Diagn Interv Radiol 2024; DOI: 10.4274/dir.2023.232553



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INTERVENTIONAL RADIOLOGY

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Correlation between computed tomography-based body composition parameters and hepatic venous pressure gradient in patients with cirrhosis: a systematic review and meta-analysis

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This study was registered prospectively on the International Prospective Register of Systematic Reviews (PROSPERO) in 2023 (registration number: CRD42023392942).

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Received 12 October 2023; revision requested 13 November 2023; accepted 14 December 2023.



Epub: 31.01.2024



DOI: 10.4274/dir.2023.232553

A literature search for studies reporting the correlation between HVPG and CT-based body composition parameters published in English up to August 2023 in four databases, Embase, MEDLINE (via PubMed), Web of Science, and Cochrane Library, was conducted. The correlation coefficient between HVPG and CT-based body composition parameters was the primary outcome, and the difference in the HVPG value between the sarcopenia and non-sarcopenia groups was the secondary outcome. A meta-analysis was conducted using a random-effects models. The methodologic quality was assessed using the Quality Assessment of Diagnostic Studies instrument.

Computed tomography (CT)-based body composition parameters and the hepatic venous pressure gradient (HVPG) are key characteristics in patients with liver cirrhosis. The present study aims to

explore the correlation between CT-based body composition parameters and HVPG, as well as the

difference in HVPG between patients with and patients without sarcopenia.

RESULTS

PURPOSE

METHODS

A total of 652 articles were identified, of which nine studies (n = 1,569) met the eligibility criteria. Among them, seven studies reported the primary outcome via the muscle index, five via the skeletal muscle index (SMI), two via the psoas-muscle-related index (PRI), and three via two adipose tissue indexes. A total of five studies reported the secondary outcome: four via SMI and one via PRI. No evidence of a significant correlation was determined between the various body composition parameters and the HVPG value, either in the muscle index or the adipose tissue index. Higher HVPG values were observed in patients with sarcopenia than in patients without sarcopenia [pooled standardized mean difference (SMD): 0.628 (-0.350, 1.606), P < 0.001; $l^2 = 92.8\%$; P < 0.001] when an Asian sarcopenia definition was adopted. In contrast, when a Western cut-off value was applied, the HVPG value was higher in patients without sarcopenia than in patients with sarcopenia [pooled SMD: -0.201 (-0.366, -0.037), P = 0.016; I² = 0.00%; P = 0.785].

CONCLUSION

No sufficient evidence regarding a correlation between the CT-based body composition and HVPG value was discovered. The difference in the HVPG value between the sarcopenia and non-sarcopenia groups was likely dependent on the sarcopenic cut-off value.

KEYWORDS

Liver cirrhosis, portal hypertension, sarcopenia, body composition, meta-analysis

You may cite this article as: Yang S, Zhang Z, Chen Q, et al. Correlation between computed tomography-based body composition parameters and hepatic venous pressure gradient in patients with cirrhosis: a systematic review and meta-analysis. Diagn Interv Radiol. 31 January 2024 DOI: 10.4274/dir.2023.232553 [Epub Ahead of Print].

arcopenia, a disease entity representing a progressive and generalized skeletal muscle disorder, is a prevalent morbidity of liver cirrhosis (LC).1 Due to the concomitant altered catabolic state, insulin resistance, chronic systemic inflammation and physical inactivity, sarcopenia exists in different LC stages and is closely related with decompensation risk and postoperative complications, as well as mortality independent of commonly used tools, such as Child–Pugh score or the model for end-stage liver disease (MELD) score.²⁻⁴ Furthermore, the role of adipose quantity or distribution as a precipitating event for poor prognosis in patients with LC has also been proposed.^{5,6} Importantly, as two body phenotypes, the muscle and adipose quantity may interact with each other instead of acting as two independent pathophysiological conditions.7

Computed tomography (CT) is considered the gold standard for assessing muscle or adipose quantity, and CT-based muscle quantity is recommended for defining sarcopenia.^{8,9} In patients with LC, CT is routinely performed with the aim of monitoring portal-systemic collaterals and tumor development or recurrence; thus, CT-based body composition parameters are accessible and reproducible. In addition, the hepatic venous pressure gradient (HVPG) is recognized as the gold standard for evaluating portal hypertension (PH).¹⁰ To stratify the risk of decompensation with intent for early intervention, HVPG measurement has also been encouraged in patients with LC in real-life practice.¹¹

Body composition, especially muscle quantity, and HVPG have been characterized as important characteristics in patients with LC. With the progress of LC, clinically signif-

Main points

- The present study is deemed to be the first meta-analysis to quantify evidence of a correlation between the hepatic venous pressure gradient (HVPG) and the body composition parameters.
- The association between portal hypertension (PH) and body composition parameters as two characteristics in patients with cirrhosis was revealed, with the goal of exploring the impact of PH on skeletal muscle loss or adipose tissue change.
- No evidence of significant correlation was determined between various body composition parameters and HVPG.
- The difference in the HVPG value between patients with sarcopenia and patients without sarcopenia is likely dependent on the sarcopenic definition.

icant PH is concomitant. Muscle depletion and fat accumulation or redistribution also likely occur in this course.^{1,12} Specifically, the metabolism changes of such a population are characterized by insulin resistance, dysregulated muscle protein turnover, and altered lipid redistribution.¹³ Furthermore, some clinical events, such as loss of appetite, fluid retention, and sedentary behavior, contribute to alterations of the body phenotype. A large sample cross-sectional study revealed that muscle mass depletion was independently associated with the liver fibrosis stage.14 In addition, a preclinical study showed that ammonia-lowering therapy could result in an increase of skeletal muscle mass.¹⁵ Nevertheless, the evidence on the correlation between HVPG and body composition is still weak. The number of existing studies is too limited to provide relevant data. Discrepant results were yielded among these studies. The study by Matsui et al.¹⁶ showed that the HVPG value was inversely correlated with the skeletal muscle index (SMI). In contrast, other published data showed a null association.5,17-19 Similarly inconsistent results have also been observed regarding the adipose tissue index and HVPG. Rodrigues et al.⁵ concluded that there was a significant negative correlation between the subcutaneous adipose tissue index (SATI) and the HVPG value, but Cho et al.¹⁸ and Zeng et al.¹⁹ did not.

Whether the HVPG value is correlated with a certain body composition parameter, and to what extent the HVPG value differs between patients with sarcopenia and patients without sarcopenia remains unknown. Knowledge of the impact of PH on muscle or adipose tissue is highly desirable, guiding nutrition support and tailoring individualized therapy. The additional value of HVPG, known as a validated index mirroring PH, would be detected for association with body tissue alternations in patients with LC. Hence, a meta-analysis was conducted to overview the current evidence and address this issue.

Methods

Protocol registration

The present review was performed following the 2020 Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) statement.²⁰ The PRISMA checklist is shown in Online Resource 1. This study was registered prospectively in the International Prospective Register of Systematic Reviews in 2023 (registration number: CRD42023392942). The requirement for informed consent and ethical approval from the Institutional Review Board were waived because the study quantified all existing publicly available data instead of involving specific patients.

Eligibility criteria

Population, interventions, comparisons, outcomes: the population of interest was patients with LC. The interventions of interest included CT scanning and HVPG within an acceptable interval. The outcomes of interest included: (1) the correlation analysis between various body composition parameters and HVPG; and (2) the HVPG value reported in patients with or without sarcopenia. The comparison and study of interest were not applicable or limited.

The abstract of a conference poster containing relevant information was also eligible. The authors contacted the corresponding author for detailed information. References cited in the text of selected articles were also further searched to minimize publication bias.

Search strategy

Peer-reviewed articles written in English and published up to August 2023 were searched in Embase, MEDLINE (via PubMed), Web of Science, and Cochrane Library. The retrieval protocol combined medical subject headings and text, which were mostly derived from entry terms in the PubMed and Embase databases. The search strategy is available in Online Resource 2.

Study selection

The exclusion criteria were as follows: (1) duplicate and irrelevant articles; (2) cell-line studies; (3) review articles; (4) case reports; (5) letters; (6) comments and editorials; (7) subjects from pediatric and non-human sources; and (8) cadavers.

The further exclusion criteria in a full-text assessment were as follows: patients with (1) LC with non-intrahepatic causes; (2) presence of evident intrahepatic vessel communication in measuring HVPG; and (3) a history of transjugular intrahepatic portosystemic shunt.

The HVPG value and body composition parameter on a continuous scale were eligible for analysis.

The correlation analysis should be performed using Pearson's (r) or Spearman's rho analysis according to the normality of the raw data. Presently, the impact of tumors not involving an intra- or extra-hepatic great vessel on the HVPG value remains unclear. Measurements of HVPG were performed in selected patients with hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) and LC in real-life practice; thus, patients with HCC with a Barcelona Clinic Liver Cancer stage of 0, A, or B would not have been excluded in this meta-analysis. In addition, this potential effect could be further eliminated in the subgroup analysis.

Definitions

Transversal-psoas muscle thickness and psoas muscle thickness by height are the same measurement with different names, referring to the transversal diameter of the psoas muscle perpendicular to the largest axial psoas muscle diameter at the L3 plane normalized by height. Therefore, these two indexes were replaced with the psoas-muscle-related index (PRI) for analysis. All muscle and adipose indexes are defined and illustrated in Supplementary Figure 1.

Outcomes

The primary outcome was the correlation coefficient between various body composition parameters and HVPG. The difference in HVPG value between the sarcopenia group and the non-sarcopenia group was the secondary outcome. Due to a lack of a validated cut-off value to define adipopenia, the secondary outcome analysis was not performed in adipose indexes.

Data extraction

Two review authors (S.Y. and Q.C.) blindly and independently extracted the following items from each article: the first co-author, year of publication, country, study design, sample size, body mass index (BMI), sex, cause of liver disease, albumin, decompensation proportion, Child–Pugh score, MELD score, the interval between CT scan and HVPG measurement, sarcopenia definition, sarcopenia cut-off value, sarcopenia proportion, HVPG value in the sarcopenia and non-sarcopenia groups, correlation coefficient between body composition parameters and the HVPG value, and details of the HVPG measurement technique.

All data were respectfully recorded by two review authors using Microsoft Excel. Any inconsistency was resolved by reviewing the original article to achieve a consensus.

Risk of bias and certainty of evidence assessment

Two review authors independently assessed the methodological quality with regard to risk of bias and applicability concern using the Quality Assessment of Diagnostic Studies instrument. The Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development and Evaluation (GRADE) system and online tool (GRADE Pro GDT, https://gdt.gradepro. org/) were used to rate the outcome if possible. The certainty of evidence was classified into four levels based on the five domains (https://training.cochrane.org/resource/ grade-handbook) high, moderate, low, and very low.

Statistical analysis

The HVPG values in the sarcopenia and non-sarcopenia groups presenting as mean \pm standard deviation were summarized. Values presenting as the median (interquartile range) would have been converted using an established fashion if necessary.²¹

The difference in the HVPG values was compared using the standardized mean difference (SMD) with a 95% confidence inter-



summary *r* was recovered using the following equation: $r = (e^{2Z} - 1) / (e^{2Z} + 1)$.²²

A Fisher transformation was used to convert the Spearman coefficient into an approximately normal distribution and further calculate the 95% CI. Subsequently, the same summary process was conducted as a Pearson analysis. Fisher's Z value was used in the meta-analysis and shown in the plots, and the correlation coefficient derived from the inverse Fisher's transformation was presented as the summary result. The heterogeneity was identified using Cochran's Q test and further quantified using the l^2 statistic among the studies. When the P value was <0.05 or the l^2 value was >50%, the heterogeneity was considered high, and the source of bias was explored. Publication bias was assessed if the number of included studies was >10.23 In the prespecified sensitivity analysis, pooled correlation coefficient estimates were further stratified as per presence of HCC and different sarcopenic cut-off values.

A *P* value of <0.05 was indicative of a significant difference. Considering the heterogeneity and sample size, a random effects model was selected to calculate the pooled effect size. The Stata MP (version 16.0, Stata Corp, College Station, USA) package was used for meta-analysis, and Review Manager (version 5.3) was used to evaluate the methodological quality.

Results

Study characteristics

Of the 652 studies screened initially, nine involving a total of 1,569 patients with LC were included for meta-analysis.^{5,16-19,24-27} A corresponding flow diagram is shown in Figure 1.

One poster including relevant data was excluded because it had not been published officially, and the request for raw data or effect size had not been answered.²⁸ The characteristics of the included studies are shown in Table 1.

Regarding the characteristics of the included patients, the sarcopenia proportion ranged from 34.7% to 71% across the eligible studies. The most common cause of liver disease was alcohol in six studies, followed by



Figure 1. Flow diagram of the study selection process.

Table 1. Chara	cteristics of in	icluded st	tudies											
			Participants						Index		Outcomes			
Author and year	Country	Sample size	BMI	Male (%)	Decompensation proportion (%)	Child– Pugh score	MELD	Interval between CT and HVPG	Measured index	Sarcopenia cut-off (men/ women)	HVPG in sarcopenia group	HVPG in non- sarcopenia group	Correlation coefficient*	٩
Jeong et al. ²⁴ (2018)	Korea	131	23.3 ± 4.1	71.8	87.8	7.6 ± 2.1	10.7 ± 4.4	Within 2 months	SMI	52.4 cm²/m² and 38.5 cm²/ m²	14.7 ± 5.0	15.6±6.2	NA	0.357
Paternostro et al. ²⁵ (2021)	Australia	203	24.6 (22.4–28.0)	68.0	73.4	NA	12 (9–15)	±200 days	TPMT	12 mm/m and 8 mm/m	18 (16–22.5)	20 (16–23)	0.031	0.211/0.66*
Maruyama et al. ¹⁷ (2017)#	Japan	86	24.3 ± 4.8	65.3	NA	NA	9.6 ± 2.7	<1 year	SMI	42 cm²/m² and 38 cm²/ m²	15.2 ± 5.4	14.6 ± 4.8	NA	0.56
Non-sarcopenia group		64	26.1 ± 4.6	70.3			9.8 ± 2.9				NA	NA	-0.096	0.45*
Sarcopenia group		34	20.8±2.6	55.9			9.2 ± 2.2				NA	NA	0.122	0.49*
Kim et al. ²⁶ (2014)	Korea	65	NA	63.1	100.0	NA	9.0 ± 1.7	Within 2 months	PMTH	14 mm/m	NA	NA	-0.127	0.313*
Kang et al. ²⁷ (2018)	Korea	452	23.1 (20.7, 24.8)	83.8	NA	NA	10.4 ± 3.6	Within 3 months	SMI	52.4 cm ² /m ² and ≤38.5 cm ² /m ²	14.0 (10.0, 17.0)	14.0 (11.0, 17.25)	NA	0.313
Matsui et al. ¹⁶ (2022)	Japan	202	23.8±4.4	69.8	NA	7.5 ± 2.0	10.3 ± 6.2	NA	SMI	42 cm²/m² and 38 cm²/ m²	15.0 ± 6.2	8.4 ± 5.1	-0.476	<0.001/<0.001*
Cho et al. ¹⁸ (2021)	Korea	166	23.3 ± 3.9	70.5	62.7	7.6 ± 2.1	10.8 ± 4.4	Within 2 months	SMI	50 cm²/m² and ≤39 cm²/ m²	NA	NA	0.111	>0.05*
									SATI VATI				0.03 -0.057	>0.05* >0.05*
Rodrigues et al. ⁵ (2019)	Switzerland	84	28.0 ± 5.0	60.7	54.8	7.0 ± 2.0	13.0 ± 8.0	Within 12 weeks	SMI	50 cm²/m² and 39 cm²/ m²			-0.006	0.96*
									SATI VATI				-0.282 -0.07	0.01* 0.55*
Zeng et al. ¹⁹ (2023)	China	168	23.0±3.6	64.9	NA	6.9 ± 1.7	10.8 ± 3.4	Within 1 month	SMI	44.77 cm ² / m ² and 32.50 cm ² /m ²	NA	NA	-0.083	0.583
									SATI				0.042	0.589
									VATI				0.024	0.762
#This study report al. ¹⁶ (2022) was the liver disease; HVPG NA not available	ed the correlation MELD-Na score. I: hepatic vein pre	। coefficient *Indicates th :ssure gradie	separately in sa he <i>P</i> value of the ent; SMI, skeleta	rcopenia : correlatio I muscle ii	and non-sarcopenia gro on coefficient between a ndex; SATI, subcutaneou	ups. Results fi a certain body ıs adipose tiss	or continuous / compositior sue index; VA1	s data are expr n parameter ar TI, visceral adi _l	essed as mean nd the HVPG va oose tissue ind	s ± standard deviat Ilue. CT, computed ex; TPMT, transvers	ions and for catt tomography; BN al-psoas muscle	egorical data as Al, body mass in thickness; PMTH	n (%). The MELD dex; MELD, mode I, psoas muscle t	score in Matsui et el for end-stage hickness by height;

virus in the remaining three studies. There were 13 participants with HCC in the context of LC included in one study.¹⁷

A total of seven studies reported the primary outcome. Of these, five comprised 718 patients reported via SMI^{5,16-19} (one reported the correlation coefficient separately in the sarcopenia and non-sarcopenia subgroups)¹⁷ and two comprised 268 patients reported in PRI.^{25,26} A total of three studies provided the primary outcome in SATI and the visceral adipose tissue index (VATI).^{5,18,19}

In addition, five studies reported the secondary outcome: four reported via SMI and one reported via PRI.²⁵ Among the four studies reporting via SMI, the cut-off value was 42 cm²/m² for men and 38 cm²/m² for women in two studies^{16,17} and 52.4 cm²/m² in men and 38.5 cm²/m² in women in the other two studies.^{24,27} Considering that SMI was recommended for defining sarcopenia by most societies, the study reporting via PRI was not included for the secondary outcome.

For the publication nation, one study was conducted in Australia,²⁵ one in Switzerland,⁵



and the remaining seven in Asian countries, including China,¹⁹ Japan,^{16,17} and the Republic of Korea.^{18,24,26,27}

All included studies were retrospective studies published in the last 5 years.

Quality assessment and risk of bias

All included studies were considered to be of low or moderate risk of bias, as illustrated in Figure 2. The detailed scales are shown in Online Resource 3. The GRADE summary of findings for the outcome is provided in Supplementary Table S1.

Primary outcome

Muscle index

Only Matsui et al.¹⁶ reported a significantly negative correlation between SMI and HVPG in 202 patients; the remaining studies reported a null correlation.

The pooled correlation coefficient, regardless of muscle index, was -0.08 (-0.25, 0.09; P = 0.368), with significant heterogeneity observed (overall: $l^2 = 85.3\%$; P < 0.001); similar results were observed in the SMI and



Figure 2. Methodological quality of all included studies. Left: methodological quality graph; right: methodological quality summary.



Figure 3. Pooled correlation coefficient for the muscle index in all eligible studies.

PRI subgroups [SMI: r = -0.09 (-0.31, 0.14); P = 0.442; $l^2 = 88.4\%$; P < 0.001; PRI: r = -0.01 (-0.15, 0.12); P = 0.852; $l^2 = 16.1\%$; P = 0.275] (Figure 3).

Adipose tissue index

No significant correlation was pooled [r = -0.03 (-0.12, 0.05), $l^2 = 34.5\%$, P = 0.177] in either of the adipose index subgroups [SATI: r = -0.06 (-0.24, 0.13), P = 0.545; VATI: r = -0.03 (-0.12, 0.07), P = 0.586]. The high heterogeneity was detected in the SATI subgroup ($l^2 = 71.1\%$, P = 0.032) but not in the VATI subgroup ($l^2 = 0.0\%$, P = 0.695). The corresponding forest plot is shown in Figure 4.

Secondary outcome

The summary difference of the HVPG value between the sarcopenia and non-sarcopenia groups indicated statistical significance, with unstable results due to different sarcopenia definitions. When using the cutoff value from the Japan Society of Hepatology guidelines for sarcopenia (SMI <42 cm²/ m² for men or <38 cm²/m² for women), higher HVPG values were observed in patients with sarcopenia than in patients without sarcopenia [pooled SMD: 0.628 (-0.350, 1.606), P < 0.001; $I^2 = 92.8\%$; P < 0.001]. When a commonly used cut-off value in the Western population was applied (50 cm²/m² for men and 39 cm²/m² for women), the HVPG value was higher in patients without sarcopenia than in patients with sarcopenia [pooled SMD: $-0.201 (-0.366, -0.037), P = 0.016; I^2 = 0.00\%;$ P = 0.785] (Figure 5).

Sensitivity analysis

After exclusion of the study including 13 patients with HCC, the correlation between either PRI or SMI and HVPG was not significant [overall: r = -0.10 (-0.30, 0.11), P = 0.341; $l^2 = 89.1\%$, P < 0.001; SMI: r = -0.13 (-0.40, 0.17), P = 0.401; $l^2 = 92.6\%$; P < 0.001]. The corresponding forest plot is shown in Figure 6.

Discussion

In the present review, a meta-analysis was performed to identify and quantify the current evidence regarding the correlation between body composition parameters and HVPG. The pooled results indicated that there was no significant correlation between muscle or adipose quantity and the HVPG value, regardless of muscle index. The results of the secondary outcome were unstable due to different sarcopenia definitions. With consideration of the statistical significance and ethnicity-specific cut-off value of sarcopenia, the result appears to reveal that patients with lower muscle mass may have a higher HVPG value.

Body composition and HVPG are of paramount importance for patients with LC. Nevertheless, a knowledge gap remains in the correlation between them. To the best of the present authors' knowledge, this meta-analysis is the first to quantitatively combine current data to assess the correlation between body composition parameters and HVPG.

In fact, limited LC-related studies have reported both composition parameters and

HVPG values at the same time, seldom exploring the association between them. Specifically, CT-based quantitative analysis and invasive operation hamper the acquisition of data in clinical practice. Despite the fact that the limited evidence grade leads to a cautious interpretation of the results, the findings of this meta-analysis could help explore the impact of PH on body composition parameters and might be instrumental in refining a comprehensive evaluation algorithm of patients with LC.

In this meta-analysis, several points merit attention. First, the HVPG value was used



Figure 4. Pooled correlation coefficient for the adipose tissue index.



Figure 5. Summary difference of the hepatic venous pressure gradient value between the sarcopenia and non-sarcopenia groups.



Figure 6. Sensitivity analysis. The pooled correlation coefficient for muscle index after the exclusion of patients with hepatocellular carcinoma.

to evaluate the PH instead of the portosystemic pressure gradient, largely because the portosystemic pressure gradient was commonly collected in the transjugular intrahepatic portosystemic shunt procedure with a limited clinical application prospect. Second, to reduce the bias derived from different global cut-off values of sarcopenia, only the muscle or adipose tissue quantity as the continuous variable normalized to height or height² was extracted and comparable. In addition, other statistics would have been summarized if they could have been converted to the correlation coefficient using a validated statistical method, including the contingency coefficient and standardized beta value; however, such a study was not found in the study screening. Third, SMI is recognized as the gold standard for measuring muscle quantity in defining sarcopenia, and psoas-muscle-related parameters have been shown to be less strongly correlated with the total body protein or mortality risk compared with SMI.^{29,30} Therefore, of the five studies reporting the secondary outcome, 1 study reporting via PRI was not included in the meta-analysis. Last, all included studies were published in the past 5 years, thereby enabling a standard care for patients with LC.

Negative results of the primary outcome are partly explainable because of a considerable interindividual variation of the liver function reserve among the included patients. In the included studies, decompensated cirrhosis or clinical signs of PH, such as ascites, gastro-esophageal varices, and hepatic encephalopathy, were deemed indications of HVPG measurement. Among all the evaluable patients, the mean values of the MELD score were 9-13, the decompensation proportions were 54.8%-100%, and the baseline HVPG values were 14–19 mmHg. In fact, sarcopenia is relatively frequently found in advanced liver disease or the decompensated stage.31,32 Furthermore, some characteristics of patients with LC, including the cause of liver disease, decompensated cirrhosis, or oral beta-blocker administration should have been used in the subgroup analyses with the aim of ruling out confounding factors and further identifying a potential association between the muscle quantity and the HVPG value in a certain subgroup of patients with LC. Likewise, adipose tissue change and re-distribution could be affected by BMI and sex.33 Therefore, for the primary outcome of the adipose tissue, the non-significant summary result may indicate the likelihood of the correlation between adipose tissue indexes and HVPG depending on the baseline characteristics of the included patients.

In addition, the result of the secondary outcome was not robust. It is speculated that a lower cut-off value (42 cm²/m² for men or <38 cm²/m² for women) could identify more individuals with a low muscle quantity and further re-classify a proportion of patients as having sarcopenia; that is, a lower cut-off value of sarcopenia has more statistic power to differentiate patients with different PH stratifications. It is noted that all included studies on the secondary outcome were from Asian countries (Japan and the Republic of Korea). The Asian sarcopenia definition (42 cm²/m² for men or <38 cm²/m² for women) thus allows for better interpretability and practical applicability.⁹

As the present study is a pilot meta-analysis exploring the unknown relationship between two important characteristics of patients with LC, some limitations exist. First, a considerable interindividual variation of baseline characteristics among included patients, especially liver function status, leads to a cautious interpretation of the results. Second, some included studies only presented the effect size instead of analyzing it in the subgroups. The evidence grade is limited by the number of included studies and the data blank. Most importantly, the number of available studies that fulfilled the present study's inclusion criteria is low, precluding meta-regression to further identify the potential confounding factors. Hence, a prospective study dedicated to recording relevant information is required in the future.

In conclusion, overall, this meta-analysis showed a non-significant correlation between body composition parameters, including muscle and adipose tissue quantity, and the HVPG value. However, its current clinical usefulness is uncertain due to a lack of universal definition and limited research.

Reporting checklist

This review was performed following the 2020 Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) statement.

Conflict of interest disclosure

The authors declared no conflicts of interest.

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Supplementary Figure 1. The skeletal muscle index was the total skeletal muscle area normalized by height², including the psoas major, erector spinae, quadratus lumborum, transverse abdominis, internal and external oblique, and rectus abdominis (green mask). Transversal-psoas muscle thickness and psoas muscle thickness by height were named differently but measured in the same way; they were defined as the transversal diameter of the psoas muscle perpendicular to the largest axial psoas muscle diameter. Therefore, the psoas-muscle-related index replaced two aforementioned indexes for statistics (dotted line). The subcutaneous adipose tissue index and visceral adipose tissue index were estimated as the adipose area normalized by height² between the skin line and outer abdominal wall (yellow mask) and the adipose tissue within the abdominal wall, respectively (blue mask).

Supple Patient Questic Setting Bibliog	mentary Table or population: m: HVPG of sard : All raphy:	S1. GRAL Patients copenia c	DE summary of with HVPG valı compared to HV	findings of sec ue and CT-bass /PG of non-sar	condary outcor ed body comp copenia for liv	ne osition parameter er cirrhosis patients						
Certaint	v assessment						No of patients		Effect		Certainty	Importance
No of studies	Study design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	HVPG of sarcopenia	HVPG of non- sarcopenia	Relative (95% Cl)	Anticipated absolute effects (95% CI)		
SMD (W	estern cut-off)											
7	Observational studies	Not serious	Not serious	Not serious	Serious ^a	Strong association all plausible residual confounding would reduce the demonstrated effect	254/583 (43.6%)	329/583 (56.4%)	Not estimable	SMD -0.20 (-0.37 lower to -0.04 higher)	⊕⊕⊕⊖ Moderate	Important
SMD (Ea	stern cut-off)											
2	Observational studies	Not serious	Very serious ^b	Not serious	Serious	Strong association all plausible residual confounding would reduce the demonstrated effect	177/300 (59.0%)	123/300 (41.0%)	Not estimable	SMD 0.63 (-0.35 lower to 1.61 higher)	⊕⊖⊖⊖ Very low	Important
^a , obvious HVPG, he	benefit or damage; batic venous pressu	. ^b , <i>l</i> ² value i: re gradient;	s more than 90% an : CT, computed tom	d a good explanat ography; SMD, sta	ion could not be gi indardized mean di	iven; ^c , the 95% confidence interval cont ifference; CI, confidence interval.	ains 1 and is invalid, (GRADE, Grading	of Recommend	lations Assessment, D	Jevelopment ar	nd Evaluation;

Online Resource 1.



PRISMA 2020 Checklist

			Location
Section and	ltem #	Checklist item	where item
			is reported
Title	4	Identify the report of a custometic review	Line 1-2
ABSTRACT	<u> </u>	Identity the report as a systematic review.	
Abstract	2	See the PPISMA 2020 for Abstracts checklist	Line 3-28
INTRODUCTION	2		Line J-20
Rationale	3	Describe the rationale for the review in the context of existing knowledge.	Line 61-82
Objectives	4	Provide an explicit statement of the objective(s) or question(s) the review addresses.	Line 83-88
METHODS			
Eligibility criteria	5	Specify the inclusion and exclusion criteria for the review and how studies were grouped for the syntheses.	Line 98-105
Information sources	6	Specify all databases, registers, websites, organisations, reference lists and other sources searched or consulted to identify studies. Specify the date when each source was last searched or consulted.	Line 107-110
Search strategy	7	Present the full search strategies for all databases, registers and websites, including any filters and limits used.	Line 110
Selection process	8	Specify the methods used to decide whether a study met the inclusion criteria of the review, including how many reviewers screened each record and each report retrieved, whether they worked independently, and if applicable, details of automation tools used in the process.	Line 111-123
Data collection process	9	Specify the methods used to collect data from reports, including how many reviewers collected data from each report, whether they worked independently, any processes for obtaining or confirming data from study investigators, and if applicable, details of automation tools used in the process.	Line 143-151
Data items	10a	List and define all outcomes for which data were sought. Specify whether all results that were compatible with each outcome domain in each study were sought (e.g. for all measures, time points, analyses), and if not, the methods used to decide which results to collect.	Line 130-134
	10b	List and define all other variables for which data were sought (e.g. participant and intervention characteristics, funding sources). Describe any assumptions made about any missing or unclear information.	Line 143-149
Study risk of bias assessment	11	Specify the methods used to assess risk of bias in the included studies, including details of the tool(s) used, how many reviewers assessed each study and whether they worked independently, and if applicable, details of automation tools used in the process.	Line 152-158
Effect measures	12	Specify for each outcome the effect measure(s) (e.g. risk ratio, mean difference) used in the synthesis or presentation of results.	Line 130-134
Synthesis methods	13a	Describe the processes used to decide which studies were eligible for each synthesis (e.g. tabulating the study intervention characteristics and comparing against the planned groups for each synthesis (item #5)).	Line 185-186
	13b	Describe any methods required to prepare the data for presentation or synthesis, such as handling of missing summary statistics, or data conversions.	Line 163-176
	13c	Describe any methods used to tabulate or visually display results of individual studies and syntheses.	Line 177-180
	13d	Describe any methods used to synthesize results and provide a rationale for the choice(s). If meta-analysis was performed, describe the model(s), method(s) to identify the presence and extent of statistical heterogeneity, and software package(s) used.	Line 177
	13e	Describe any methods used to explore possible causes of heterogeneity among study results (e.g. subgroup analysis, meta-regression).	Line 172-176
	13f	Describe any sensitivity analyses conducted to assess robustness of the synthesized results.	Line 175
Reporting bias assessment	14	Describe any methods used to assess risk of bias due to missing results in a synthesis (arising from reporting biases).	not applicable
Certainty assessment	15	Describe any methods used to assess certainty (or confidence) in the body of evidence for an outcome.	Line 155-158

PRISMA 2020 Checklist

Section and Topic	ltem #	Checklist item	Location where item is reported
RESULTS			
Study selection	16a	Describe the results of the search and selection process, from the number of records identified in the search to the number of studies included in the review, ideally using a flow diagram.	Line 175-179
	16b	Cite studies that might appear to meet the inclusion criteria, but which were excluded, and explain why they were excluded.	Line 177-179
Study characteristics	17	Cite each included study and present its characteristics.	Line 180-200
Risk of bias in studies	18	Present assessments of risk of bias for each included study.	Line201-203
Results of individual studies	19	For all outcomes, present, for each study: (a) summary statistics for each group (where appropriate) and (b) an effect estimate and its precision (e.g. confidence/credible interval), ideally using structured tables or plots.	Line 204-233
Results of	20a	For each synthesis, briefly summarise the characteristics and risk of bias among contributing studies.	Line 204-233
syntheses	20b	Present results of all statistical syntheses conducted. If meta-analysis was done, present for each the summary estimate and its precision (e.g. confidence/credible interval) and measures of statistical heterogeneity. If comparing groups, describe the direction of the effect.	Line 204-233
	20c	Present results of all investigations of possible causes of heterogeneity among study results.	Line 204-233
	20d	Present results of all sensitivity analyses conducted to assess the robustness of the synthesized results.	Line 204-233
Reporting biases	21	Present assessments of risk of bias due to missing results (arising from reporting biases) for each synthesis assessed.	not applicable
Certainty of evidence	22	Present assessments of certainty (or confidence) in the body of evidence for each outcome assessed.	Line 204-233
DISCUSSION			
Discussion	23a	Provide a general interpretation of the results in the context of other evidence.	Line 236-243
	23b	Discuss any limitations of the evidence included in the review.	Line 297-302
	23c	Discuss any limitations of the review processes used.	Line 297-302
	23d	Discuss implications of the results for practice, policy, and future research.	Line 303-307
OTHER INFORMA	TION		
Registration and	24a	Provide registration information for the review, including register name and registration number, or state that the review was not registered.	Line 86-87
protocol	24b	Indicate where the review protocol can be accessed, or state that a protocol was not prepared.	Line 86-87
	24c	Describe and explain any amendments to information provided at registration or in the protocol.	not applicable
Support	25	Describe sources of financial or non-financial support for the review, and the role of the funders or sponsors in the review.	not applicable
Competing interests	26	Declare any competing interests of review authors.	not applicable
Availability of data, code and other materials	27	Report which of the following are publicly available and where they can be found: template data collection forms; data extracted from included studies; data used for all analyses; analytic code; any other materials used in the review.	available

From: Page MJ, McKenzie JE, Bossuyt PM, Boutron I, Hoffmann TC, Mulrow CD, et al. The PRISMA 2020 statement: an updated guideline for reporting systematic reviews. BMJ 2021;372:n71. doi: 10.1136/bmj.n71

Body composition parameters and HVPG in patients with cirrhosis

Pubmed searching strategy

#1	(((((("Body Composition"[Mesh]) OR ("Intra-Abdominal Fat"[Mesh])) OR ("Subcutaneous Fat"[Mesh])) OR ("Adiposity"[Mes	
	h])) OR ("Sarcopenia"[Mesh])) OR ("Muscle, Skeletal"[Mesh])) AND ((((Hepatic venous pressure gradient[Title/Abstract]) O	156
	R ("Hypertension, Portal"[Mesh])) OR ("Hepatic Veins"[Mesh])) OR ("Portal Pressure"[Mesh]))	
#2	(((((((pressure, portal[Title/Abstract]) OR (portal venous pressure[Title/Abstract])) OR (pressure, portal venous[Title/Abstract])	
	t])) OR (venous pressure, portal[Title/Abstract])) OR (((hepatic vein[Title/Abstract]) OR (vein, hepatic[Title/Abstract])) OR	
	(veins, hepatic[Title/Abstract]))) OR ((((((((portal hypertension[Title/Abstract]) OR (portal hypertensions[Title/Abstract])) OR	
	(cruveilhier-baumgarten syndrome[Title/Abstract])) OR (cruveilhier baumgarten syndrome[Title/Abstract])) OR (syndrome, cru	
	veilhier-baumgarten[Title/Abstract])) OR (cruveilhier-baumgarten disease[Title/Abstract])) OR (cruveilhier baumgarten disease	
	[Title/Abstract])) OR (disease, cruveilhier-baumgarten[Title/Abstract]))) OR (Hepatic venous pressure gradient[Title/Abstract]))	
	AND ((((((((((((((((((((((((()))) ((((())))))	
	bstract])) OR (muscles, voluntary[Title/Abstract])) OR (voluntary muscle[Title/Abstract])) OR (voluntary muscles[Title/Abstract])	
	ct])) OR (skeletal muscle[Title/Abstract])) OR (soleus muscle[Title/Abstract])) OR (muscle, soleus[Title/Abstract])) OR (plant	
	aris muscle[Title/Abstract])) OR (muscle, plantaris[Title/Abstract])) OR (anterior tibial muscle[Title/Abstract])) OR (muscle,	
	anterior tibial[Title/Abstract])) OR (tibial muscle, anterior[Title/Abstract])) OR (gastrocnemius muscle[Title/Abstract])) OR	
	(muscle, gastrocnemius[Title/Abstract])) OR (((((sarcopenias[Title/Abstract]) OR (presarcopenia[Title/Abstract])) OR (skeletal	
	muscle index[Title/Abstract])) OR (SMI[Title/Abstract])) OR (muscle atrophy[Title/Abstract]))) OR (((((fats, subcutaneous[Title/Abstract]))) OR ((((fats, subcutaneous[Title/Abstract])))) OR (((((fats, subcutaneous[Title/Abstract])))) OR (((((fats, subcutaneous[Title/Abstract])))))) OR (((((fats, subcutaneous[Title/Abstract])))))) OR (((((fats, subcutaneous[Title/Abstract]))))))))))))))	90
	e/Abstract]) OR (subcutaneous fats[Title/Abstract])) OR (adipose tissue, subcutaneous[Title/Abstract])) OR (fat, subcutaneous	
	[Title/Abstract])) OR (subcutaneous adipose tissue[Title/Abstract]))) OR (((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((
	t]) OR (intra abdominal fat[Title/Abstract])) OR (intra-abdominal fats[Title/Abstract])) OR (fat, intra-abdominal[Title/Abstract])	
	t])) OR (fat, intra abdominal[Title/Abstract])) OR (intra-abdominal adipose tissue[Title/Abstract])) OR (adipose tissue, intra-a	
	bdominal[Title/Abstract])) OR (intra abdominal adipose tissue[Title/Abstract])) OR (retroperitoneal fat[Title/Abstract])) OR (f	
	at, retroperitoneal[Title/Abstract])) OR (fats, retroperitoneal[Title/Abstract])) OR (retroperitoneal fats[Title/Abstract])) OR (retr	
	operitoneal adipose tissue[Title/Abstract])) OR (adipose tissue, retroperitoneal[Title/Abstract])) OR (visceral fat[Title/Abstract])	
	t])) OR (fat, visceral[Title/Abstract])) OR (fats, visceral[Title/Abstract])) OR (visceral fats[Title/Abstract])) OR (abdominal v	
	isceral fat[Title/Abstract])) OR (abdominal visceral fats[Title/Abstract])) OR (fat, abdominal visceral[Title/Abstract])) OR (fat	
	s, abdominal visceral[Title/Abstract])) OR (visceral adipose tissue[Title/Abstract])) OR (adipose tissue, visceral[Title/Abstract])	
	t]))) OR (((body compositions[Title/Abstract]) OR (composition, body[Title/Abstract])) OR (compositions, body[Title/Abstrac	
	t])))	
#1: MeSH	word search	L
#2: Text w	rord search	

Embase searching strategy

#1	'hepatic venous pressure gradient'/exp	1,042
#2	'portal vein blood pressure'/exp	6,542
#3	'portal hypertension'/exp	41,132
#4	'hepatic vein pressure gradient':ti,ab,kw OR 'porta pressure':ti,ab,kw OR 'porta vein pressure':ti,ab,kw OR 'portal blood p ressure':ti,ab,kw OR 'portal pressure':ti,ab,kw OR 'portal vein pressure':ti,ab,kw OR 'portal venous pressure':ti,ab,kw OR 'pressure, portal vein':ti,ab,kw OR 'hypertension, portal':ti,ab,kw OR 'hypertension, portal vein':ti,ab,kw OR 'porta hypert	6,933
	ension':ti,ab,kw OR 'portal congestion':ti,ab,kw OR 'portal vein hypertension':ti,ab,kw OR 'vena portae hypertension':ti,ab, kw	
#5	'skeletal muscle'/exp	432,889
#6	'sarcopenia'/exp	20,474
#7	'subcutaneous fat'/exp	25,911
#8	'body composition'/exp	128,357
#9	'intra-abdominal fat'/exp	25,745
#10	'cross striated muscle':ab,ti OR 'cross striped muscle':ab,ti OR 'muscle, skeletal':ab,ti OR 'skeletal musculature':ab,ti OR ' skeleton muscle':ab,ti OR 'trunk muscle':ab,ti OR presarcopenia:ab,ti OR 'fat, subcutaneous':ab,ti OR 'panniculus adiposu s':ab,ti OR 'subcutaneous adipose tissue':ab,ti OR 'subcutaneous fat tissue':ab,ti OR 'abdominal visceral adipose tissue':a b,ti OR 'abdominal visceral fat':ab,ti OR 'intra-abdominal adipose tissue':ab,ti OR 'intraabdominal adipose tissue':ab,ti O R 'intraabdominal fat':ab,ti OR 'organ adipose tissue':ab,ti OR 'organ fat':ab,ti OR 'visceral abdominal adipose tissue':ab,ti ti OR 'visceral abdominal fat':ab,ti OR 'visceral adipose tissue':ab,ti OR 'visceral fat':ab,ti OR 'visceral abdominal fat':ab,ti OR 'visceral adipose tissue':ab,ti OR 'visceral abdominal fat':ab,ti OR 'visceral adipose tissue':ab,ti OR 'visceral fat':ab,ti OR 'visceral fa	36,031
#11	#1 OR #2 OR #3 OR #4	45,318
#12	#5 OR #6 OR #7 OR #8 OR #9 OR #10	596,687
#13	#11 AND #12	379

Web of Science searching strategy

#1	TS="Hepatic venous pressure gradient" OR "hepatic vein pressure gradient" OR "portal vein blood pressure" OR "porta	23,028
	pressure" OR "porta vein pressure" OR "portal blood pressure" OR "portal pressure" OR "portal vein pressure" OR "	
	portal venous pressure" OR "pressure, portal vein" OR "portal hypertension" OR "hypertension, portal" OR "hypertensi	
	on, portal vein" OR "porta hypertension" OR "portal congestion" OR "portal vein hypertension" OR "vena portae hype	
	rtension"	
#2	TS="skeletal muscle" OR "cross striated muscle" OR "cross striped muscle" OR "muscle, skeletal" OR "skeletal muscu	226,391
	lature" OR "skeleton muscle" OR "trunk muscle" OR "Sarcopenia" OR "presarcopenia"	
#3	TS="Subcutaneous Fat" OR "fat, subcutaneous" OR "panniculus adiposus" OR "subcutaneous adipose tissue" OR "subc	113,631
	utaneous fat tissue" OR "intra-abdominal fat" OR "abdominal visceral adipose tissue" OR "abdominal visceral fat" OR	
	"intra-abdominal adipose tissue" OR "intraabdominal adipose tissue" OR "intraabdominal fat" OR "organ adipose tissue"	
	OR "organ fat" OR "visceral abdominal adipose tissue" OR "visceral abdominal fat" OR "visceral adipose tissue" OR	
	"visceral fat" OR "body composition" OR "composition, body"	
#4	#2 OR #3	325,823
#5	#1 AND #4	161

Cochrane searching strategy

Mesh word search

#1	MeSH descriptor: [Muscle, Skeletal] explode all trees	15,568
#2	MeSH descriptor: [Sarcopenia] explode all trees	835
#3	MeSH descriptor: [Adiposity] explode all trees	964
#4	MeSH descriptor: [Subcutaneous Fat] explode all trees	407
#5	MeSH descriptor: [Intra-Abdominal Fat] explode all trees	576
#6	MeSH descriptor: [Body Composition] explode all trees	7120
#7	MeSH descriptor: [Portal Pressure] explode all trees	71
#8	MeSH descriptor: [Hepatic Veins] explode all trees	115
#9	MeSH descriptor: [Hypertension, Portal] explode all trees	1374
#10	("hepatic venous pressure gradient"):ti,ab,kw (Word variations have been searched)	332
#11	("hepatic vein pressure gradient"):ti,ab,kw (Word variations have been searched)	26
#12	#10 or #11	353
#13	#1 or #2 or #3 or #4 or #5 or #6	22,925
#14	#7 or #8 or #9 or #12	1,663
#15	#13 and #14	6

Text word search

#1	(muscles, skeletal):ti,ab,kw OR (skeletal muscles):ti,ab,kw OR (muscle, voluntary):ti,ab,kw OR (muscles, voluntary):ti,ab, kw OR (voluntary muscle):ti,ab,kw (Word variations have been searched)	18,384
#2	(voluntary muscles):ti,ab,kw OR (skeletal muscle):ti,ab,kw OR (soleus muscle):ti,ab,kw OR (muscle, soleus):ti,ab,kw OR (plantaris muscle):ti,ab,kw (Word variations have been searched)	18,848
#3	(muscle, plantaris):ti,ab,kw OR (anterior tibial muscle):ti,ab,kw OR (muscle, anterior tibial):ti,ab,kw OR (tibial muscle, anterior):ti,ab,kw OR (gastrocnemius muscle):ti,ab,kw (Word variations have been searched)	1,894
#4	(muscle, gastrocnemius):ti,ab,kw (Word variations have been searched)	1,597
#5	#1 or #2 or #3 or #4	19,793
#6	(sarcopenias):ti,ab,kw OR (presarcopenia):ti,ab,kw OR (skeletal muscle index):ti,ab,kw OR (SMI):ti,ab,kw OR (muscle at rophy):ti,ab,kw (Word variations have been searched)	8,939
#7	(fats, subcutaneous):ti,ab,kw OR (subcutaneous fats):ti,ab,kw OR (adipose tissue, subcutaneous):ti,ab,kw OR (fat, subcutaneous):ti,ab,kw OR (subcutaneous adipose tissue):ti,ab,kw (Word variations have been searched)	3,239
#8	(fats, intra-abdominal):ti,ab,kw OR (intra abdominal fat):ti,ab,kw OR (intra-abdominal fats):ti,ab,kw OR (fat, intra-abdom inal):ti,ab,kw OR (fat, intra abdominal):ti,ab,kw (Word variations have been searched)	1,259
#9	(intra-abdominal adipose tissue):ti,ab,kw OR (adipose tissue, intra-abdominal):ti,ab,kw OR (intra abdominal adipose tissu e):ti,ab,kw OR (retroperitoneal fat):ti,ab,kw OR (fat, retroperitoneal):ti,ab,kw (Word variations have been searched)	594
#10	(fats, retroperitoneal):ti,ab,kw OR (retroperitoneal fats):ti,ab,kw OR (retroperitoneal adipose tissue):ti,ab,kw OR (adipose tissue, retroperitoneal):ti,ab,kw OR (visceral fat):ti,ab,kw (Word variations have been searched)	3,087
#11	(fat, visceral):ti,ab,kw OR (fats, visceral):ti,ab,kw OR (visceral fats):ti,ab,kw OR (abdominal visceral fat):ti,ab,kw OR (a bdominal visceral fats):ti,ab,kw (Word variations have been searched)	3,066
#12	(fat, abdominal visceral):ti,ab,kw OR (fats, abdominal visceral):ti,ab,kw OR (visceral adipose tissue):ti,ab,kw OR (adipos e tissue, visceral):ti,ab,kw (Word variations have been searched)	2,301
#13	#8 or #9 or #10 or #11 or #12	3,486
#14	(body compositions):ti,ab,kw OR (composition, body):ti,ab,kw OR (compositions, body):ti,ab,kw (Word variations have been searched)	23,051
#15	(pressure, portal):ti,ab,kw OR (portal venous pressure):ti,ab,kw OR (pressure, portal venous):ti,ab,kw OR (venous pressu re, portal):ti,ab,kw (Word variations have been searched)	1,133
#16	(hepatic vein):ti,ab,kw OR (vein, hepatic):ti,ab,kw OR (veins, hepatic):ti,ab,kw (Word variations have been searched)	1,743
#17	(portal hypertension):ti,ab,kw OR (portal hypertensions):ti,ab,kw OR (cruveilhier-baumgarten syndrome):ti,ab,kw OR (cru veilhier baumgarten syndrome):ti,ab,kw OR (syndrome, cruveilhier-baumgarten):ti,ab,kw (Word variations have been sear ched)	1,815
#18	(cruveilhier-baumgarten disease):ti,ab,kw OR (cruveilhier baumgarten disease):ti,ab,kw OR (disease, cruveilhier-baumgarte n):ti,ab,kw (Word variations have been searched)	0
#19	#17 or #18	1,815
#20	(Hepatic venous pressure gradient):ti,ab,kw OR (hepatic vein pressure gradient):ti,ab,kw OR (HVPG):ti,ab,kw (Word var iations have been searched)	497
#21	#5 or #6 or #7 or #13 or #14	47,332
#22	#15 or #16 or #19 or #20	3,731
#23	#21 and #22	86
#23 includ	es two Cochrane reviews and 84 trials	

Quality assessment based on QUADAS-2								
Study	Risk o	of bias			Appli	cability con	cerns	
	Р	Ι	R	FT	Р	Ι	R	
Jeong, J. Y.(2018)	?	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	?	\checkmark	~	
Paternostro, R.(2021)	~	~	?	~	✓	~	?	
Maruyama, H. (2017)	?	\checkmark	~	\checkmark	?	\checkmark	~	
Kim, T. Y. (2014)	~	x	?	~	x	×	?	
Kang, S. H. (2018)	~	~	1	~	✓	✓	1	
Matsui, T. (2022)	?	✓	~	?	?	✓	~	
Cho, Y. S.(2021)	?	\checkmark	~	\checkmark	?	✓	1	
Rodrigues, S. G.(2019)	~	~	1	~	~	~	1	
Xin Zeng(2023)	~	1	~	1	1	1	~	

Note: P = Patient Selection; I = Index Test; R = Reference Standard; FT = Flow and Timing.

 \checkmark indicates low risk; $\pmb{\textbf{X}}$ indicates high risk; ? indicates unclear risk.

Detailed description of included studies

Study	Domain	Item	Description of decision
		Р	A consecutive or random sample was not described, but with a clear period
	Risk of bias	Ι	
		R	
Jeong, J. Y.(2018)		FT	
	Applicability	Р	A consecutive or random sample was not described, but with a clear period
	concerns	Ι	
		R	
		Р	
		Ι	
	Risk of bias	R	The value of TPMT for sarcopenia definition compared with SMI
Paternostro,		FT	
K.(2021)		Р	
	Applicability	I	
	concerns	R	The value of TPMT for sarcopenia definition compared with SMI was uncertain
		Р	Of 98 patients, one with paraumbilical vein was excluded due to shunt-related increase of portal venous flow(proportion less than 20%)
	Risk of bias	I	
Maruyama, H.		R	
(2017)		FT	
		Р	Thirteen patients with HCC at early stage were included, the impact of early HCC on muscle loss is uncertain
	Applicability concerns	I	
		R	
		Р	
Kim, T. Y. (2014)	Risk of bias	I	The threshold was derived from mortality with maximum

			log-rank statistic instead of a pre-specified value
		R	The value of PMTH for sarcopenia definition compared with SMI is uncertain
		FT	
		Р	All included patients were non-critically-ill patients with decompensated cirrhosis
	Applicability concerns	Ι	The threshold was derived from mortality with maximum log-rank statistic instead of a pre-specified value
		R	The value of PMTH for sarcopenia definition compared with SMI is uncertain
		Р	
	D 1 1 1	I	
	Risk of blas	R	
Kang, S. H. (2018)		FT	
		Р	
	Applicability concerns	I	
		R	
		Р	A consecutive or random sample was not described, but with a clear period
	Risk of bias	Ι	
		R	
Matsui, T. (2022)		FT	The interval was not described; liver fibrosis or cirrhosis is a chronic condition.
	Applicability concerns	Р	A consecutive or random sample was not described, but with a clear period
		Ι	
		R	
		Р	A consecutive or random sample was not described, but with a clear period
Cho X $S(2021)$	Risk of higs	Ι	
0.00, 1. 0.(2021)	1135 01 0185	R	
		FT	
	-		

		Р	A consecutive or random sample was not described, but with a clear period
	Applicability concerns	Ι	
		R	
Rodrigues, S. G.(2019)	Risk of bias	Р	
		Ι	
		R	
		FT	
	Applicability concerns	Р	
		Ι	
		R	
Xin Zeng(2023)	Risk of bias	P	
		Ι	
		R	
		FT	
	Applicability concerns	P	
		Ι	
		R	

Note: hepatocellular carcinoma: HCC