Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC)

The most common form of primary liver cancer in the world

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

More than 670,000 deaths
That is one every 47 seconds

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 600 deaths each year in Switzerland.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.³ 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 Switzerland, the number of deaths is forecast to rise from 621 in 2012 to 765 by 2020⁷ – a 23% 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