

# **Hepatocellular Carcinoma: Diagnosis and Management**

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## **Abstract**

The incidence of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) has been increasing in the world mainly because of the rising incidence of hepatitis C. Currently 3 to 4 million persons are infected with hepatitis C. It is estimated that 5% to 30% of these patients will develop chronic liver disease and of these, 30% will progress to cirrhosis. Once patients develop cirrhosis, the risk of hepatocellular carcinoma is 1% to 2% per year. The latency period between hepatitis B or C exposure and the development of hepatocellular cancer varies between 30 and 50 years. Various procedures are used to treat HCC such as liver transplantation, alcohol injection, radiofrequency curative ablation and hepatic artery catheterization. The hepatologist's role in HCC is mainly in the diagnosis, to assess the liver disease status, to decide appropriate treatment, surveillance for HCC and to manage the liver disease. We will review various advances in the diagnosis and management of HCC, which have made possible the discovery of HCC at potentially treatable stage.

*Keywords:* Hepatocellular carcinoma, Hepatitis C, Hepatitis B, Liver Transplantation.