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REVIEW ARTICLE

## Mexican consensus on the diagnosis and management of hepatocellular carcinoma<sup>☆</sup>



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### KEYWORDS

Hepatocellular carcinoma;  
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Mexico;  
Treatment

### Abstract

**Introduction:** There has been an increase in the incidence of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) worldwide and information on this disease is limited in Mexico.

**Aims:** To analyze the available evidence on the diagnosis and treatment of HCC in the Mexican population.

**Material and methods:** The Mexican Association of Hepatology organized a meeting that 24 medical specialists interested in HCC attended. An electronic database search was carried out to identify documents published from 2000 with the keywords «Hepatocellular carcinoma» and «Mexico», «epidemiology», «diagnosis», and «treatment».

**Results:** The incidence of HCC in Mexico has increased over the last few decades. The mean age of disease presentation is in patients from 60 to 70 years old, and the man:woman ratio appears to be equal. HCC is frequently associated with underlying hepatopathy and the primary cause reported in our country is chronic hepatitis C virus) infection. Surveillance is recommended for high-risk groups in Child-Pugh stages A and B, and for those in stage C if the patient is on a waiting list or regarded as a candidate for liver transplantation. HCC should be evaluated by a multidisciplinary team of experts in the field.

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**Conclusions:** HCC is a neoplasia that is on the rise in Mexico, with epidemiologic characteristics similar to those of other populations. Diagnosis and treatment should be individualized in accordance with these Consensus guidelines.

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## PALABRAS CLAVE

Carcinoma  
hepatocelular;  
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Virus de la  
hepatitis C;  
México;  
Tratamiento

## Consenso mexicano de diagnóstico y manejo del carcinoma hepatocelular

### Resumen

**Introducción:** La incidencia del carcinoma hepatocelular (CHC) ha presentado un aumento a nivel global y en México existe información limitada sobre la enfermedad.

**Objetivo:** Analizar la evidencia disponible en población mexicana sobre el diagnóstico y tratamiento del CHC.

**Material y métodos:** La Asociación Mexicana de Hepatología convocó a una reunión donde participaron 24 médicos especialistas con interés en CHC. Se realizó una búsqueda en bases de datos electrónicas para identificar documentos publicados a partir del 2000 con los términos «Carcinoma hepatocelular» y «México» agregando además términos como: epidemiología, diagnóstico y tratamiento.

**Resultados:** La incidencia de CHC en México se ha incrementado en las últimas décadas. En México la edad promedio de presentación se sitúa en la década de los sesenta y la relación femenino:masculino parece ser igual. El CHC se asocia frecuentemente a hepatopatía subyacente y la principal causa reportada en nuestro país es la infección crónica por el virus de la hepatitis C. La vigilancia se recomienda a grupos de alto riesgo en estadios A y B de Child-Pugh, y en estadio C solo si se encuentra en lista de espera o se considera candidato a trasplante hepático. El CHC debe ser evaluado por un equipo multidisciplinario de expertos en el área.

**Conclusiones:** El CHC representa una neoplasia que va en aumento en nuestro país con características epidemiológicas similares a otras poblaciones. El diagnóstico y el tratamiento deben de individualizarse de acuerdo a lo mostrado en estas guías.

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The incidence of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) has increased worldwide and in Mexico there is limited information about this disease, its survival rates, and its treatment. The aim of this work was to analyze the available evidence on the Mexican population in relation to the diagnosis and treatment of HCC within the framework established by the current international clinical and therapeutic guidelines for this pathology. The Mexican Association of Hepatology organized a meeting in November 2012 in Merida, Yucatan, that was attended by 24 specialized physicians with a specific interest in HCC. The physicians were invited through their respective medical associations to participate in the discussion of the different disciplines involved in the diagnosis and management of HCC that included: gastroenterology, hepatology, radiology, pathology, medical oncology, and liver surgery and transplantation.

## Methodology

Documents published from 2000 were identified through electronic database searches using the keywords «hepatocellular carcinoma» and «Mexico» and adding terms such as: epidemiology, diagnosis, and treatment.

Earlier documents were included if they were considered valuable for the current analysis, as well as abstracts presented in national medical congresses that provided data of interest for the present review. The international clinical and therapeutic guidelines published by the American and European associations on this subject were added to the bibliography, along with articles that were regarded as useful for the elaboration of the present consensus. The bibliographic information was sent to the participants to be reviewed prior to the meeting.

The consensus panel was divided into the following 4 working groups made up of the different specialists in each of the topics:

- I Epidemiology and risk groups
- II Surveillance and diagnosis
- III Curative treatment
- IV Non-curative treatment

A document was produced for each topic according to the available evidence and contributions from each of the disciplines, with their respective references. Each working group presented its assessment to the entire panel for discussion, after which key statements for each theme were

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