Primary liver cancer is the SIXTH most common cancer in the world and the SECOND leading cause of cancer-related death.¹

Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC), which represents about 90% of primary liver cancer, results in more than 670,000 deaths globally per annum² – up to 1,837 people every day or 76 people every hour. There are around 3,700 deaths each year in the UK.²

What causes HCC?

HCC occurs mainly in the liver of patients affected by cirrhosis.³

In the developed Western world, chronic Hepatitis C viral infection is the major risk factor for cirrhosis.² Other risk factors include Hepatitis B virus and alcohol misuse.⁴

In Africa and East Asia, the most common risk factor for HCC (60% of cases) is Hepatitis B virus.⁵

NASH (non-alcoholic steatohepatitis) related HCC, often caused by obesity, is also on the rise worldwide.

Global burden

Global burden of the disease is predicted to increase.³

In the UK, the number of deaths is forecast to rise from 3,653 in 2012 to 4,189 by 2020² – a 15% increase.

Over the past 10 years no new first-line treatments have become available or proven effective against HCC.⁶

As a result, HCC treatment lags behind other cancers.

References