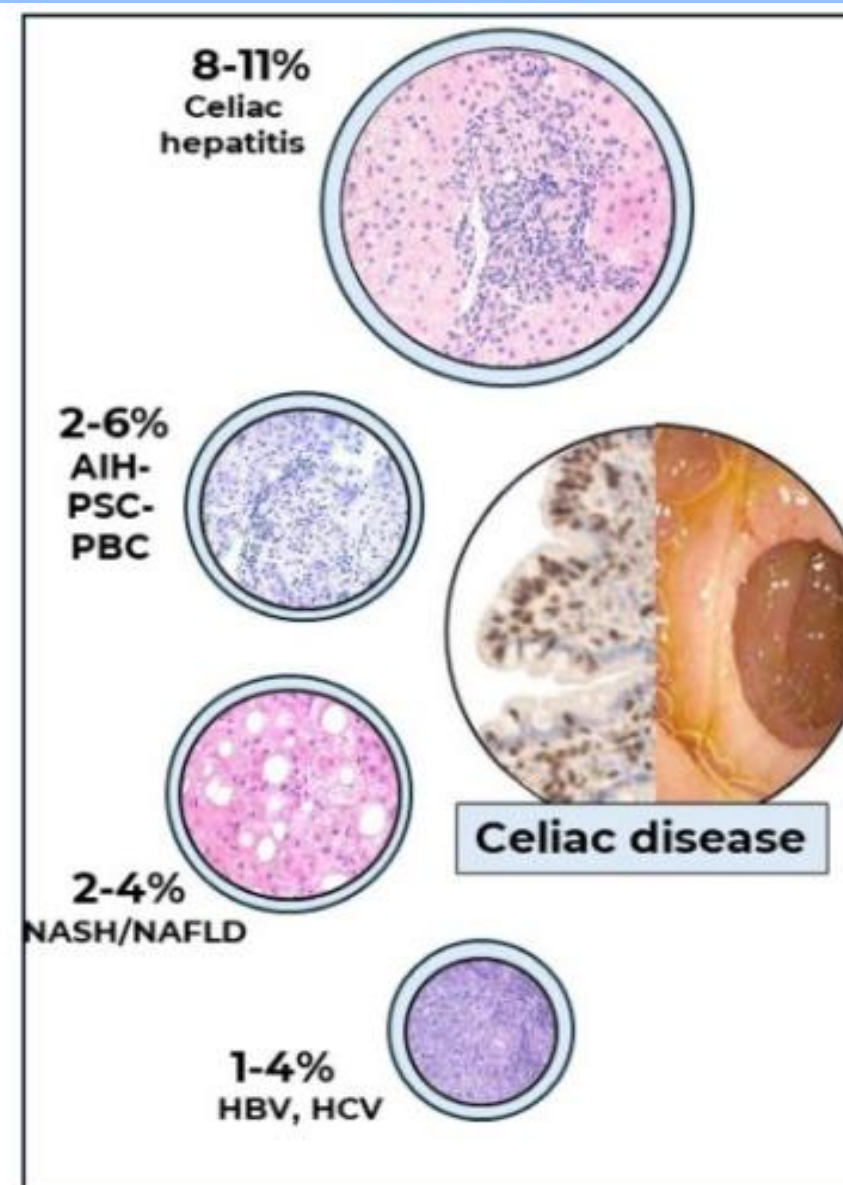
## Cryptogenic liver disorders

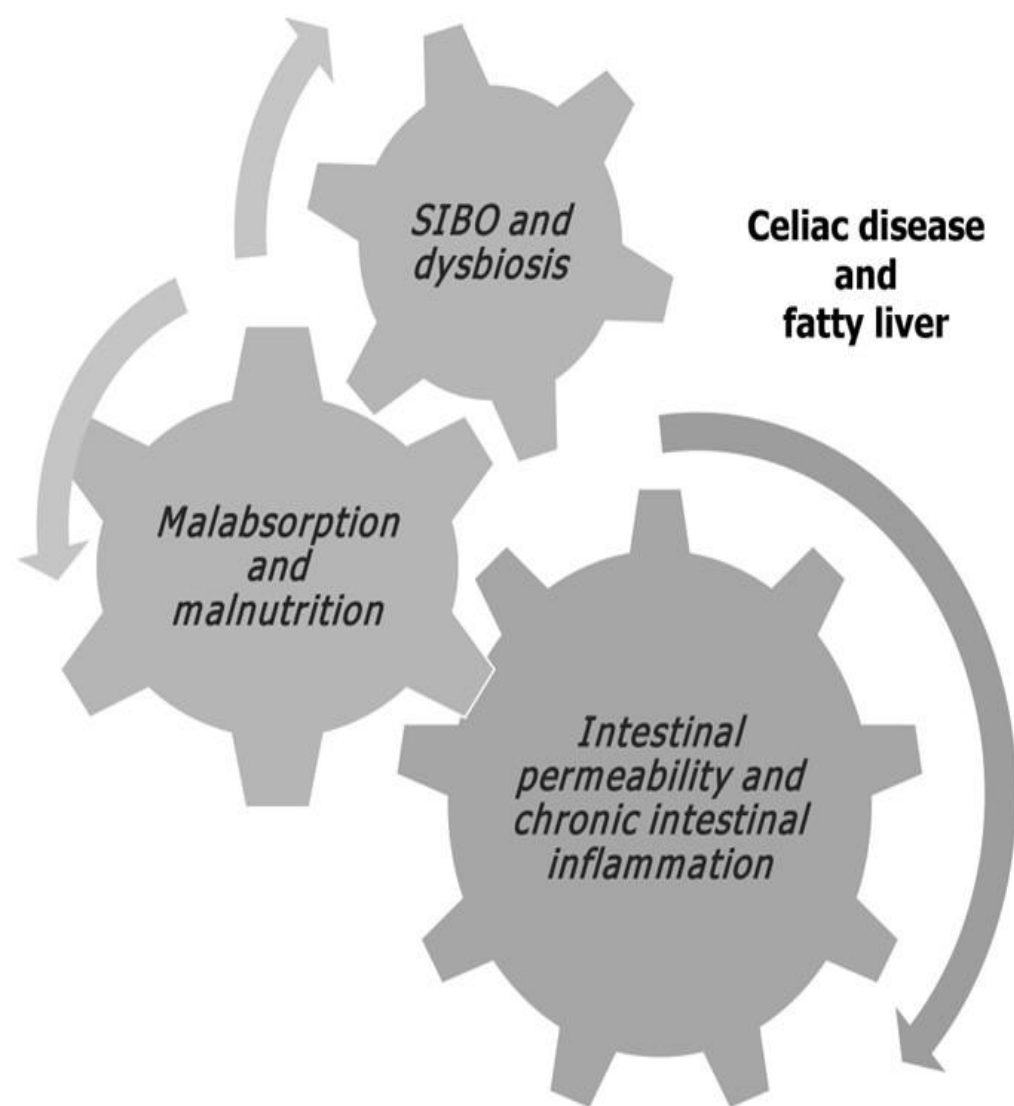
### 1. Mild liver damage (gluten-induced hepatitis)

The first report of gluten-induced hepatitis, published in *The Journal of Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition* in 1986, was the case of a young girl with persistent cryptogenic elevation of serum aminotransferase levels and mild inflammation of the portal tract (26). A diagnosis of CD, suggested in this case by a high titer of anti-reticulatin antibody, was confirmed by duodenal biopsy. Bardella *et al.* performed a similar study and found that 13 (9%) of 140 screened patients tested positive for anti-

### 2. Severe liver damage

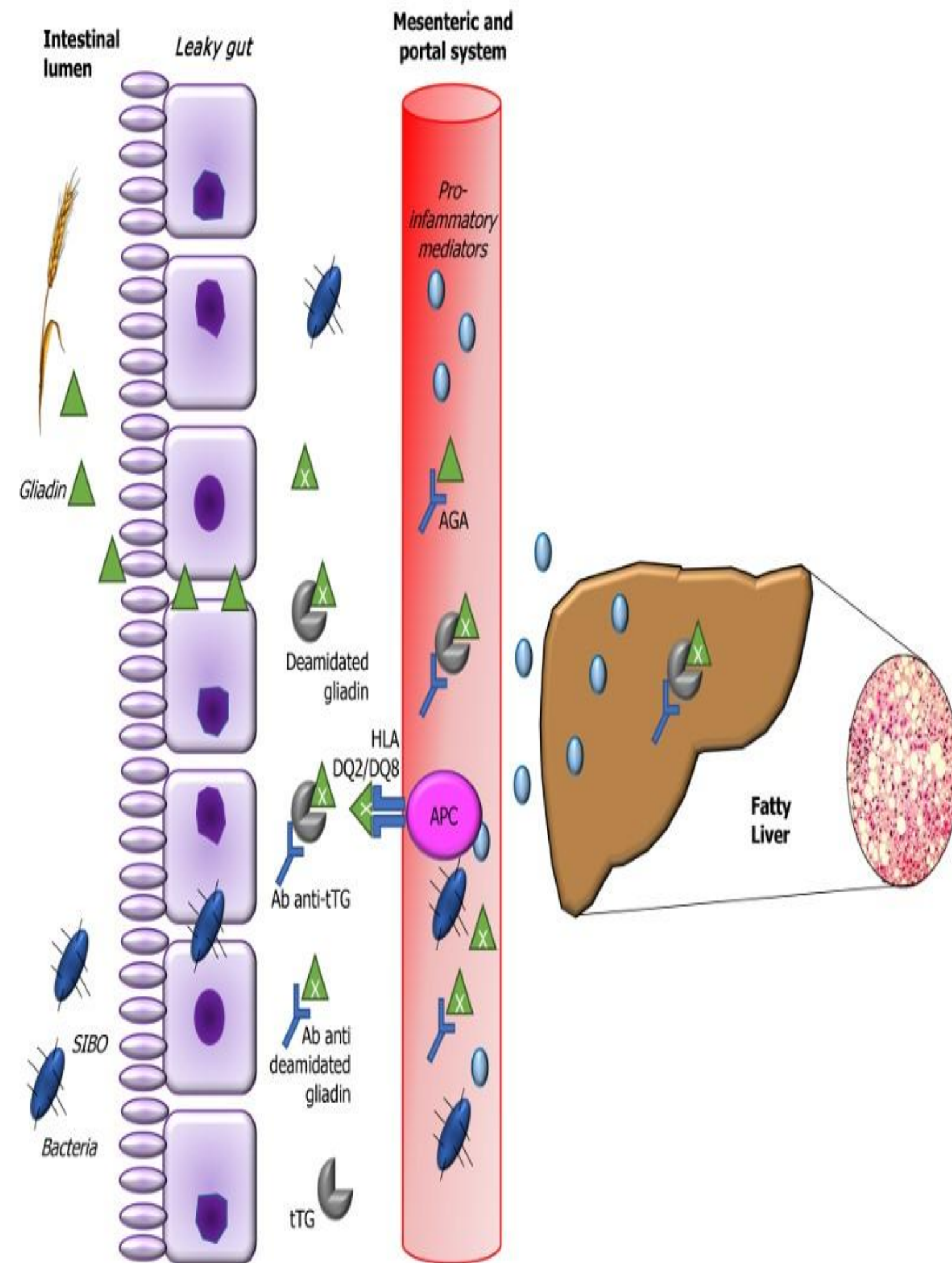
Severe histological diseases, including chronic hepatitis, severe fibrosis, and cirrhosis have been reported in adults and children (14, 25, 31). CD was detected in some patients with severe liver damage of unknown origin, and surprisingly, clinical improvement in the liver condition was noted when the patients consumed a GFD (33-35). The prevalence of CD in patients with chronic liver disease is higher than in the general population. Lindgren *et al.* reported that in 327 patients with chronic liver disease, the prevalence of CD was 1.5%, which is 15 times higher than that in the general population (36). In a Finnish study, CD was reported in 4 adult patients





DOI: 10.4254/wjh.v15.i5.666 Copyright ©The Author(s) 2023.

Figure 1 Pathophysiological mechanisms associated with fatty liver in patients with celiac dis



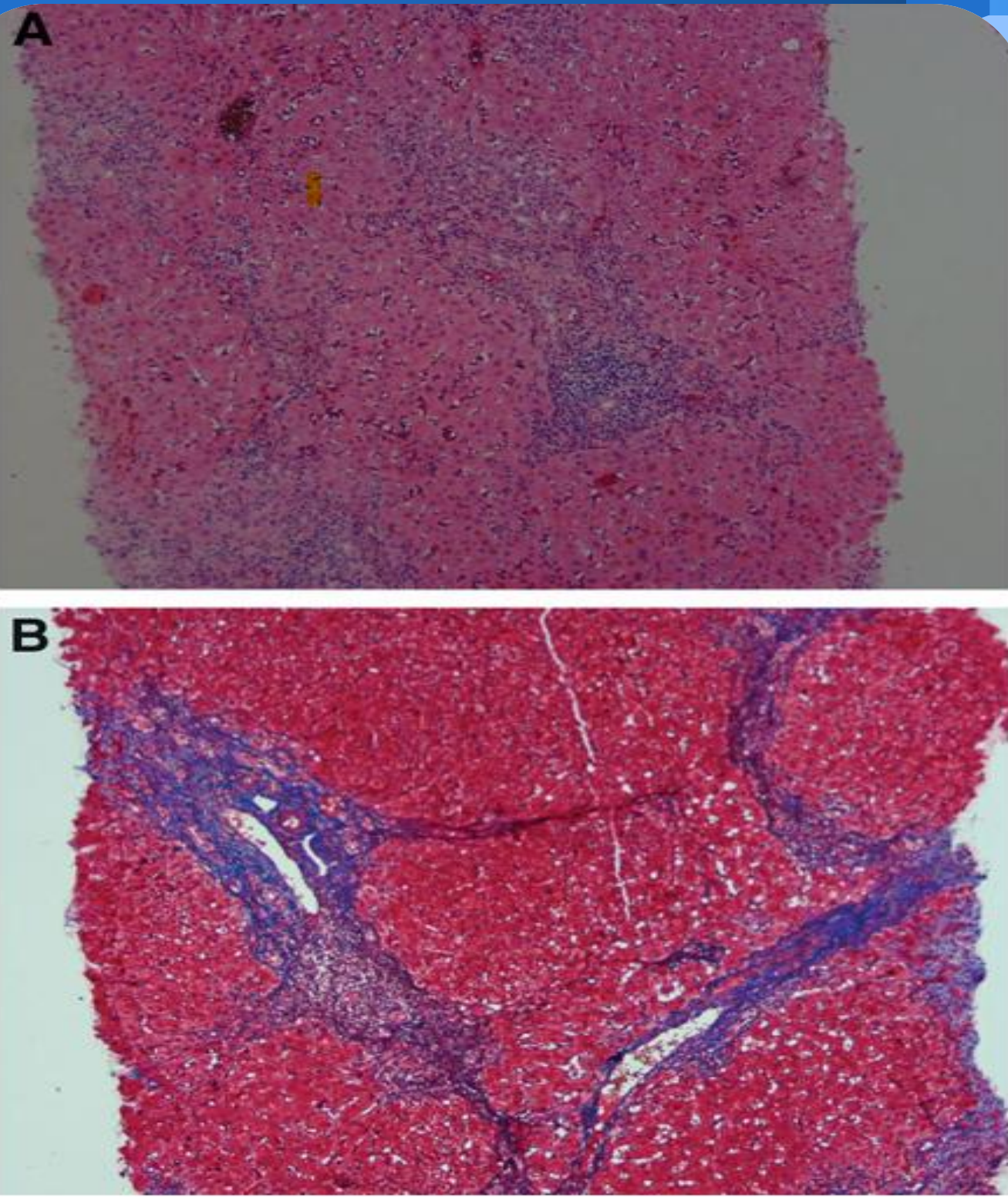
DOI: 10.4254/wjh.v15.i5.666 Copyright ©The Author(s) 2023.

**Table 1. Histological Findings in the Livers of Patients with Celiac Disease**

Nonspecific abnormalities (most common)  
Periportal inflammation  
Increased number of Kupffer cells  
Mononuclear infiltration on the portal triad

**Steatosis**

Microvesicular and macrovesicular  
Fibrosis  
Cirrhosis



**Fig. 2.** Findings of liver injury associated with celiac disease on liver-biopsy specimens. (A) Nonspecific changes (mononuclear infiltration of the portal triad) in a patient with celiac disease and elevated aminotransferases (hematoxylin and eosin,  $\times 200$ ). (B) Extensive fibrosis in a patient with celiac disease and severe liver injury (Masson's trichrome,  $\times 200$ ).

trichrome,  $\times 200$ ).  
in a patient with celiac disease and severe liver injury (Masson's  
aminotransferases (hematoxylin and eosin,  $\times 200$ ). (B) Extensive fibrosis

## RESULTS:

Of 6,871 articles screened, 20 articles were included finally in 3 meta-analyses for cryptogenic cirrhosis, all-cause cirrhosis, and cryptogenic hypertransaminasemia. For the all-cause hypertransaminasemia group, a qualitative review of 4 studies was conducted instead of a meta-analysis due to significant differences in studies. The pooled prevalence (95% confidence interval) of biopsy-confirmed CeD in cryptogenic cirrhosis was 4.6% (2.2%–7.5%) while the pooled prevalence of biopsy-confirmed CeD in all-cause cirrhosis was 0.8% (0%–3.4%). The pooled prevalence of biopsy-confirmed CeD in cryptogenic hypertransaminasemia was 5.7% (3.2%–8.8%).

## DISCUSSION:

Nearly 1 in 20 patients each with cryptogenic cirrhosis and cryptogenic hypertransaminasemia have CeD; hence, they should both be considered high-risk groups for CeD. While the prevalence of CeD in those with all-cause cirrhosis is similar to that in general population, it may be worth screening them for CeD because liver pathology has the potential for reversal in them.

Meta-Analysis > Am J Gastroenterol. 2023 May 1;118(5):820-832.

doi: 10.14309/ajg.0000000000002123. Epub 2022 Dec 23.

## Prevalence of Celiac Disease in Patients With Liver Diseases: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analyses


Shakira Yoosuf<sup>1,2</sup>, Prashant Singh<sup>3</sup>, Ashank Khaitan<sup>1</sup>, Tor A Strand<sup>4</sup>, Vineet Ahuja<sup>1</sup>, Govind K Makharia<sup>1</sup>

Affiliations + expand

PMID: 36599134 DOI: 10.14309/ajg.0000000000002123

## ARTICLE: LIVER

## Prevalence of Celiac Disease in Patients With Liver Diseases: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analyses

 Yoosuf, Shakira MD<sup>1,2</sup>; Singh, Prashant MD<sup>3</sup>; Khaitan, Ashank MBBS<sup>1</sup>; Strand, Tor A. MD<sup>4</sup>; Ahuja, Vineet MD, DM<sup>1</sup>; Makharia, Govind K. MD, DM, DNB<sup>1</sup>

Author Information 

The American Journal of Gastroenterology 118(5):p 820-832 May 2023 | DOI: 10.14309/ajg.0000000000002123

**PATHOLOGY REPORT**

Liver; needle biopsy:

- LIVER TISSUE CORES SHOW PRESERVED ARCHITECTURE WITH MODERATE STEATOSIS.
- PORTAL AREAS APPEAR UNREMARKABLE WITH NO INFLAMMATION OR FIBROSIS.
- NO PLASMA CELLS SEEN.
- NO GRANULOMA OR NEOPLASTIC CHANGES IDENTIFIED.

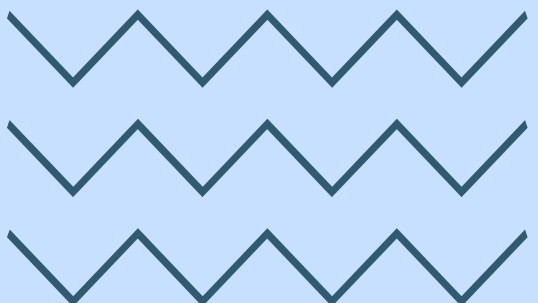
**GROSS DESCRIPTION**

Labeled liver, needle biopsy, consists of 2 tissue cores measuring 0.5 and 1.2 cm. The specimen is entirely embedded for histologic examination.

*Ghiath Hamed, MD*

Ghiath Hamed, M.D.  
Senior Pathologist

Results Report				
AUTOIMMUNE MARKERS				
Tests	Results	Reference range	Units	Last Result
Anti Transglutaminase IgA (TTG IgA)	16.32	Negative: Less than 20 Positive: More than 20	U/L	
AMS Elisa UNIREADER 210 - England				



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ARTICLE: SMALL BOWEL

## Celiac Disease Is Common in Adults With Cryptogenic Cirrhosis and Responds Favorably to Gluten-Free Diet

Pachisia, Aditya Vikram DM<sup>1</sup>; Agarwal, Ankit DM<sup>2</sup>; Mehta, Shubham DM<sup>2</sup>; Kumari, Alka PhD<sup>2</sup>; Dwarakanathan, Vignesh MD<sup>3</sup>; Sharma, Sonu MSc<sup>2</sup>; Kumar, Sambuddha PhD<sup>2</sup>; Mehra, Lalita PhD<sup>4</sup>; Dutta, Rimlee MD<sup>4</sup>; Das, Prasenjit MD<sup>4</sup>; Agarwal, Samagra DM<sup>2</sup>; Shalimar, DM<sup>2</sup>; Ahuja, Vineet DM<sup>2</sup>; Makharia, Govind K. MD<sup>2</sup>

Author Information

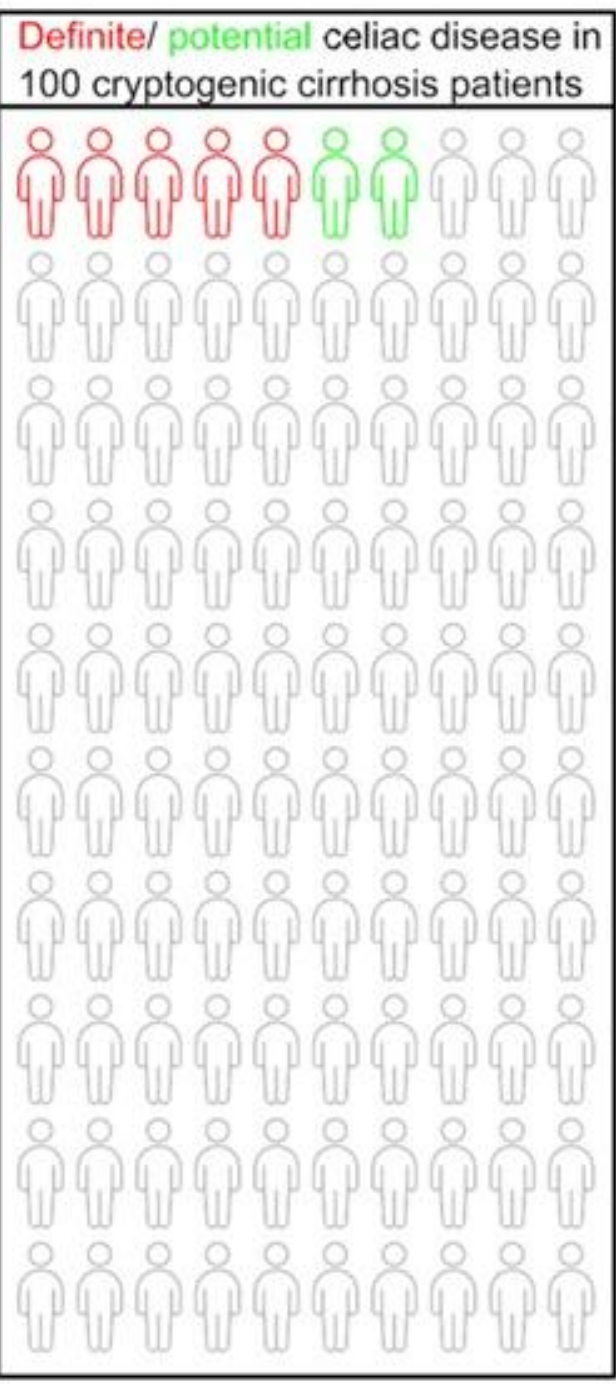
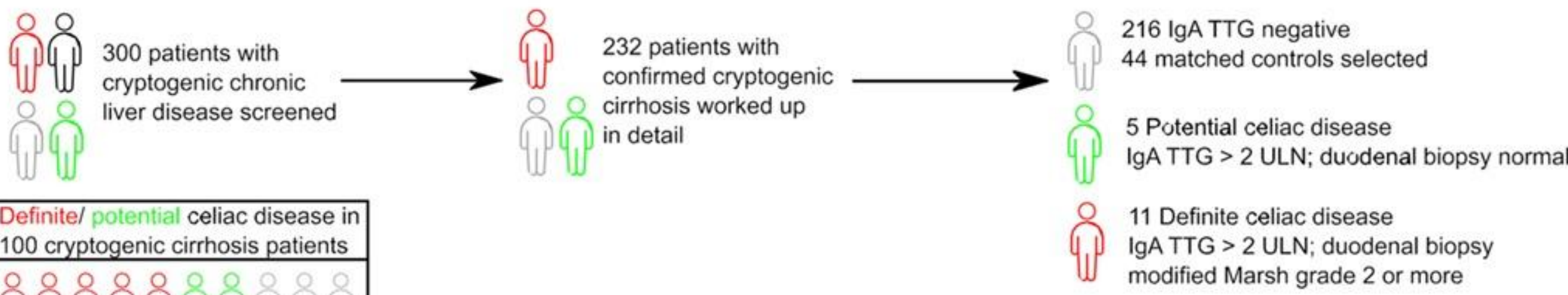
*The American Journal of Gastroenterology* 120(9):p 2113-2124, September 2025. | DOI: 10.14309/ajg.0000000000003244

### RESULTS:

Of 232 patients with cryptogenic cirrhosis, 14 had high anti-tTG Ab ( $16.9 \pm 10.5$  fold rise), with 9 antiendomysial antibody-positive and 11 (4.7%) biopsy-proven CeD. IgA/anti-tTG Ab colocalization was demonstrated in 7/8 liver and 10/11 duodenal biopsies. Patients with cryptogenic cirrhosis with definite CeD ( $n = 11$ ) and matched cohort without CeD ( $n = 44$ ) were similar at baseline (age:  $31.3 \pm 7.7$  vs  $31.8 \pm 9.3$  years; 5 [45.5%] vs 15 [34.1%] females; MELDNa 9 [interquartile-range: 8–15.5] vs 12 [9–15]; CTP 7 [6–7.5] vs 6 [5.75–7]). Patients with CeD on GFD improved significantly on follow-up compared with those without CeD (follow-up MELDNa: 9 [7.5–10.5] vs 18.5 [12–20];  $P = 0.001$  and follow-up CTP: 5 [5–5] vs 8 [7–9];  $P < 0.001$ ) with less frequent further decompensations and similar mortality (9.1% vs 18.2%;  $P = 0.67$ ).



Celiac disease is common in adults with cryptogenic cirrhosis and responds favourably to gluten free diet

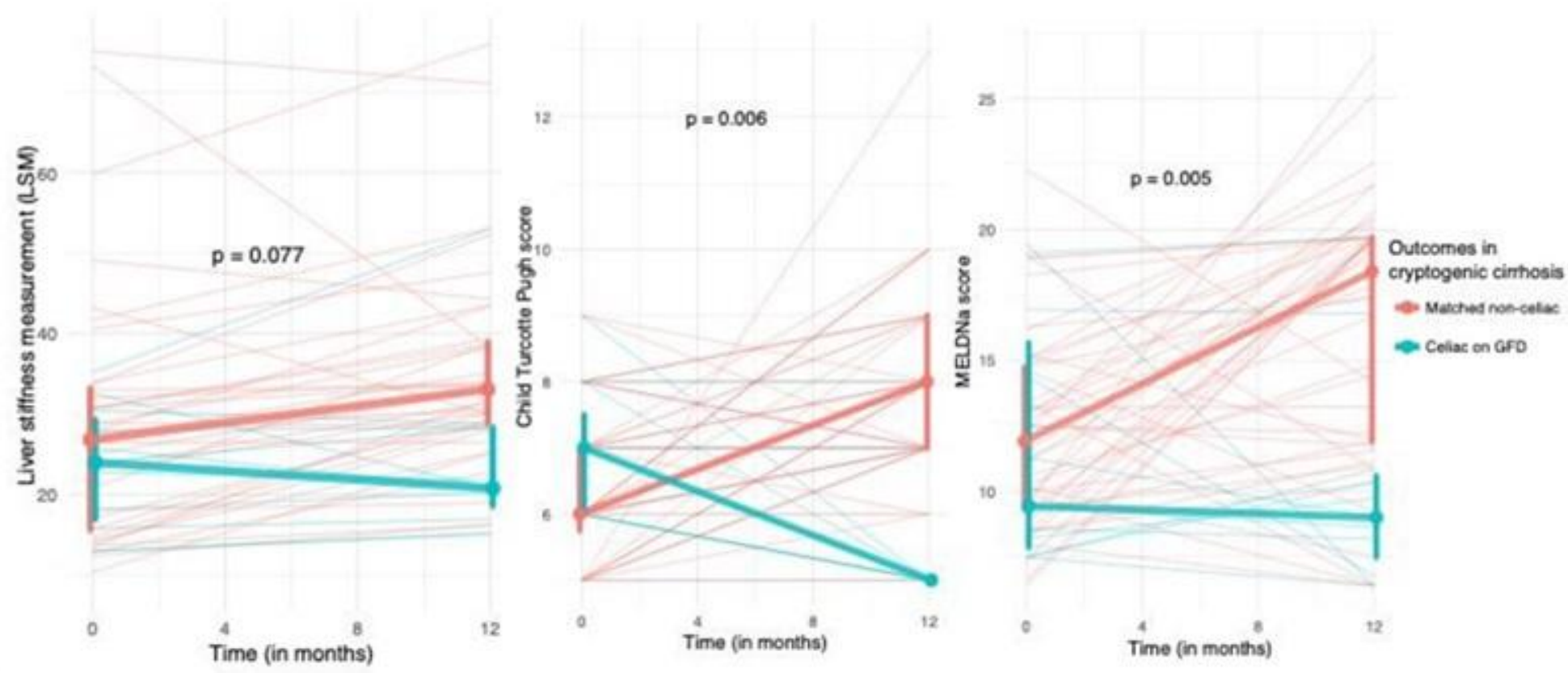


Conclusions

5 in 100 (prevalance 4.7%, 95% CI = 2.4% - 8.3%) have definite celiac disease (biopsy proven)

7 in 100 (prevalence 6.9% , 95% CI = 4.0-10.9%) have seropositive celiac disease

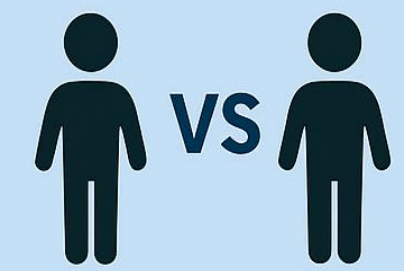
Liver related outcomes in patients with cryptogenic cirrhosis and definite celiac disease (treated with gluten-free diet + standard of care) compared to a matched cohort without celiac disease (treated with standard of care alone)



RESULTS

- Of 232 patients with cryptogenic cirrhosis
- 14 had high anti-tTG Ab (16.9 ± 10.5 fold rise)
- 9 were antiendomysial antibody-positive

COMPARISON



Patients with celiac disease VS Cohort without celiac disease

Age 31.1 vs  
MELD 9.1.3  
CTP 7 v 6

GLUTEN-FREE DIET



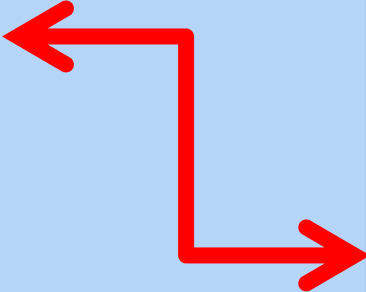
Improvement

MELD 12 → 8.5  
CTP 7 → 5

Fewer decompestions

patients with severe liver failure. **Methods:** Four patients with untreated celiac disease and severe liver disease are described. Further, the occurrence of celiac disease was studied in 185 adults with previous liver transplantation using serum immunoglobulin A endomysial and tissue transglutaminase antibodies in screening. **Results:** Of the 4 patients with severe liver disease and celiac disease, 1 had congenital liver fibrosis, 1 had massive hepatic steatosis, and 2 had progressive hepatitis without apparent origin. Three were even remitted for consideration of liver transplantation. Hepatic dysfunction reversed in all cases when a gluten-free diet was adopted. In the transplantation group, 8 patients (4.3%) had celiac disease. Six cases were detected before the operation: 3 had primary biliary cirrhosis, 1 had autoimmune hepatitis, 1 had primary sclerosing cholangitis, and 1 had congenital liver fibrosis. Only 1 patient had maintained a long-term strict gluten-free diet. Screening found 2 cases of celiac disease, 1 with autoimmune hepatitis and 1 with secondary sclerosing cholangitis. **Conclusions:** The possible presence of celiac disease should be investigated in patients with severe liver disease. Dietary treatment may prevent progression to hepatic failure, even in cases in which liver transplantation is considered.

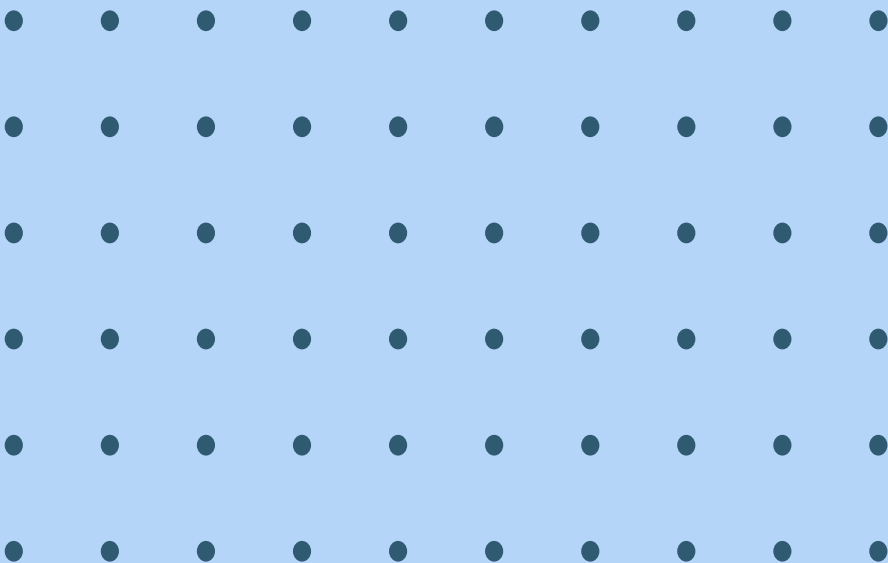
- Celiac + GFD → Improved liver function↓ Liver stiffness (p = 0.077)
- ↓ Child–Turcotte–Pugh score (p = 0.006)
- ↓ MELD score (p = 0.005)



**Table 1.** Findings Before and After the Introduction of a Gluten-Free Diet in Patients With Severe Liver Failure Subsequently Found to Have Celiac Disease

	Patient 1		Patient 2		Patient 3		Patient 4	
	Before GFD	After GFD	Before GFD	After GFD	Before GFD	After GFD	Before GFD	After GFD
General condition	Poor	Improved	Poor	Improved	Poor	Improved	Poor	Improved
Jaundice	+++	0	+	±	0	0	0	0
Ascites	+++	0	+++	0	+++	0	+++	0
INR (0.9–1.2)	3.0	1.3	1.5–1.1	1.0	2.1–1.1	1.1	1.1	1.3
Albumin, g/L (>40 g/L)	18	41	16	38	12	44	29	37
Bilirubin, μmol/L (<20 μmol/L)	>500	25	40	31	13	8	25	24
Alkaline phosphatase, U/L (60–275 U/L)	940	735	188	96	358	117	622	835
Alanine aminotransferase, U/L (<50 U/L)	3390	91	57	25	122	18	41	33–50
Liver histology	Acute hepatitis	Improved	Increased fibrosis with bile duct proliferation	ND	50% steatosis	Improved	Early cirrhosis with mild lymphocytic infiltration	Micronodular cirrhosis, chronic hepatitis
HLA type	HLA-DQ2		ND		HLA-DQ2		HLA-DQ2	

GFD, gluten-free diet; INR, international normalized ratio; ND, not done.





Increased risk of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease after diagnosis of celiac disease

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**Background & Aims:** Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease is a common cause of chronic liver disease. Celiac disease alters intestinal permeability and treatment with a gluten-free diet often causes weight gain, but so far there are few reports of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease in patients with celiac disease.

**Methods:** Population-based cohort study. We compared the risk of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease diagnosed from 1997 to 2009 in individuals with celiac disease (n = 26,816) to matched reference individuals (n = 130,051). Patients with any liver disease prior to celiac disease were excluded, as were individuals with a lifetime diagnosis of alcohol-related disorder to minimize misclassification of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease. Cox regression estimated hazard ratios for non-alcoholic fatty liver disease were determined.

**Results:** During 246,559 person-years of follow-up, 53 individuals with celiac disease had a diagnosis of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (21/100,000 person-years). In comparison, we identified 85 reference individuals diagnosed with non-alcoholic fatty liver disease during 1,488,413 person-years (6/100,000 person-years). This corresponded to a hazard ratio of 2.8 (95% CI 2.0–3.8), with the highest risk estimates seen in children (HR = 4.6; 95% CI 2.3–9.1). The risk increase in the first year after celiac disease diagnosis was 13.3 (95% CI 3.5–50.3) but remained significantly elevated even beyond 15 years after the diagnosis of celiac disease (HR = 2.5; 95% CI 1.0–5.9).

**Conclusion:** Individuals with celiac disease are at increased risk of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease compared to the general population. Excess risks were highest in the first year after celiac disease diagnosis, but persisted through 15 years after diagnosis with celiac disease.

**Keywords:** Autoimmune; Steatohepatitis; Gluten; NASH; NAFLD; Celiac disease. Received 5 September 2014; received in revised form 30 December 2014; accepted 8 January 2015; available online 21 January 2015

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**Abbreviations:** CD, celiac disease; NAFLD, non-alcoholic fatty liver disease; NASH, non-alcoholic steatohepatitis; SIBO, small intestinal bacterial overgrowth; VA, villous atrophy; ICD, international classification of disease (codes); CI, confidence interval; HR, hazard ratio; OR, odds ratio; BMI, body mass index.



**Background & Aims:** Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease is a common cause of chronic liver disease. Celiac disease alters intestinal permeability and treatment with a gluten-free diet often causes weight gain, but so far there are few reports of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease in patients with celiac disease.

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# Long-term risk of chronic liver disease in patients with celiac disease: a nationwide population-based, sibling-controlled cohort study

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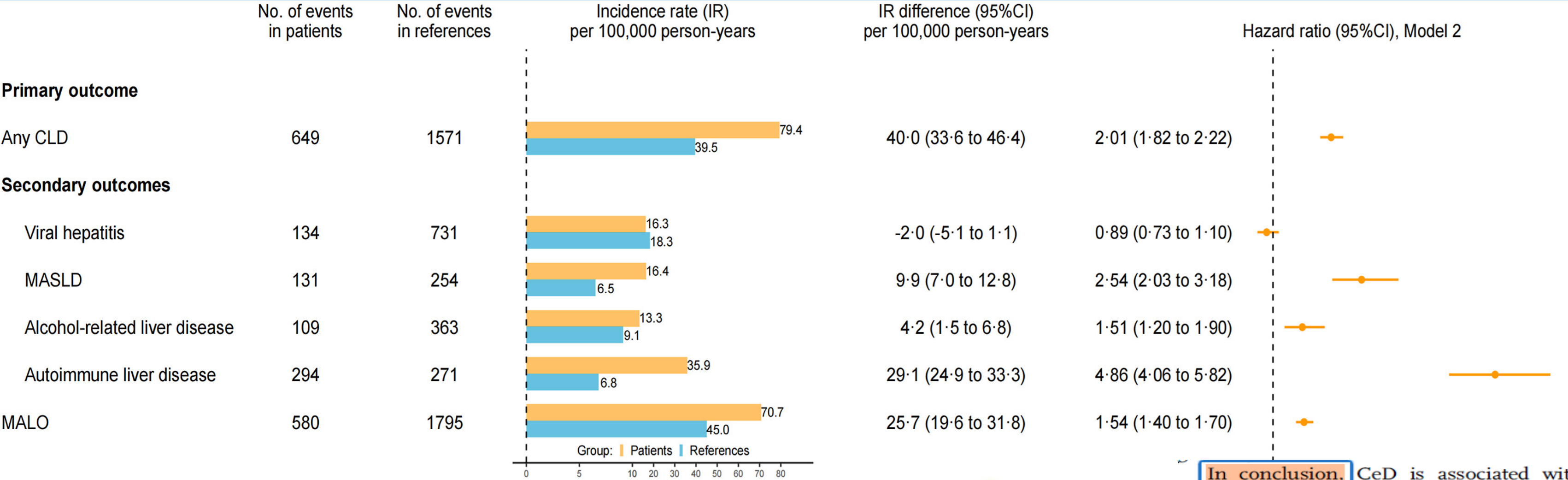


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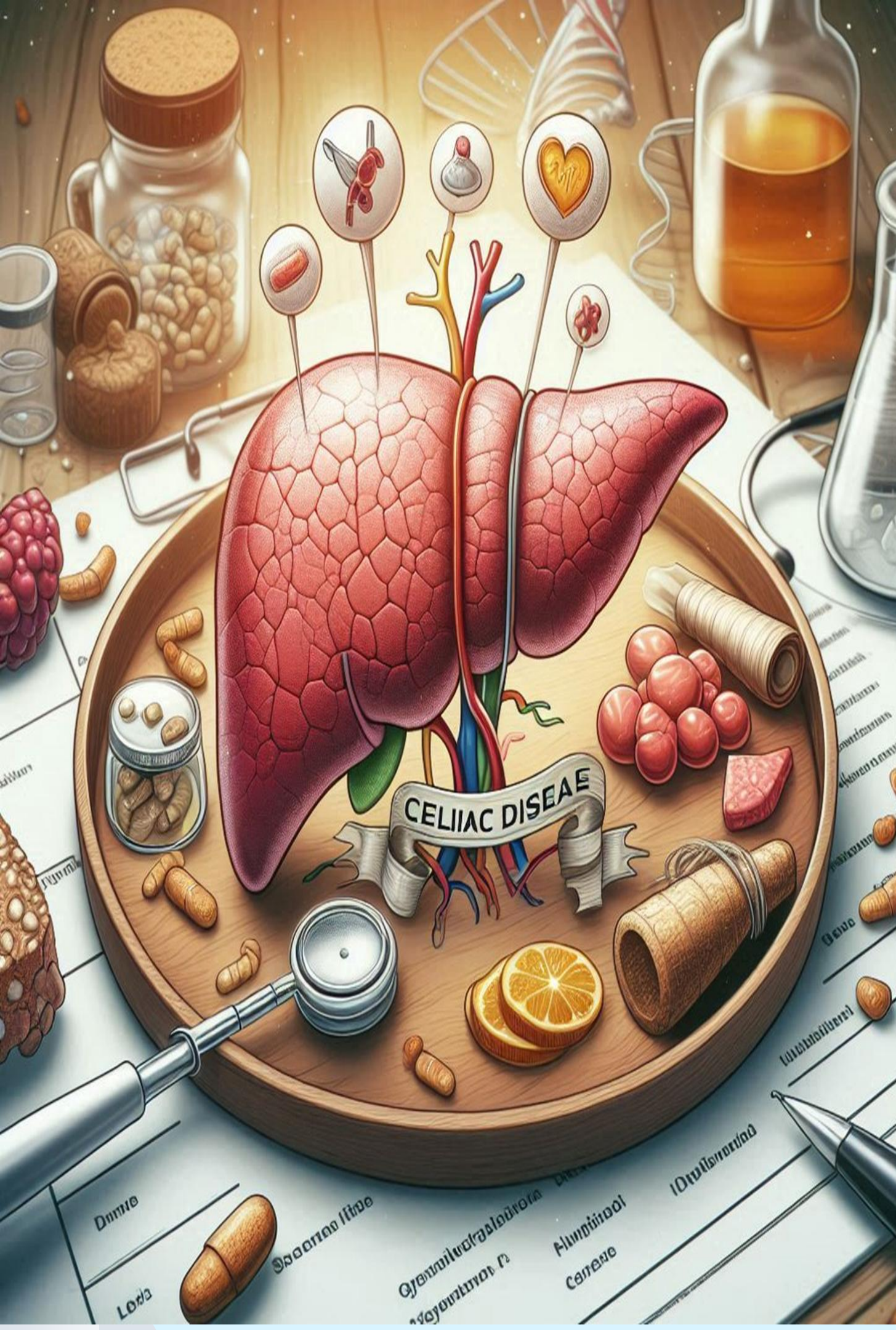
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lanepe.2024.101201>



**In conclusion,**

CeD is associated with a two-fold increased relative risk of any CLD (including autoimmune liver disease, MASLD, and alcohol-related liver disease) for ≥25 years after diagnosis. High-risk populations for any CLD included individuals with a history of autoimmune or metabolic-related diseases. Clinicians should be vigilant to signs of progressive liver disease such as elevated liver enzymes in patients with CeD to prevent the long-term risk of developing MALO.

Incident chronic liver disease (CLD) and major adverse liver outcomes (MALO) in patients with celiac disease compared with their matched reference individuals



# Take-home Messages

1

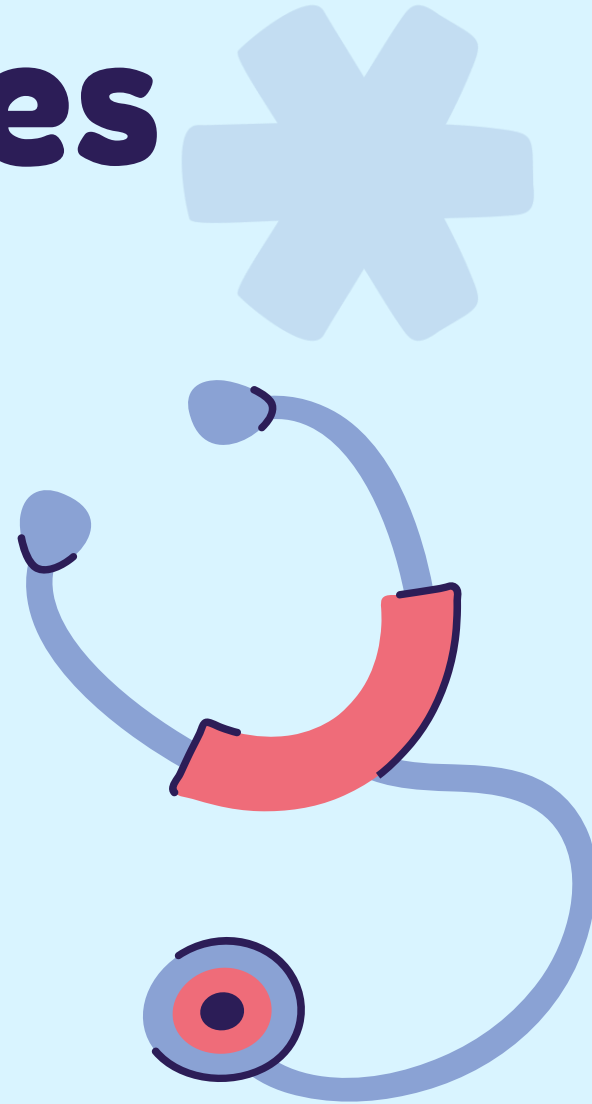
Celiac disease may silently manifest as liver cirrhosis.

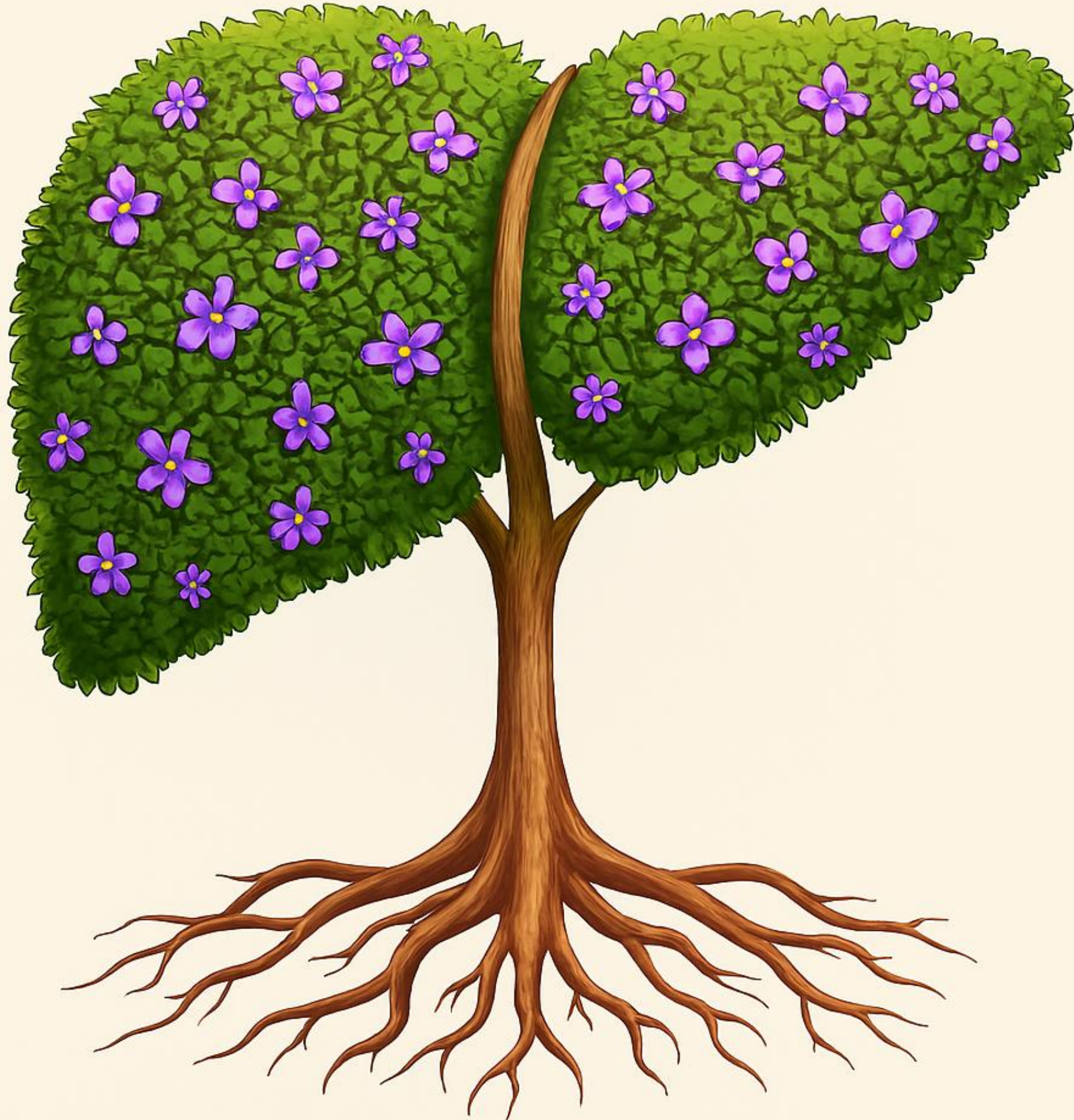
2

Always test for celiac antibodies in unexplained hepatic dysfunction.

3

Gluten-free diet can significantly improve liver function.





*The liver sometimes speaks for  
the silent intestine*

*CARE Your Liver*

# Thank You

