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**Long-term liver-related outcomes and liver stiffness progression of statin usage in steatotic liver disease**

*Zhou X, Kim SU, Yip TC, et al. Long-term liver-related outcomes and liver stiffness progression of statin usage in steatotic liver disease. Gut 2024; 73: 1883-1892. doi: 10.1136/gutjnl-2024-333074*

The prevalence of Metabolic dysfunction–associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD) is on the rise, becoming a global pandemic. Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is the leading cause of death in these patients, and most MASLD patients qualify for statin therapy due to metabolic syndrome. The pleiotropic effects of statins, particularly their role in reducing liver fibrosis, have garnered significant attention

Zhou *et al.,* conducted a multicentric cohort study to evaluate the impact of statins on all-cause mortality, liver fibrosis progression, and liver-related outcomes in MASLD patients. This VCTE (vibration-controlled transient elastography) prognosis study, involving 18 centres worldwide, found that patients on statins were less likely to develop cACLD (compensated advanced chronic liver disease; LSM (liver stiffness measure) >10 KPa). Statin users had lower rates of all-cause mortality and liver-related events compared to non-statin users, irrespective of liver disease stage (cACLD/non-cACLD)

Statin users showed a 55% reduced risk of fibrosis progression in the non-cACLD group, and a 45% reduced risk in the cACLD group, compared to non-statin users. Both lipophilic (atorvastatin/simvastatin) and hydrophilic statins (rosuvastatin/pravastatin) demonstrated these beneficial effects

This study highlights the positive impact of statins on reducing fibrosis progression, CVD risk, and overall morbidity and mortality in MASLD patients. Further large-scale randomized studies are needed to confirm these findings and implement them in clinical practice.