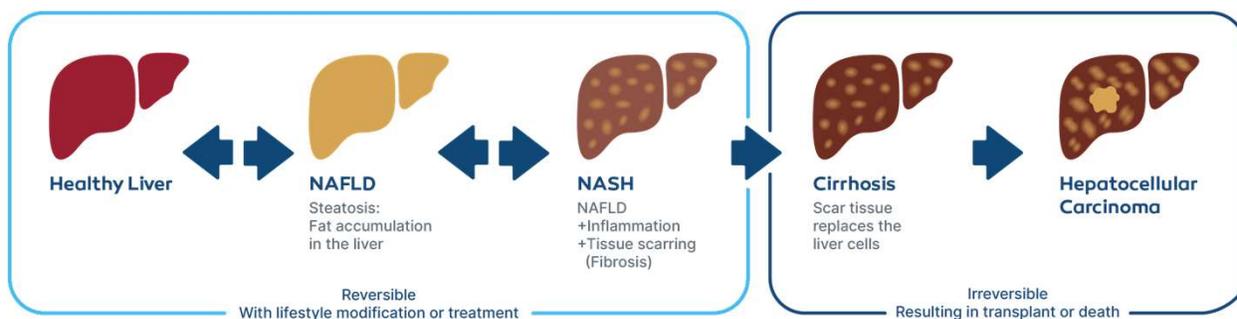


The Prevalence and Diagnosis of Chronic Liver Disease

- ❖ Fatty liver disease is the fastest growing and largest segment of chronic liver disease, resulting in chronic illness for millions of people around the world and a projected ten-fold increase in US healthcare costs from \$103 billion¹ in 2014 to \$1 trillion² in 2024.
- ❖ The liver is a critical organ that rids the body of harmful substances. Non-alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease (NAFLD) is an early stage form of fatty liver disease that occurs when there is an accumulation of fat in the liver, most commonly caused by obesity, diabetes and insulin resistance.
- ❖ NAFLD can progress to a more severe form of fatty liver disease called Non-alcoholic Steatohepatitis (NASH) characterized by inflammation and the formation of scar tissue. Left untreated, the disease can lead to chronic illness, organ failure, cancer and ultimately death. Early diagnosis is key to preventing – and reversing – disease progression and rising healthcare costs.



- ❖ Approximately 1 in 4 persons worldwide has fatty liver disease, a number that rises to 1 in 3 Americans (100 million) because of the greater prevalence of diabetes and obesity in the US.³ Of this 100 million:
 - ❖ 50 million Americans are underdiagnosed, and unaware of their fatty liver disease.⁴
 - ❖ 9.5 million Americans have NASH, the advanced form of the disease.⁵ By 2030, it is estimated that 27 million Americans will have NASH.⁶
- ❖ This growing epidemic puts a strain on both the healthcare system and clinical practices. The continued growth in patient cases and emergence of potential new treatments creates an urgent need for a cost-effective, quick and accurate solution to assess and manage this disease.

¹ Younossi ZM, Blissett D, Blissett R, et al. The Economic and Clinical Burden of Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Disease in the United States and Europe. *Hepatology*. 2016;64(5):1577–1586.

² Razavi et al. Modeling the Epidemic of Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Disease Demonstrates an Exponential Increase in Burden of Disease. *HEPATOLOGY*, VOL. 67, NO. 1, 2018.

³ Spengler EK, Loomba R. Recommendations for Diagnosis, Referral for Liver Biopsy, and Treatment of Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Disease and Nonalcoholic Steatohepatitis. *Mayo Clinic Proceedings*. 2015;90(9):1233–1246.

⁴ Polanco-Briceno, S., Glass, D., Stuntz, M. et al. Awareness of Nonalcoholic Steatohepatitis and Associated Practice Patterns of Primary Care Physicians and Specialists. *BMC Res Notes* 9, 157 (2016).

⁵ GlobalData. NASH: Current and Future Trends. GD Expert Presentations. October 2018.

⁶ Razavi et al. Modeling the Epidemic of Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Disease Demonstrates an Exponential Increase in Burden of Disease. *HEPATOLOGY*, VOL. 67, NO. 1, 2018.

The Prevalence and Diagnosis of Chronic Liver Disease

- ❖ Currently, physicians can diagnose liver disease with a combination of blood tests, ultrasound, and MRI or biopsy.
 - ❖ While blood tests and general ultrasound are easy and inexpensive to administer, they are unable to provide a reliable diagnosis on their own.
 - ❖ Ultrasound elastography improves the ability to quantify liver disease, but provides inconsistent results due to technical limitations.
 - ❖ On the other hand, while MRI and biopsy are considered the gold standard, they are expensive, invasive and inconvenient.
- ❖ Sonic Incytes has developed the first handheld 3D liver tissue assessment tool with diagnostic accuracy comparable to MRI. Velacur™ is an easy-to-use, cost-effective and comfortable ultrasound solution that provides consistently accurate results, and a clear picture of the liver, so physicians can be confident in the diagnosis, treatment and care of patient health.
- ❖ Velacur™ has been evaluated in various clinical studies by top medical specialists in North America and results show it to be equivalent to the gold standard (MRI).
- ❖ Given this emerging global health crisis, rising healthcare costs, and imminent NASH drug approvals, Velacur™ will be a welcome addition when it enters the market in early 2021 as a promising solution for this unmet need.