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SURVIVAL IN PATIENTS WITH LIVER CIRRHOSIS

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*Predictors of hepatic encephalopathy*

**CRITICAL FLICKER FREQUENCY TEST PREDICTS OVERT HEPATIC ENCEPHALOPATHY AND SURVIVAL IN PATIENTS WITH LIVER CIRRHOSIS**

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**ABSTRACT**

**Background:** A critical flicker frequency (CFF) $\leq$ 39Hz identifies cirrhotic patients with minimal hepatic encephalopathy (mHE) and predicts the risk of both overt hepatic encephalopathy (oHE) and mortality in patients with previous episodes of decompensation and/or oHE.

**Aims:** Herein, we evaluated the effectiveness of CFF in predicting the first episode of oHE and survival in cirrhotics who had never experienced an episode of oHE.

**Methods:** Our cohort study of 134 patients and 150 healthy subjects were examined. A CFF $>$ 39Hz was considered normal and pathological when  $\leq$ 39Hz. The median follow up was 36 months.

**Results:** At baseline, all controls had CFF $>$ 39Hz. Ninety-three patients had a CFF $>$ 39Hz and 41

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