

## Comparison between cirrhotic HCC patients versus non-cirrhotic HCC patients

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### ABSTRACT

**Objectives:** Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) usually occurs in patients with cirrhosis, but can also develop in noncirrhotic livers. In the present study we compared patients and tumor characteristics and outcomes in HCC patients with and without underlying cirrhosis.

**Methods:** Patients with HCC diagnosed in the period January 2010 – December 2014 in the National Oncology Centre, Sana'a, Yemen were evaluated. Patients were categorized according to the presence of cirrhosis on the basis of histology or combined radiological and laboratory features.

**Results:** In total, 43.8% of the 486 HCC patients had no underlying cirrhosis. Non-cirrhotic HCC patients were less likely to have hepatitis C virus or Hepatitis B virus than did cirrhotic HCC patients. HCCs in noncirrhotic livers were more often unifocal (58.2 vs. 36.1%) and tumor size was larger (11 vs. 10 cm) ( $p=0.011$ ). Overall survival was significantly better than in cirrhotic. In multivariate and Cox regression analyses, thrombocytopenia and portal vein thrombosis were independent predictors for lower mortality.

**Conclusion:** Liver cirrhosis was found in only half of the studied HCC patients. HCC patients with liver cirrhosis were more likely to have multiple tumor and more advanced stage at presentation as well as significantly worse overall survival when compared to non-cirrhotic HCC patients.