Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Disease/Metabolic Associated Fatty Liver Disease: New Insights

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Message from the Guest Editors

Nonalcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) is an important health care problem worldwide. It affects 30% of adults in the general population, 70% of patients with type 2 diabetes (T2DM), and all patients with obesity. Importantly, NAFLD is now the second most frequent indication for liver transplantation in the United States. In the last several decades, it has become evident that NAFLD is not only associated with serious liver-related complications, but also with relevant metabolic, cardiovascular, and renal complications. Although the pathogenesis of NAFLD is complex, it was established that NAFLD is strongly linked to insulin resistance, abdominal obesity, and T2DM. Based on this evidence, in 2020, some authors have proposed the change of the terminology from NAFLD to metabolic associated fatty liver disease (MAFLD), as well as an update of the definition of this fatty liver disease. Regardless of terminology used, however, it is clearly evident that NAFLD/MAFLD is a dynamic disease, characterized by many factors that change over time. In this regard, specific phenotypes of NAFLD/MAFLD may be broadly driven by environmental factors, genetic predisposition, or metabolic factors.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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