

WHO COLLABORATING  
CENTRE FOR RESEARCH AND  
HEALTH PROMOTION ON ALCOHOL  
AND ALCOHOL-RELATED  
HEALTH PROBLEMS



Ministero della Salute



**Alcohol  
Prevention  
Day**

**15 maggio 2019**

Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Aula Pocchiari  
Viale Regina Elena 299, Roma

**Gianni Testino**

**Centro Alcolologico Regionale Ligure**

**ASL3 c/o Ospedale Policlinico San Martino, Genova**

**Società Italiana di Alcolologia (SIA)**

***Medicina interna e consumo di alcol:***

***Un problema sottovalutato.***

***Il ruolo della SIA per la prevenzione***

## Appendici: etanolo

### ETANOLO

*Coordinatore:* Andrea Ghiselli

Alessandro Casini, Mauro Ceccanti, Carlo La Vecchia, Valentino Patussi,  
Emanuele Scafato, Francesco Violi



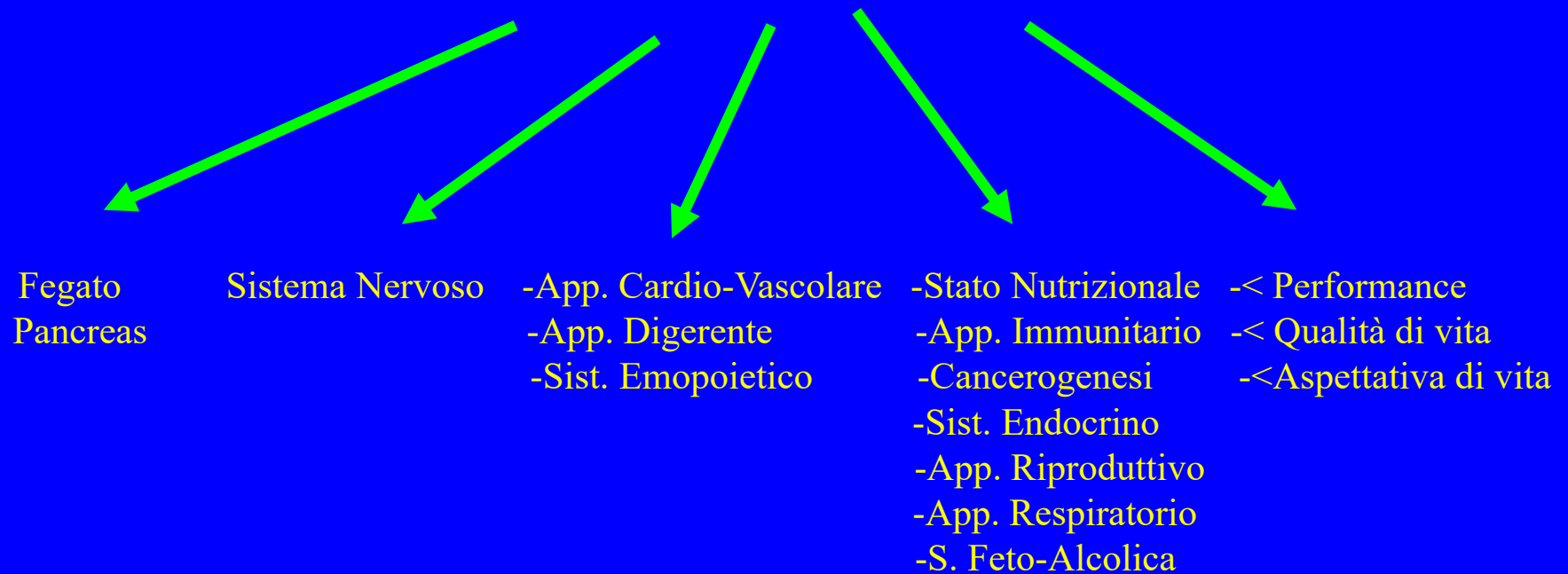
# Etanolo

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## Concetti guida

- L'etanolo (alcol etilico) è una sostanza non nutriente d'interesse nutrizionale che – pur apportando energia (7 kcal/g) – non ha finalità funzionali e/o metaboliche specifiche.
- La principale fonte di etanolo nella dieta della popolazione italiana è rappresentata dal gruppo “Vino e sostituti” (84%), seguito dal gruppo “Birra, sidro e sostituti” (9%) e dalle altre bevande alcoliche (vino dolce, spumanti, aperitivi e liquori, per il 7%).
- È una molecola potenzialmente tossica per l'organismo, di elevata pericolosità sociale che può causare – nel caso di abuso – importanti danni organici e psicologici; elevate assunzioni sono associate ad un aumento del rischio di malattie cardio-cerebrovascolari, di epatopatie e malattie gastrointestinali, nonché di alcune forme di tumori.

# CONSUMO DI ALCOL



## **ALCOLOGIA COINVOLTA IN NUMEROSE DISCIPLINE MEDICHE INTERNISTICHE**

**Ricoveri ospedalieri**

**Complicanze post-chirurgiche**

**Importante fattore di trapianto d'organo**

- **Non percepito il problema alcologico**
- **Se percepito non affrontato in modo adeguato**
- **Etica**



# **PATOLOGIA ALCOL CORRELATA ED OSPEDALIZZAZIONE**

- **7-24% prevalenza ricoveri in ambiente internistico (Kennel-Webb et al, QJM 1999; Smothers et al, Arch Intern Med 2003)**
- **18.6% dei ricoveri (Cameron et al, Scott Med J 2006)**
- **16% dei ricoveri in degenza ordinaria (Salvagnini et al., Intern Emerg Med 2008)**
- **10% dei ricoveri in terapia intensiva (Moss and Burnham, Lancet 2006)**

Table 1. The fifth edition of Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5) criteria for the framing of patients with alcohol use disorder (AUD).

1.	Alcohol is often taken in larger amounts or over a longer period than was intended.
2.	There is a persistent desire or unsuccessful efforts to cut down or control alcohol use.
3.	A great deal of time is spent in activities necessary to obtain alcohol, use alcohol, or recover from its effects.
4.	Craving, or a strong desire or urge to use alcohol.
5.	Recurrent alcohol use resulting in a failure to fulfill major role obligations at work, school, or home.
6.	Continued alcohol use despite having persistent or recurrent social or interpersonal problems caused or exacerbated by the effects of alcohol.
7.	Important social, occupational, or recreational activities are given up or reduced because of alcohol use.
8.	Recurrent alcohol use in situations in which it is physically hazardous.
9.	Alcohol use is continued despite knowledge of having a persistent or recurrent physical or psychological problem that is likely to have been caused or exacerbated by alcohol.
10.	Tolerance, as defined by either of the following: (a) A need for markedly increased amounts of alcohol to achieve intoxication or desired effect; (b) A markedly diminished effect with continued use of the same amount of alcohol.
11.	Withdrawal, as manifested by either of the following: (a) The characteristic withdrawal syndrome for alcohol (refer to criteria A and B of the criteria set for alcohol withdrawal); (b) Alcohol is taken to relieve or avoid withdrawal symptoms.

all the criteria in Table 1). The presence of two or three symptoms indicate a mild disorder, four or five symptoms a moderate one, and six or more symptoms a severe disorder. Notably, DSM-5 removes “legal problems” between the diagnostic criteria adding the craving [11].

American Psychiatric Association. *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, 5th ed.; American Psychiatric Association: Washington, DC, USA, 2013; pp. 154–196.



# CONSUMATORI ALCOL: Caratterizzazione del RISCHIO

Minor rischio	Low risk level MINOR RISCHIO	MASCHI	età 18-64 anni: 1-2 bicchieri e <b>NO</b> <i>Binge drinking</i>
			età ≥ 65 anni: 1 bicchiere e <b>NO</b> <i>Binge drinking</i>
		FEMMINE	età ≥ 18 anni: 1 bicchiere e <b>NO</b> <i>Binge drinking</i>
Consumatori a rischio	Low risk level <b>BUT</b> binge drinker	MASCHI	età 18-64 anni: 1-2 bicchieri <b>MA</b> <i>Binge drinking</i>
			età ≥ 65 anni: 1 bicchiere <b>MA</b> <i>Binge drinking</i>
		FEMMINE	età ≥ 18 anni: 1 bicchiere <b>MA</b> <i>Binge drinking</i>
	Medium risk level  RISCHIOSO	MASCHI	Età 18-64 anni : 3-5 bicchieri <b>e/o</b> <i>Binge drinking</i>
		FEMMINE	età 18-64 anni: 2-4 bicchieri <b>e/o</b> <i>Binge drinking</i>
		MASCHI E FEMMINE	età ≥ 65 anni: 2-4 bicchieri <b>e/o</b> <i>Binge drinking</i>
	High risk level  DANNOSO	MASCHI	età ≥ 18 anni: 6+ bicchieri <b>e/o</b> <i>Binge drinking</i>
		FEMMINE	età ≥ 18 anni: 4+ bicchieri <b>e/o</b> <i>Binge drinking</i>

*CONSUMO DI BEVANDE ALCOLICHE  
IN SOGGETTI SANI*

**Donna < 10 gr/die**

**Uomo < 20 gr/die**

***Basso rischio***

one in 1000 deaths \*

**Donna 11-40 gr/die**

**Uomo 21-60 gr/die**

**> 65 anni e fra i 16-18 anni >12/die**

***Consumo Rischioso***

one in 100 deaths \*

**Donna > 40 gr/die**

**Uomo > 60 gr/die**

**Binge Drinking**

***Consumo Dannoso***

*Scafato E et al, Istituto Superiore di Sanità 2010  
Italian Society on Alcohol (SIA), 2018*

***\*Rehm et al, BMC 2014***

***higher than the usually accepted involuntary risk of one in one million !!! \****

## ***ACCEPTABLE DAILY INTAKE (ADI) FOR LIVER CIRRHOSIS MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY***

$$\underline{\text{ADI} = \text{BMDL/UF}}$$

**2.6 g/day**

**IPCS:** international Programme on Chemical Safety

**BMD:** benchmark dose

**BMDL:** lower one-sided confidence limit of BMD

**UF:** uncertainty factor

***Lachenmeier et al, Int J Epidemiol, 2011***

**US Environmental Protection Agency, 1995**

**EFSA. EFSA J 2005**

**Bi J, J Food Sci 2010**

Sovrappeso/ Obesità

Patologie Odontoiatriche

Patologie gastroenterologiche

- Alterazioni ghiandole salivari (parotidi in particolare)
- Malattia da reflusso gastro-esofageo
- Esofagite
- Alterazioni della motilità esofago-gastro-duodenale
- Dispepsia (cattiva digestione)
- Gastrite cronica
- Duodenite cronica
- Favorita l'ulcera peptica (?)
- Epatopatia cronica/ cirrosi epatica
- Alterazioni dell'assorbimento e dell'alvo
- Neoplasie benigne
- Neoplasie maligne

Patologie neurologiche

- Cafelea
- Alterazioni ritmo sonno-veglia
- Vasculopatia
- Declino cognitivo
- Demenza
- Epilessia
- Neoplasie maligne

Patologie apparato cardio-vascolare

- Ipertensione arteriosa
- Aritmie
- Ictus emorragico

Apparato endocrino-riproduttivo (ritardo pubertà, riduzione fertilità)

Patologie dermatologiche (psoriasi)

Problemi perinatali (aborto spontaneo, disturbi fetali da alcol, nascita prematura, ritardo crescita)

Tumori (cavità orale, faringe, laringe, esofago, colon, retto, fegato, mammella)

**Consumo Rischioso**

Patologie Psichiatriche  
Disturbi dell'umore  
Disturbi dello spettro schizofrenico  
Disturbo antisociale di personalità  
Disturbo borderline di personalità  
Suicidio  
Peggioramento di altre comorbidità

Patologie Neurologiche  
Intossicazione acuta: ubriachezza, coma, amnesie  
Sindrome da astinenza: epilessia (convulsioni), tremori, allucinazioni, delirium tremens

Malattie da carenze nutrizionali (soprattutto vitamina B1, B6, B12 e folati)

- Sindrome di Wernicke-Korsakoff
- Polineuropatia
- Neuropatia ottica (ambliopia alcolica o alcol-tabagica)
- Pellagra

Altre malattie:

- Degenerazione cerebellare
- Malattia di Marchifava-Bignami
- Demenza alcolica
- Idrocefalo normoteso
- Encefalopatia Porto-Sistemica
- Trauma cranico
- Tumori

Patologie Cardio-Vascolari  
Ipertensione arteriosa  
Aritmie  
Cardiopatia ischemica coronarica  
Ictus (ischemico, emorragico)  
Cardiomiopatia dilatativa

Patologie Epato-Gastroenterologiche

Patologie Dismetaboliche (dislipidemie, diabete mellito)

Problemi perinatali (aborto spontaneo, sindrome feto-alcolica)

Neoplasie

*Tabella XIII – Patologie psico-fisiche correlate all'alcoldipendenza*



# ALCOHOL

**Fatty Liver**



**Alcohol Hepatitis/Fibrosis**



**Cirrhosis**



**Hepatocellular Carcinoma**

**Chronic Pancreatitis**

**Parotid Hypertrophy**

**Carcinogenesis\***

**Glossitis**

**Stomatitis**

**Gastro-Esophageal Reflux**

**Mallory-Weiss Syndrome**

**Chronic Gastritis**

**Erosive Hemorrhagic Gastritis**

**Delayed Gastric Emptying**

**Malabsorption**

**Reduce Transit Time**

**\*Upper Aero-Digestive Tract, Colon, Rectum, Breast, Liver, Pancreas**

*Testino G, Hepatogastroenterology 2008*



**Popolazione italiana  
≥18 anni (stima)  
50.001.556**

**Consumatori**  
34.247.747  
(68,5%)

**Astemi ed astinenti**  
15.119.878  
(30,2%)

**Mancata risposta**  
633.931  
(1,3%)

**Consumatori giornalieri**  
13.892.563  
(27,8%)

**Consumatori occasionali**  
20.355.184  
(40,7%)

**BASSO RISCHIO**  
M=1-3 UA ; F=1-2 UA  
11.546.644

**HCV  
HBV  
SM  
ecc**

**MEDIO RISCHIO**  
M=4-5 UA ; F=3 UA  
1.529.976

**ALTO RISCHIO**  
M>5 UA ; F>3 UA  
815.943

**SM: Sindrome Metabolica**

*Modified by E. Scafato, ISS*

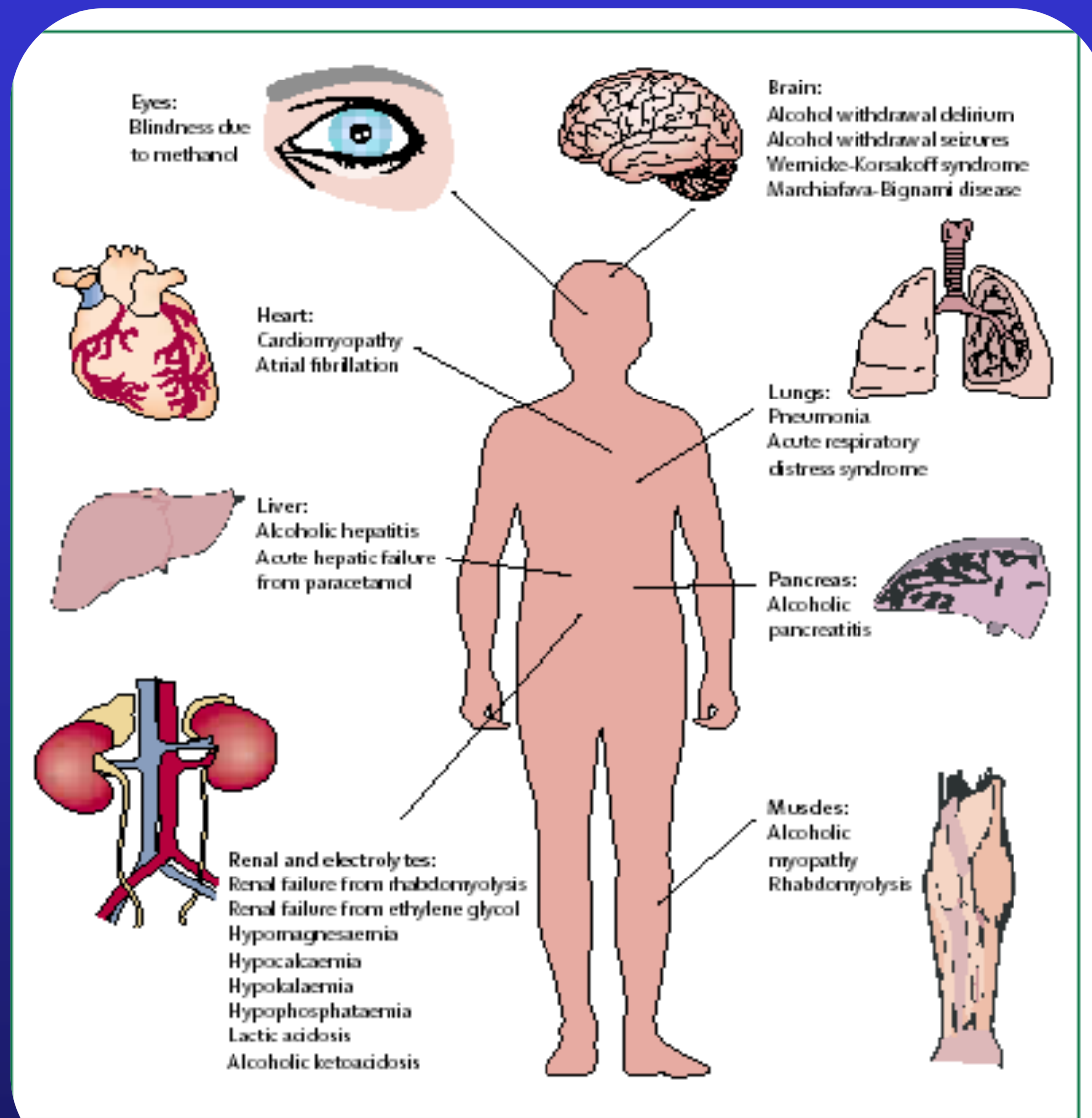


Figure 1: Disorders that can occur in critically ill patients as a result of alcohol abuse or dependence

Obesità Centrale

↑ Trigliceridi

↓ HDL Colesterolo

↑ Pressione Arteriosa

↑ Glicemia Basale

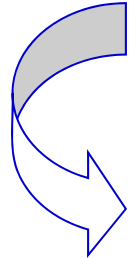
## Sindrome metabolica

*Insieme di fattori di rischio di origine metabolica, tra loro correlati, che inducono lo sviluppo di una malattia cardiovascolare aterosclerotica*

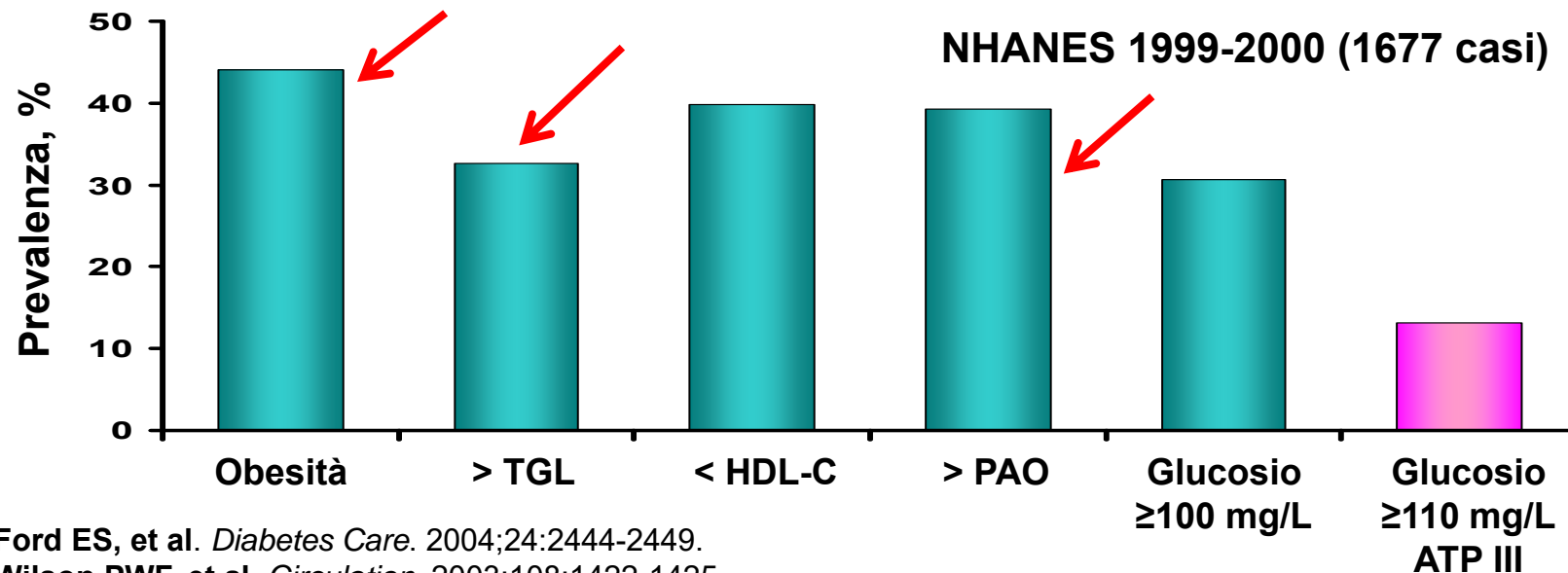
**Patogenesi: Insulinoresistenza**

# LA SINDROME METABOLICA

La sindrome metabolica è un fattore prognostico per lo sviluppo di diabete mellito T2, aterosclerosi e malattie cardiovascolari e si definisce con la presenza di almeno 3 delle seguenti alterazioni:

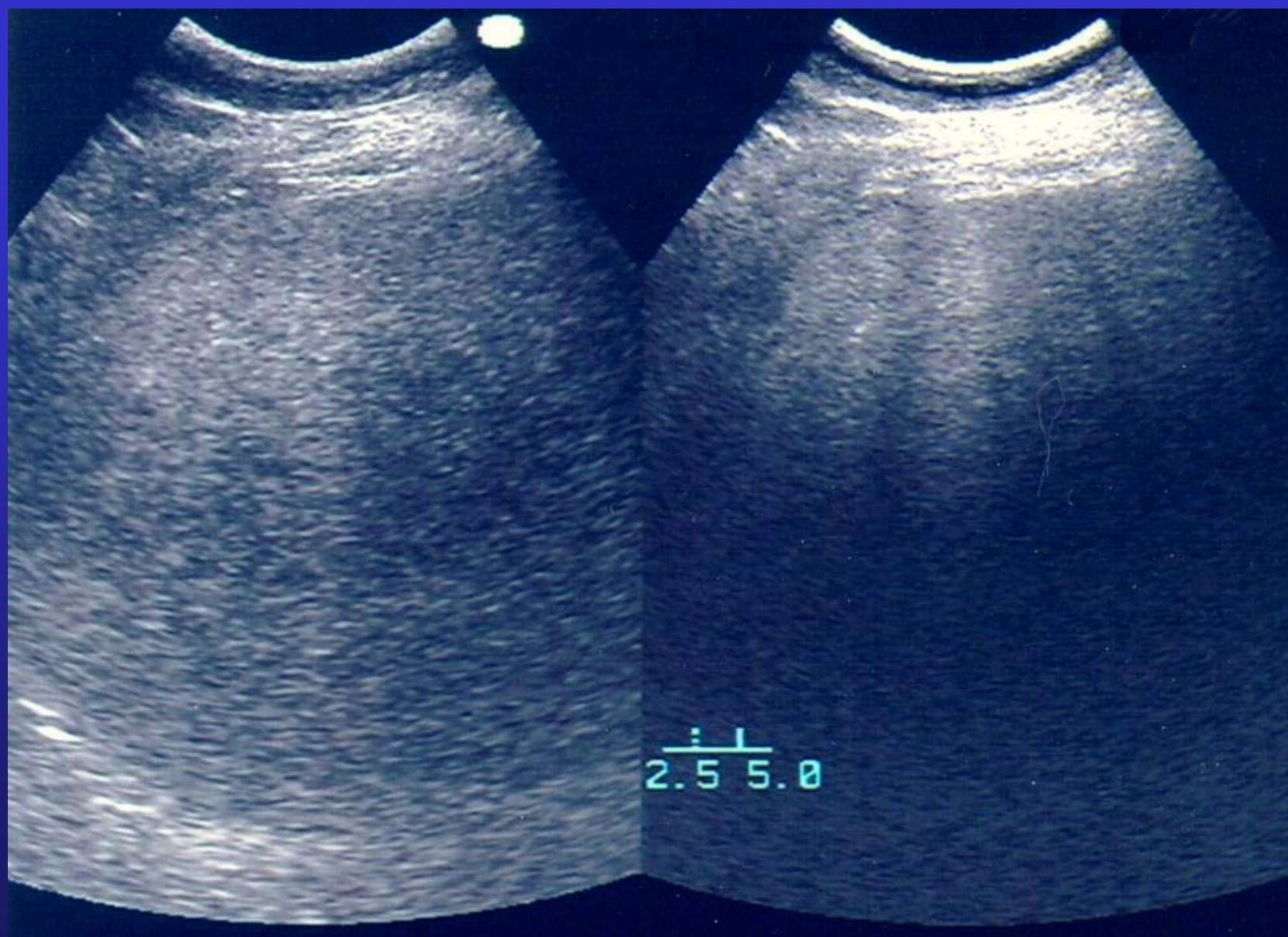


- ✓ **Circonferenza vita:** > 102 cm per l'uomo, > 88 cm per la donna
- ✓ **Trigliceridi plasmatici:**  $\geq 150$  mg/dL
- ✓ **Colesterolo-HDL:** < 40 mg/dL per l'uomo, 50 mg/dL per la donna
- ✓ **Pressione arteriosa:**  $\geq 130$  sistolica e/o  $\geq 85$  diastolica mmHg
- ✓ **Glicemia a digiuno:**  $\geq 110$  mg/dL



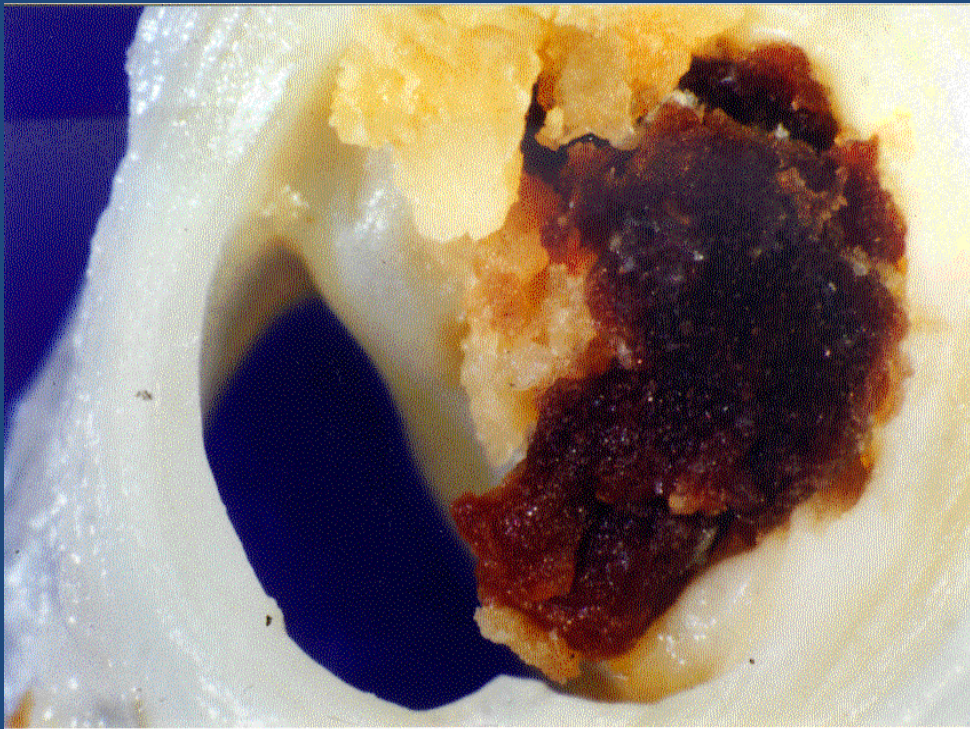
Ford ES, et al. *Diabetes Care*. 2004;24:2444-2449.  
Wilson PWF, et al. *Circulation*. 2003;108:1422-1425.

From F. Bonino, Liver Day, Genova 2017





L' instabilità della placca, più che la severità  
della stenosi determina  
la progressione della malattia coronarica



IL-6  
IL-1  
IL-2  
IL-8  
TNF- $\alpha$



La stratificazione del rischio potrebbe essere basata non solo sull'  
anatomia ma anche su marker di attività della malattia e sulla  
possibile vulnerabilità della placca



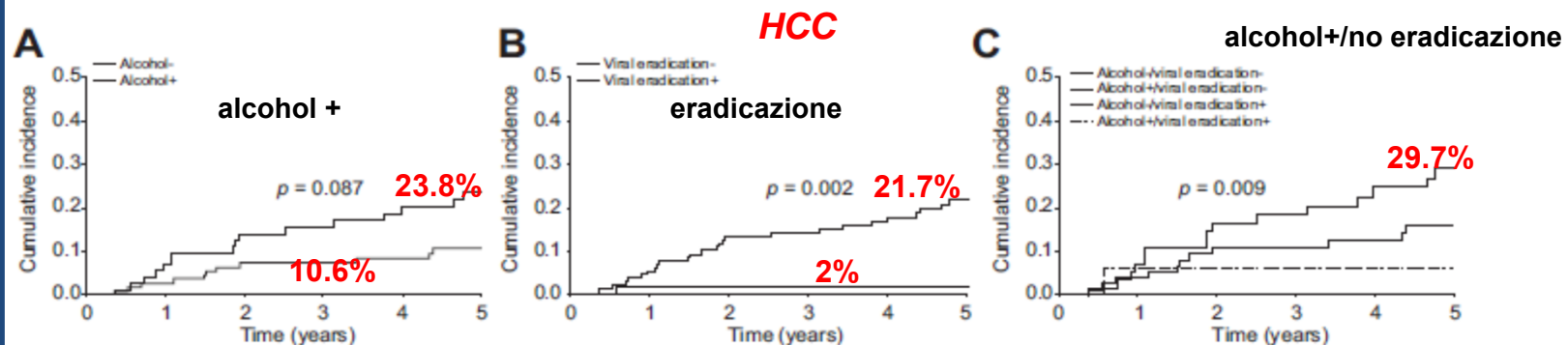
# Alcohol intake increases the risk of HCC in hepatitis C virus-related compensated cirrhosis: A prospective study

**Background & Aims:** Whether alcohol intake increases the risk of complications in patients with HCV-related cirrhosis remains unclear. The aim of this study was to determine the impact of alcohol intake and viral eradication on the risk of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC), decompensation of cirrhosis and death.

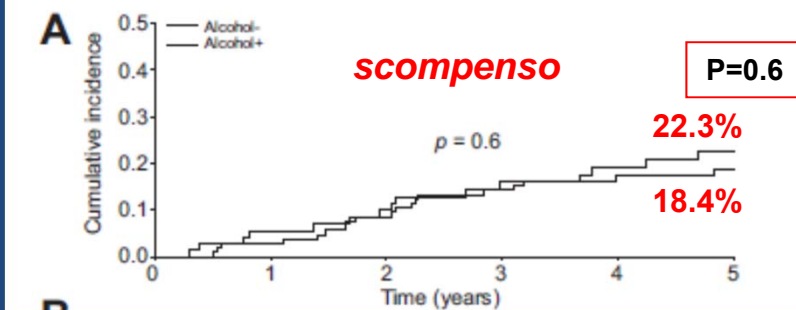
**Methods:** Data on alcohol intake and viral eradication were prospectively collected in 192 patients with compensated HCV-related cirrhosis.

**Results:** 74 patients consumed alcohol (median alcohol intake: 15 g/day); 68 reached viral eradication. During a median follow-

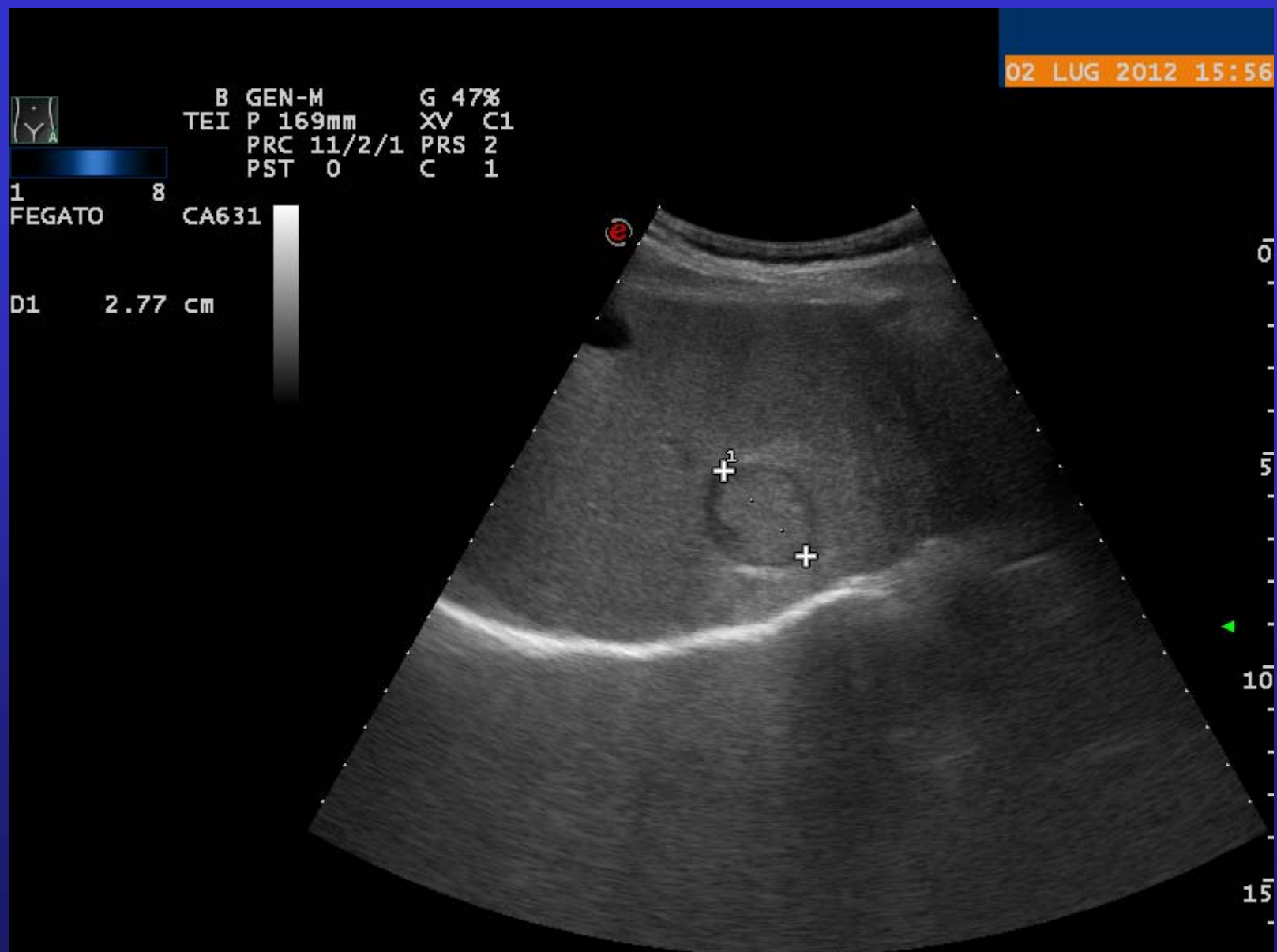
**Conclusions:** Light-to-moderate alcohol intake increases the risk of HCC in patients with HCV-related cirrhosis. Patient care should include measures to ensure abstinence.



**Fig. 1. 5-year cumulative incidence rate of HCC.** (A) 5-year cumulative incidence rate of HCC according to alcohol intake. (B) 5-year cumulative incidence rate of HCC according to viral eradication. (C) 5-year cumulative incidence rate of HCC according to alcohol intake and viral eradication. HCC, hepatocellular carcinoma.



Vandenbulcke et al, J Hepatol 2016



Centro Alcológico Regionale – Regione Liguria

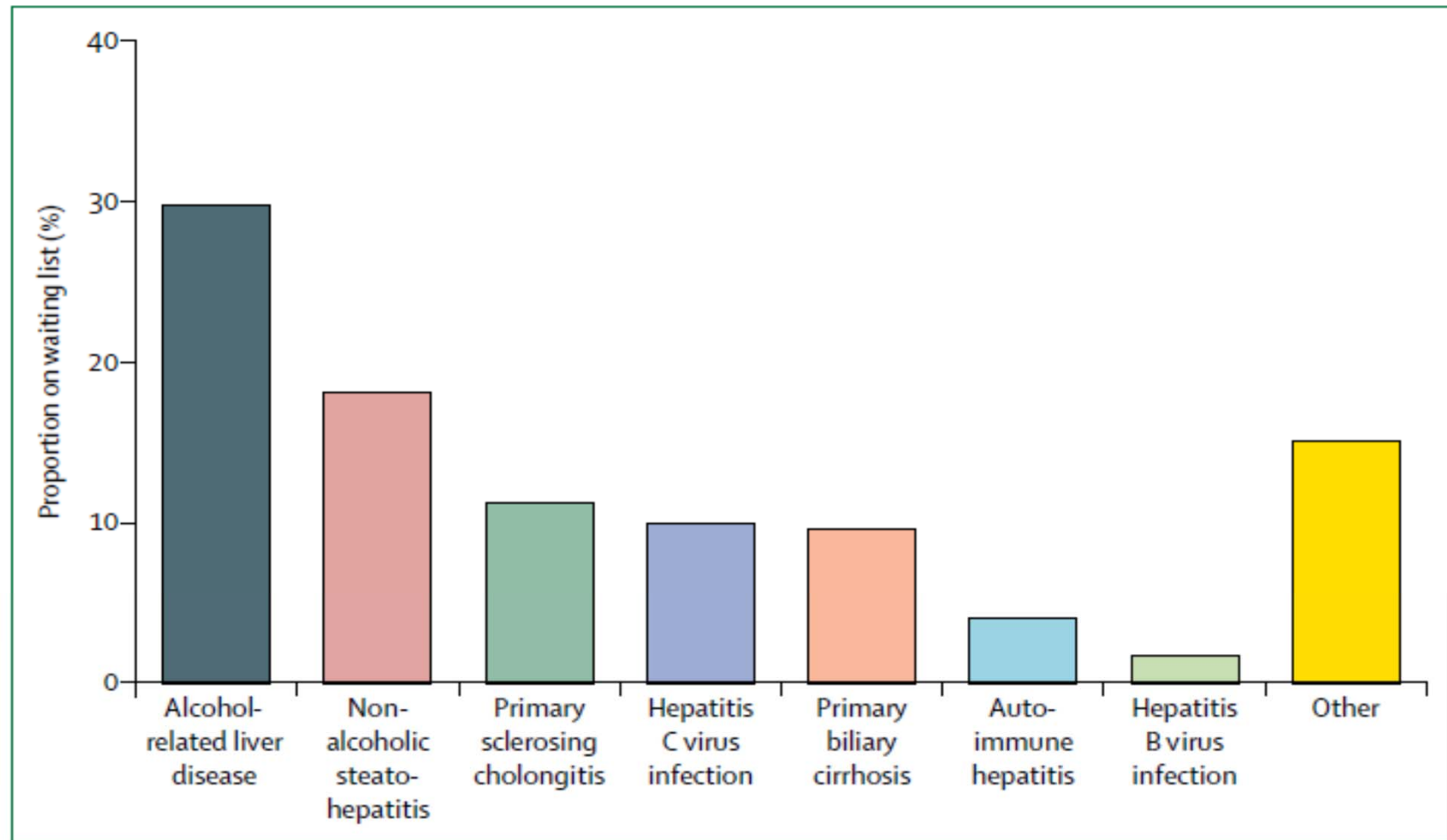
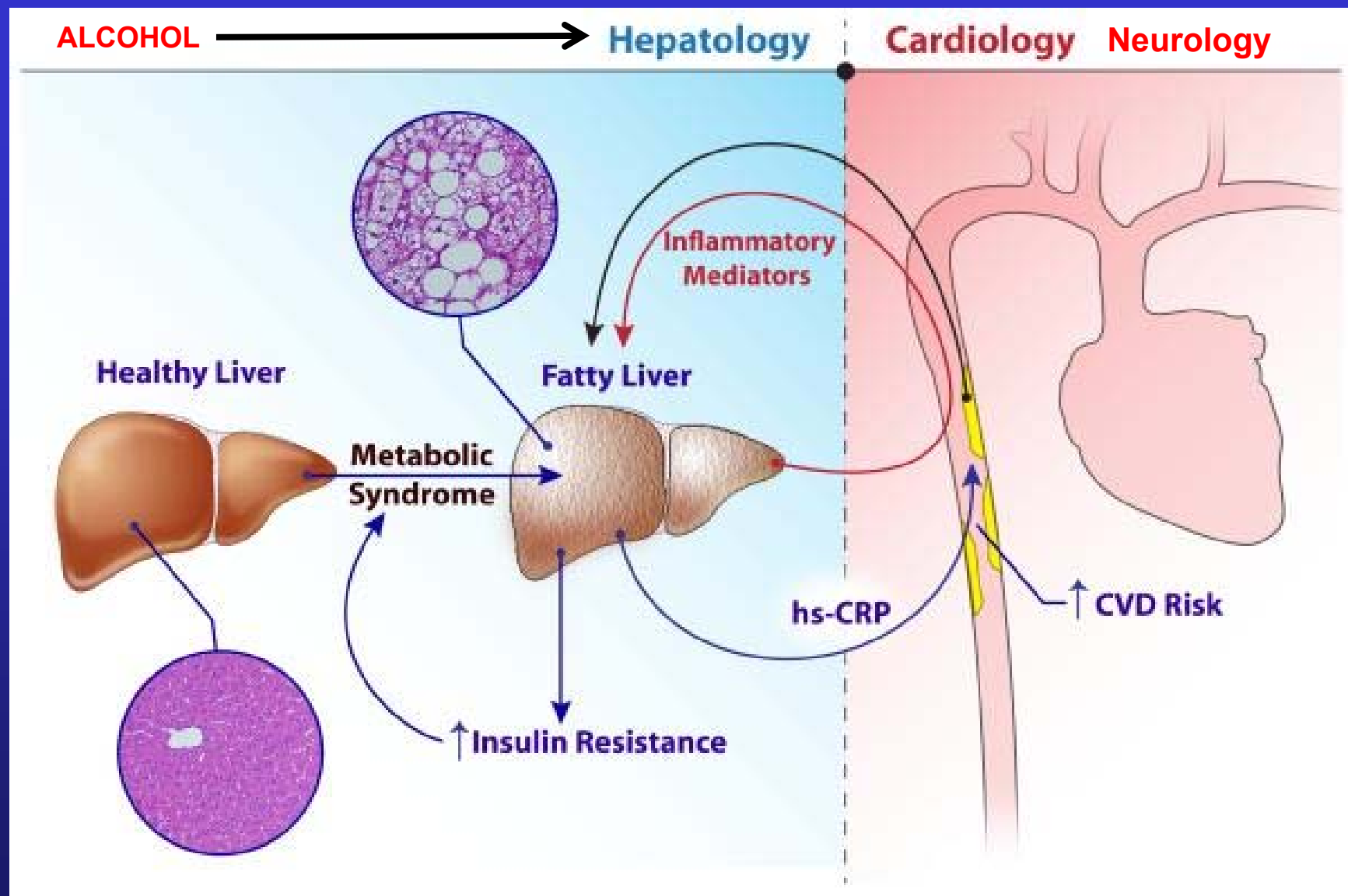


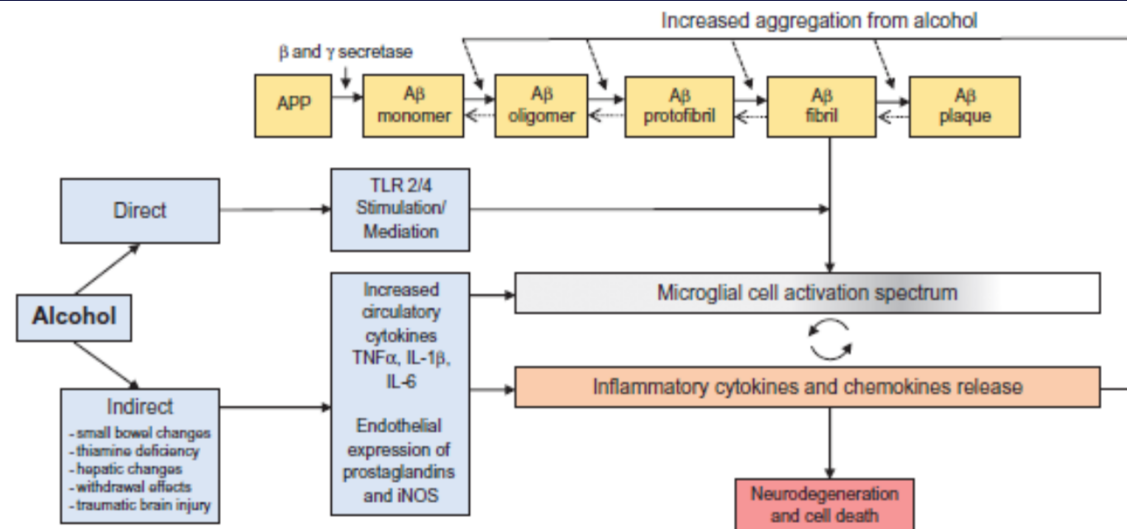
Figure 6: Causes of liver disease in patients on liver transplantation waiting list as of January, 2017

*Williams et al, The Lancet, Vol 391 March 17, 2018*



*F. Bonino, Liver Day, Genova 2017*

# ALCOHOL AND ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE



**Fig. 1.** Proposed links between alcohol and Aβ cascade in AD through inflammatory processes. Aβ peptide is cleaved from the transmembrane APP by β and γ secretases. There is an increase in production or reduced clearance of Aβ with the likelihood of conversion shown by solid arrows, and less conversion illustrated by dotted arrows. Different forms of Aβ affect microglial cell activation differently, and Aβ fibrils are shown to activate microglial cells, leading to inflammatory cytokines and chemokines release, further both re-activating microglial cells, and also causing increased aggregation of Aβ towards plaque forms. This self-perpetuating cycle leads to neurodegeneration and cell death. It is suggested that alcohol acts both directly and indirectly on this system. Directly alcohol causes TLR2/4 stimulation and together with fAβ it leads to increased microglial activation, and greater inflammatory cytokines and chemokine release. Indirectly alcohol via small bowel, hepatic and withdrawal effects causes increased circulatory cytokines, in particular TNFα, IL-1β, IL-6 and endothelial expression of prostaglandins and iNOS which cause direct microglial cell activation, and contribute to neuroinflammation by cytokines and chemokines release. The summation of effects results in more neurodegeneration and cell death, greater microglial burn-out, and increased aggregation of Aβ due to a combination of increased inflammatory mediators, and decreased or saturated microglial cells.

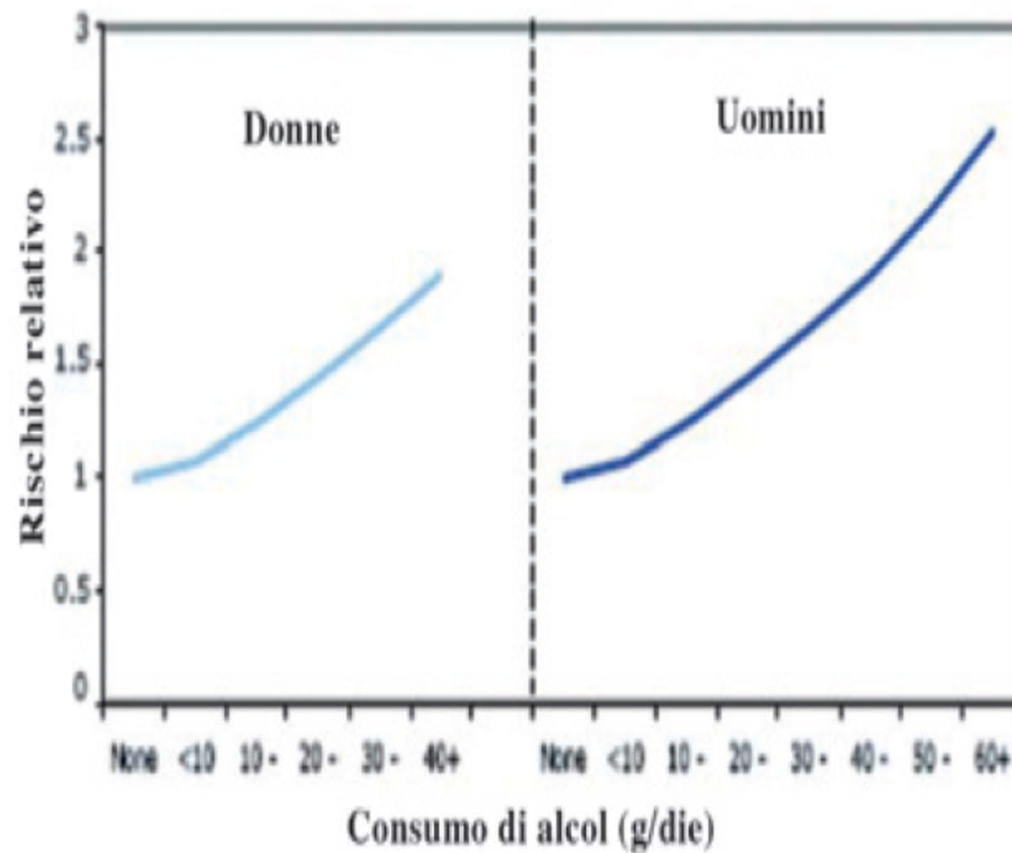
## Alcol, Ipertensione, Aritmie

### Femmine

	0 gr	1-19 gr/die	20-39 gr/die
IPETENSIONE (RR)	1	1.4	2
ARITMIE (RR)*	1	1.5	2.2

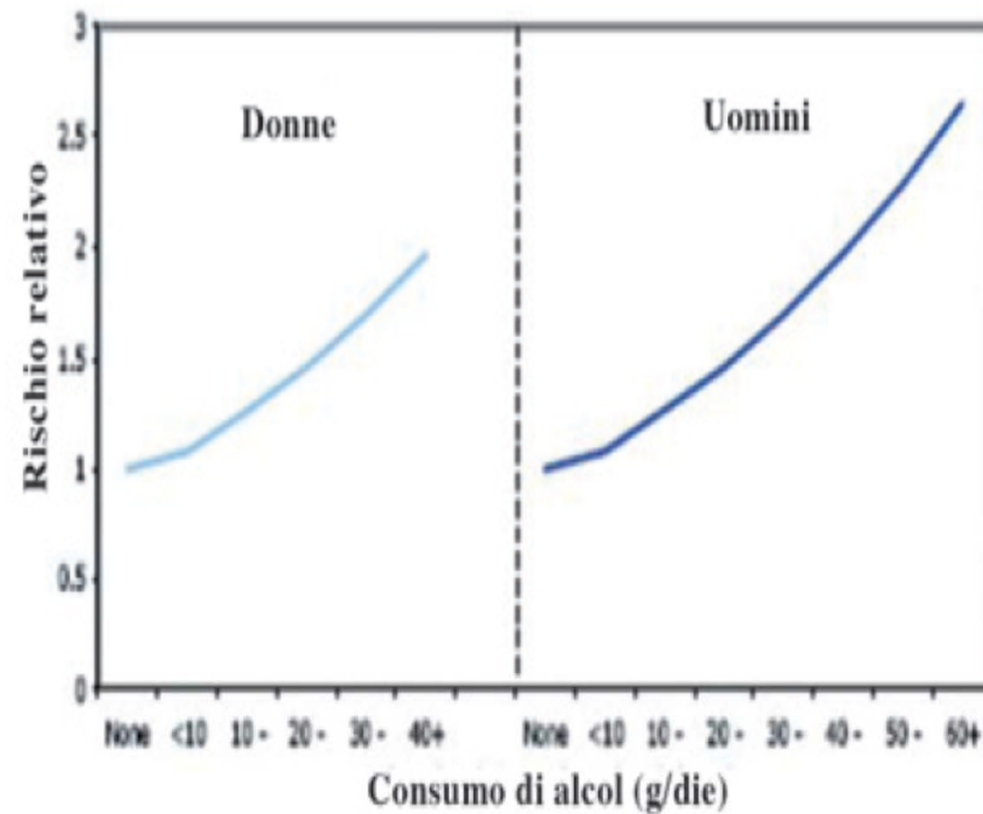
\*Sino al 30% delle FA da consumo  
sociale di alcol

Scafato E., Istituto Superiore di Sanita', 2010



**Figura 4.5.** Rischio relativo di ipertensione per consumo alcolico.  
Fonte: Strategy Unit (2003).





**Figura 4.6.** Rischio relativo di ictus emorragico per consumo alcolico. Fonte: Strategy Unit (2003).

# Alcohol use disorders, cardiomyopathy and heart transplantation: a new management

Gianni TESTINO <sup>1</sup> \*, Luigi C. BOTTARO <sup>2</sup>, Patrizia BALBINOT <sup>1</sup>,  
Silvia LEONE <sup>1</sup>, Rinaldo PELLICANO <sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Alcoholological Regional Center – Ligurian Region, ASL3 at San Martino Policlinic Hospital, Genoa, Italy;

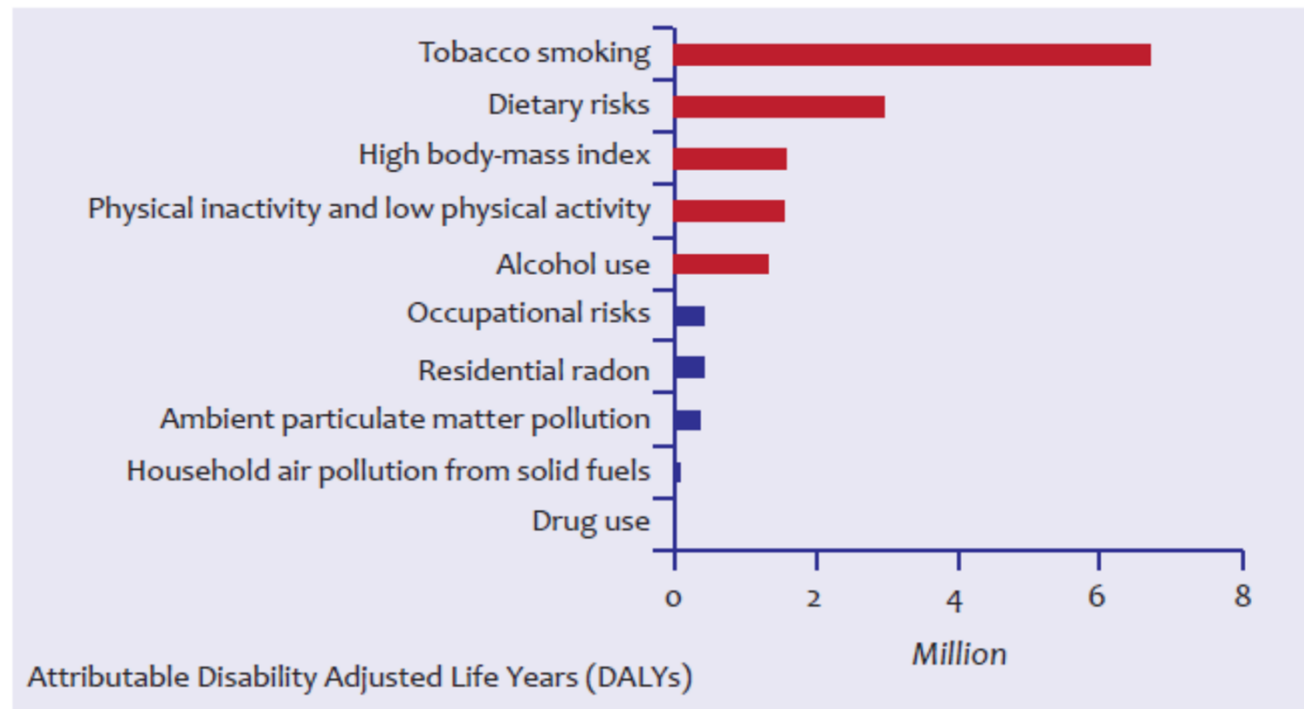
<sup>2</sup>Directorate General, ASL3, Genoa, Italy; <sup>3</sup>Unit of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Molinette Hospital, Turin, Italy

\*Corresponding author: Gianni Testino, Alcoholological Regional Center – Ligurian Region, ASL3 at San Martino Policlinic Hospital, pavilion 10, Piazzale R. Benzi 10, 16132 Genoa, Italy. E-mail: gianni.testino@hsanmartino.it

Alcohol use disorders (AUDs) are one of the main causes of cardiomyopathy (CM). CM is a major cause of cardiac disease responsible for around 400,000 global deaths per year (>15 years of age). This represents 0.7% of all adult deaths (0.7% women, 0.8% men) and 2.2% of all cardiovascular deaths.<sup>1</sup> The prevalence of alcoholic CM (ACM) varies according to the geographical area. In major European cities, prevalence ranging from 23 to 40% of all forms of dilated CM has been reported. It has been estimated that 30% of alcoholics have echocardiographic evidence of systolic dysfunction. For these reasons ACM represents one of the main causes of heart transplantation.<sup>2</sup>

hypertension, atrial fibrillation and ventricular arrhythmia, hemorrhagic and ischemic strokes, and acute myocardial infarction.<sup>5</sup>

The CM framework is characterized by ventricular dilatation, cardiac hypertrophy with a reduction in ventricular wall thickness, disturbed myofibrillar architecture, dampened myocardial contractility, interstitial fibrosis, and a greater prevalence of hypertension and strokes. Ethanol and acetaldehyde cause CM through direct toxic action, oxidative stress (mitochondrial reactive oxygen species ROS), neurohormonal overactivation (catecholamines and angiotensin II) and apoptosis.<sup>6</sup> An alteration in autophagic activity induced by ethanol/acetaldehyde is certainly a

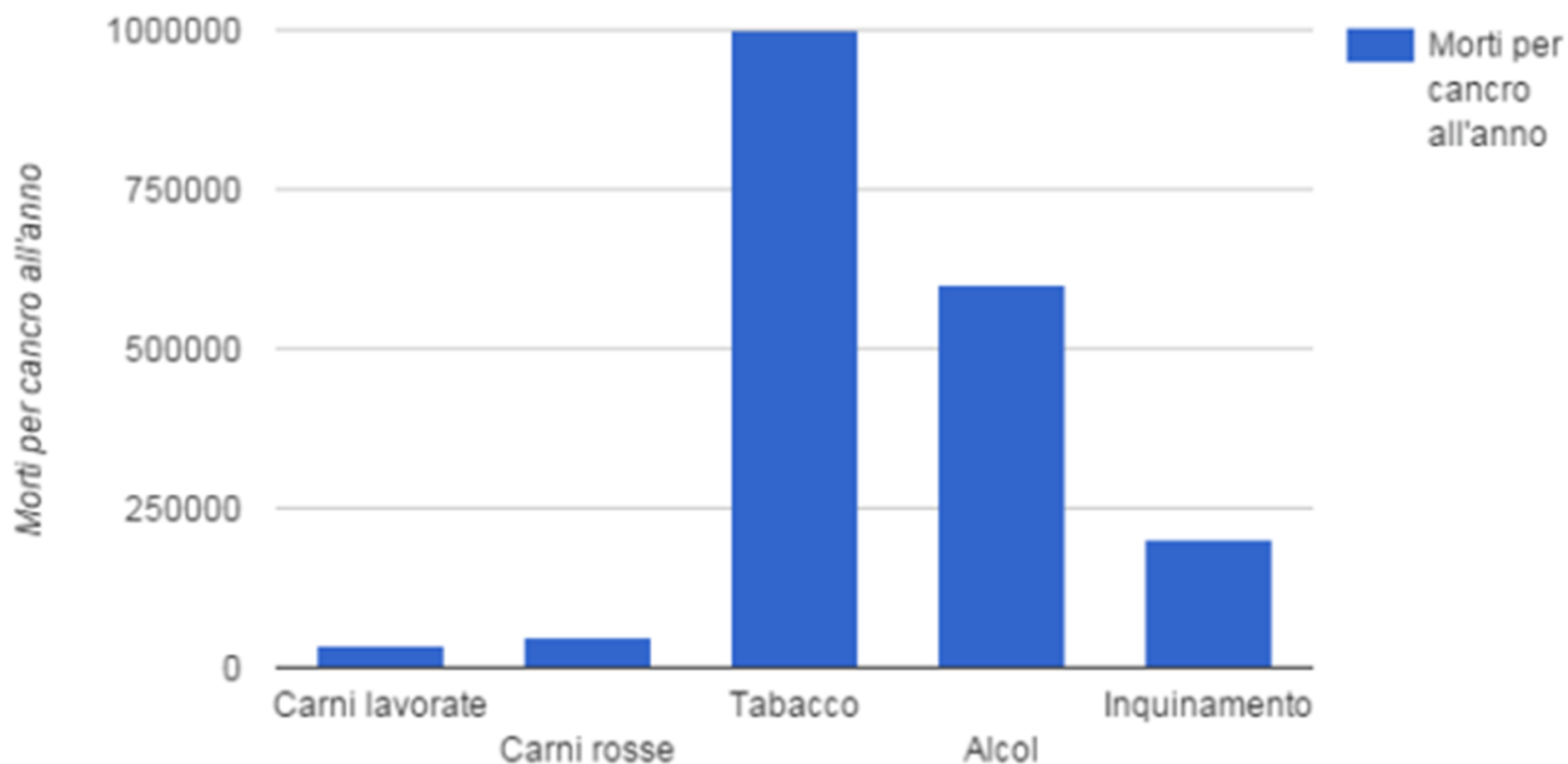


**Figure 1** - Contribution of Lifestyle Risk Factors to the Burden of Cancer in Europe

Source: OECD elaboration of IHME Global Burden of Disease Data for EU and EFTA area, 2010

*Salmaso et al; Istituto Superiore di Sanita', 2014*

## I morti per cancro e l'esposizione alle sostanze



e stime del Global Burden of Disease Project sulla relazione tra casi di morte per cancro ed esposizione a certe sostanze o fattori ambientali

# IARC; Lancet Oncology, November 2009

	Tumour sites for which there is sufficient evidence	Tumour sites for which there is limited evidence	Tumour sites for which there is evidence suggesting lack of carcinogenicity
Tobacco smoking	Oral cavity, oropharynx, nasopharynx, and hypopharynx, oesophagus (adenocarcinoma and squamous-cell carcinoma), stomach, colorectum,* liver, pancreas, nasal cavity and paranasal sinuses, larynx, lung, uterine cervix, ovary (mucinous)*, urinary bladder, kidney (body and pelvis), ureter, bone marrow (myeloid leukaemia)	Female breast*	Endometrium (postmenopausal*), thyroid*
Parental smoking (cancer in the offspring)	Hepatoblastoma*	Childhood leukaemia (in particular acute lymphocytic leukaemia)*	
Second-hand smoke	Lung	Larynx,* pharynx*	
Smokeless tobacco	Oral cavity, oesophagus,* pancreas		
Areca nut			
Betel quid with added tobacco	Oral cavity, pharynx, oesophagus		
Betel quid without added tobacco	Oral cavity, oesophagus*	Liver*	
Alcohol consumption	Oral cavity, pharynx, larynx, oesophagus, liver, colorectum, female breast	Pancreas*	Kidney, non-Hodgkin lymphoma
Acetaldehyde associated with alcohol consumption	Oesophagus,* head and neck*		
Chinese-style salted fish	Nasopharynx	Stomach*	
Indoor emissions from household combustion of coal	Lung		
*New sites.			

**Table:** Evidence for carcinogenicity in humans of Group 1 agents assessed

Table: Evidence for carcinogenicity in humans of group 1 agents assessed

\*New sites

consumption of coal

indoor emissions from household

combustion of coal

lung

nasopharynx

stomach\*

# IARC; Lancet Oncology, November 2009

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<u>Chinese-style salted fish</u>	<u>Nasopharynx</u>	<u>Stomach*</u>	
Indoor emissions from household combustion of coal	Lung		

\*New sites.

**Table:** Evidence for carcinogenicity in humans of Group 1 agents assessed

**Table:** Evidence for carcinogenicity in humans of Group 1 agents assessed

\*New sites



There is *sufficient evidence* in humans for the carcinogenicity of alcohol consumption. Alcohol consumption causes cancers of the oral cavity, pharynx, larynx, oesophagus, colorectum, liver (hepatocellular carcinoma) and female breast. Also, an association has been observed between alcohol consumption and cancer of the pancreas.

For cancer of the kidney and non-Hodgkin lymphoma, there is *evidence suggesting lack of carcinogenicity*.

There is *sufficient evidence* in humans for the carcinogenicity of acetaldehyde associated with the consumption of alcoholic beverages. Acetaldehyde associated with the consumption of alcoholic beverages causes cancer of the oesophagus and of the upper aerodigestive tract combined.

There is *sufficient evidence* in experimental animals for the carcinogenicity of ethanol.

There is *sufficient evidence* in experimental animals for the carcinogenicity of acetaldehyde.

Alcohol consumption is *carcinogenic to humans (Group 1)*.

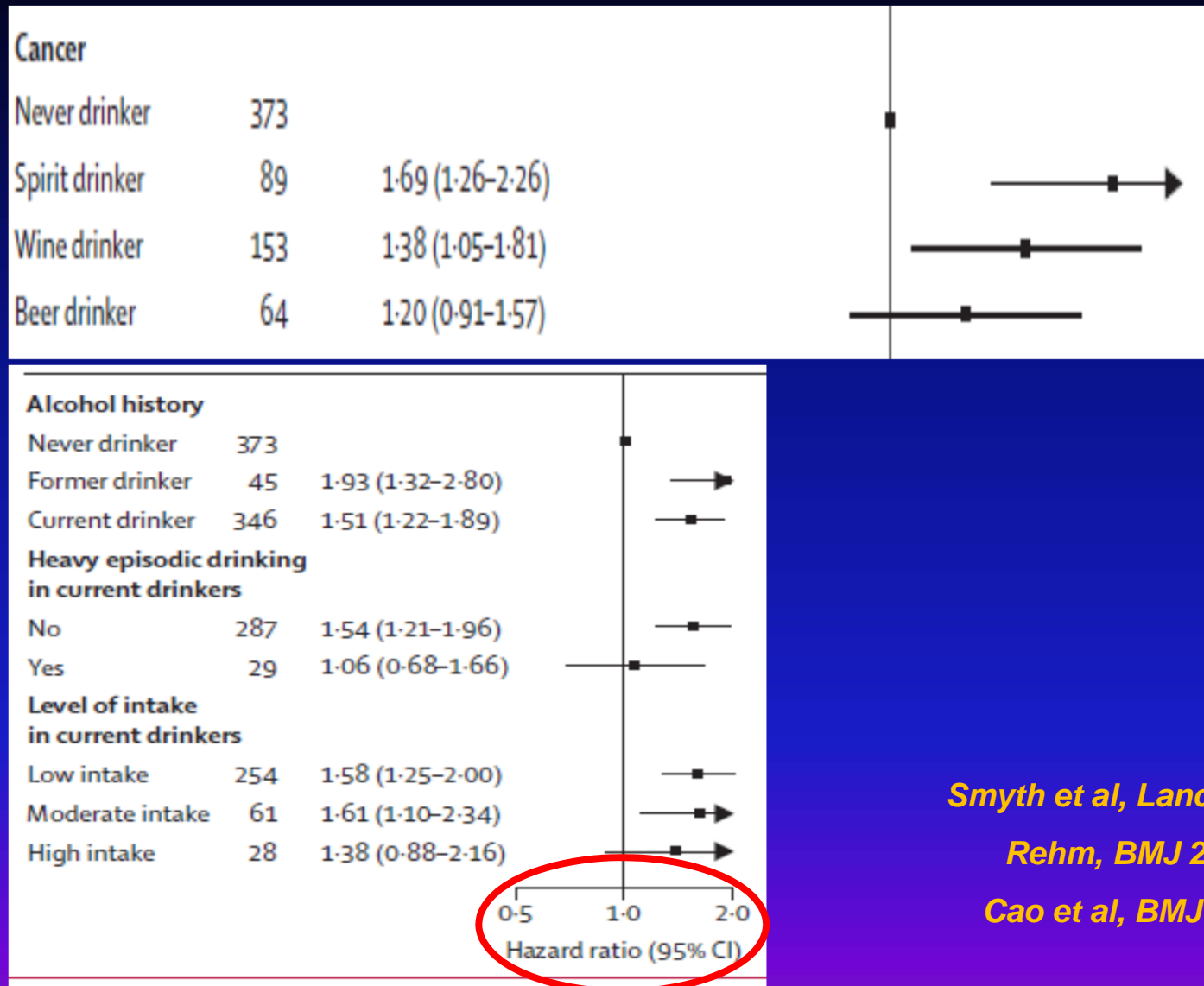
Ethanol in alcoholic beverages is *carcinogenic to humans (Group 1)*.

Acetaldehyde associated with the consumption of alcoholic beverages is *carcinogenic to humans (Group 1)*.

World Health Organization, International Agency for Cancer Research,  
Volume 100 E, pag. 476 – Lyon, France 2012



# ALCOHOL AND CANCER



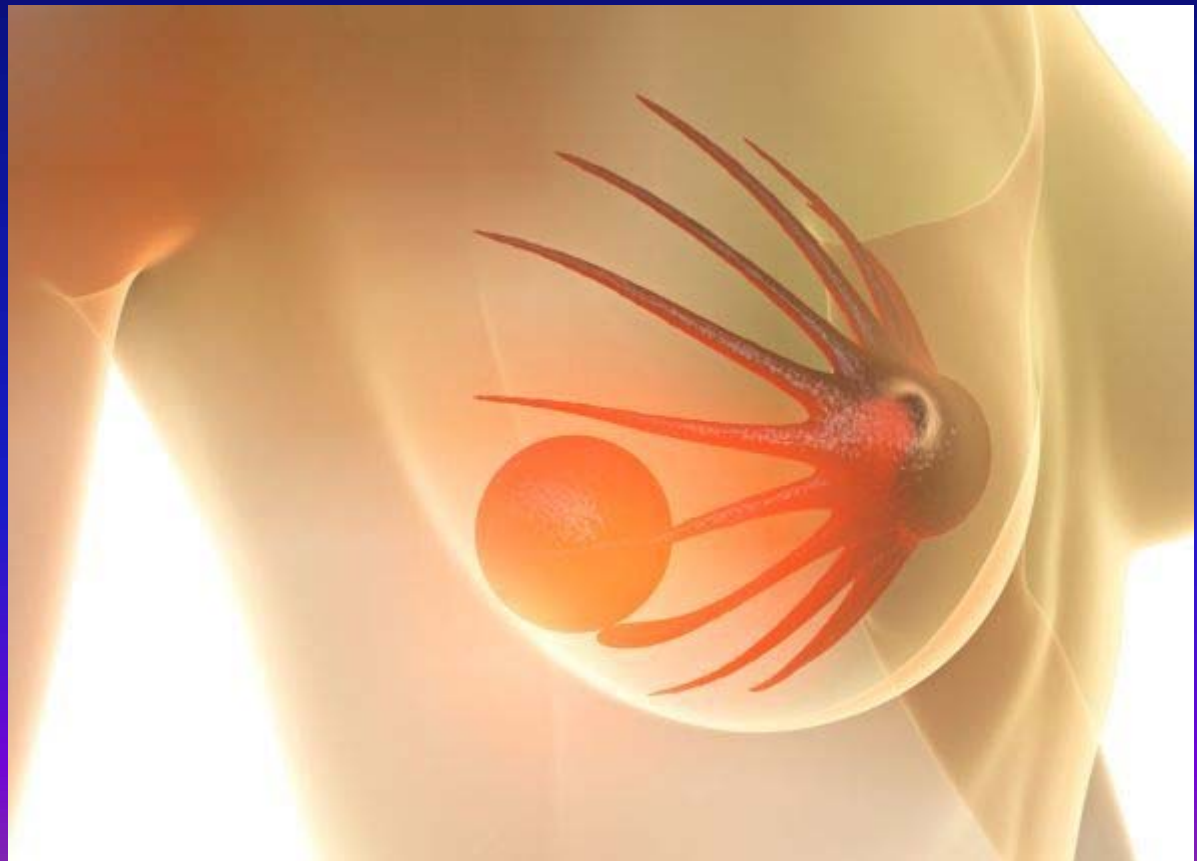
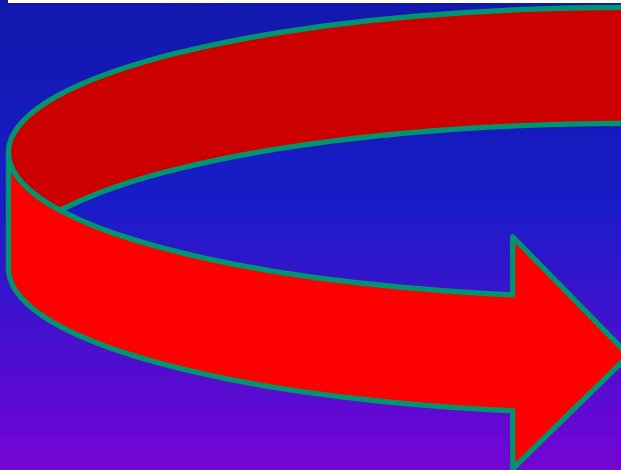
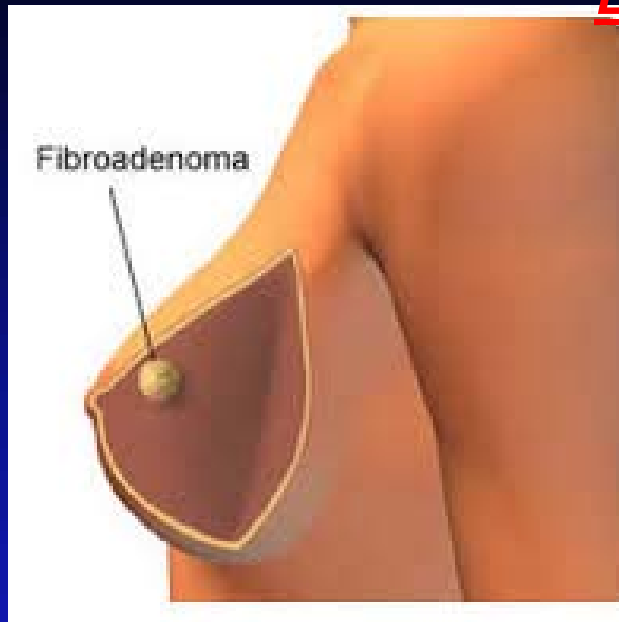
*Smyth et al, Lancet 2015*

*Rehm, BMJ 2015*

*Cao et al, BMJ 2015*

ALCOL

LESIONI ALLA MAMMELLA IN ACCRESCIMENTO

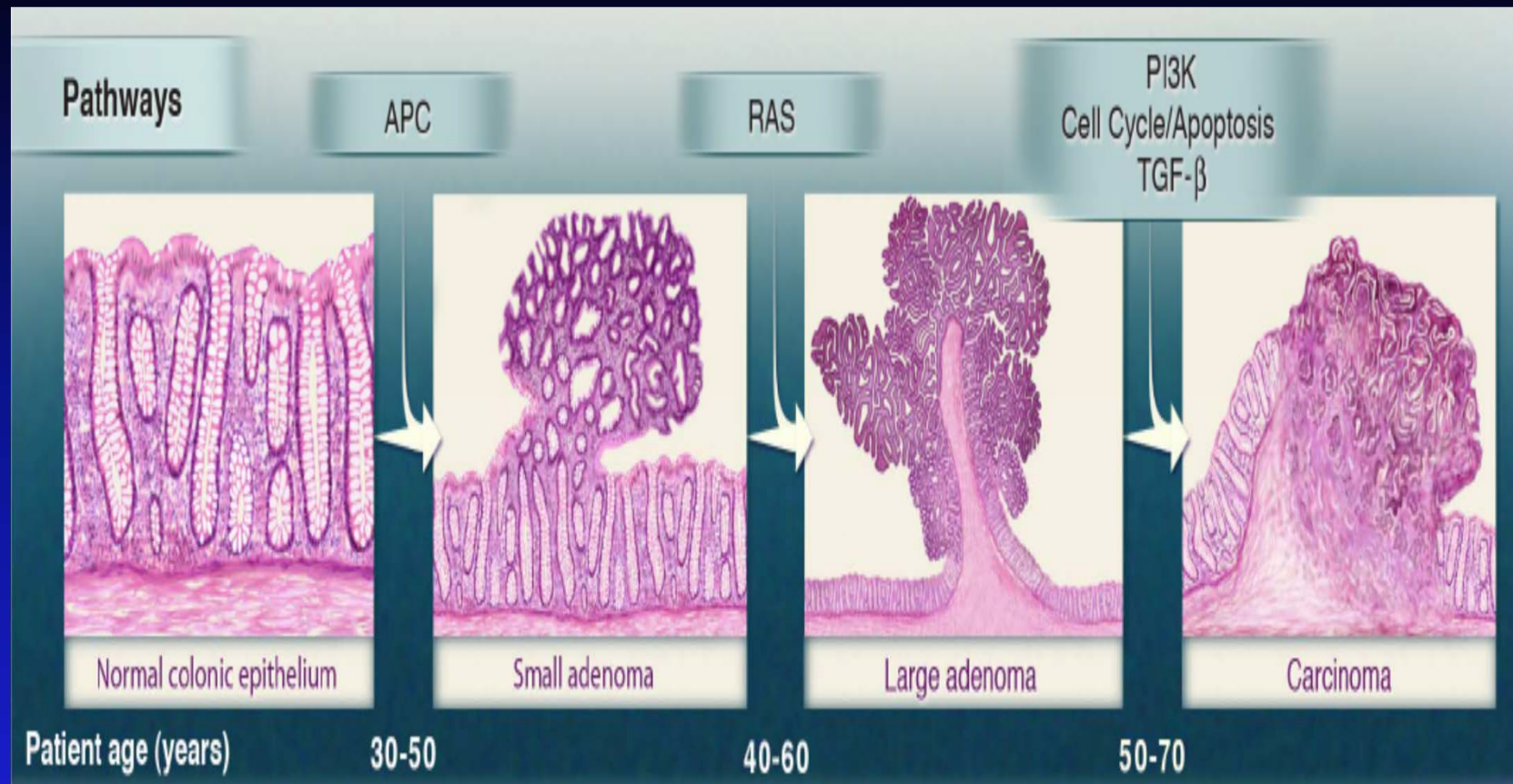


## **Prospective Study of Adolescent Alcohol Consumption and Risk of Benign Breast Disease in Young Women**

<b>Drinking Frequency</b>	<b>OR</b>
<b>Never to less than weekly</b>	<b>1.00 (referent)</b>
<b>1-2 U/ wk</b>	<b>1.72</b>
<b>3-5 U/ wk</b>	<b>3.34</b>
<b>6-7 U/ wk</b>	<b>5.94</b>

**Berkey CS et al, Pediatrics 2010**

**Printz C, Cancer 2010**



**Social Consumption**

*Testino, 2011*

*Volgelstein et al, Science 2013*

## ***IMPACT OF ALDH2-DEFICIENCY GENES ON THE RISK FOR OESOPHAGEAL CANCER***

<b>Genes/polymorphisms</b>	<b>Alcohol 1-30 g/day</b>	<b>Alcohol &gt; 30/ g/day</b>
<b>ALDH2-active</b>	<b>OR &lt;7.2</b>	
<b>ALDH2-deficiency</b>	<b>OR 14.5</b>	<b>OR 102.5</b>
<b>Slow ADH1B + ALDH2-deficiency</b>	<b>OR 37.5</b>	<b>OR 382.3</b>

***Salaspuro M, Scand J Gastroenterol 2009***





Social Drinker

ADH = Alcool deidrogenasi

CIP2E1 = Citocromo P-4502E1

ALDH = Aldeide deidrogenasi



# **GENDER DIFFERENCES IN ALCOHOL METABOLISM**

**Smaller volume of distribution of ethanol**

**Sex hormones**

**Decreased first-pass metabolism or more rapid absorption**

*Hepatic ADH activity reduced*

**Liver volume**

**Hepatic P450IIE1 (?)**

***STOMACO: FEMMINE***

Cardia

**ALCOLDEIDROGENASI**

**Corpo-Fundica**

**Ridotta di circa 40-50%**

Piloro

Canale  
pilorico

Antro  
pilorico

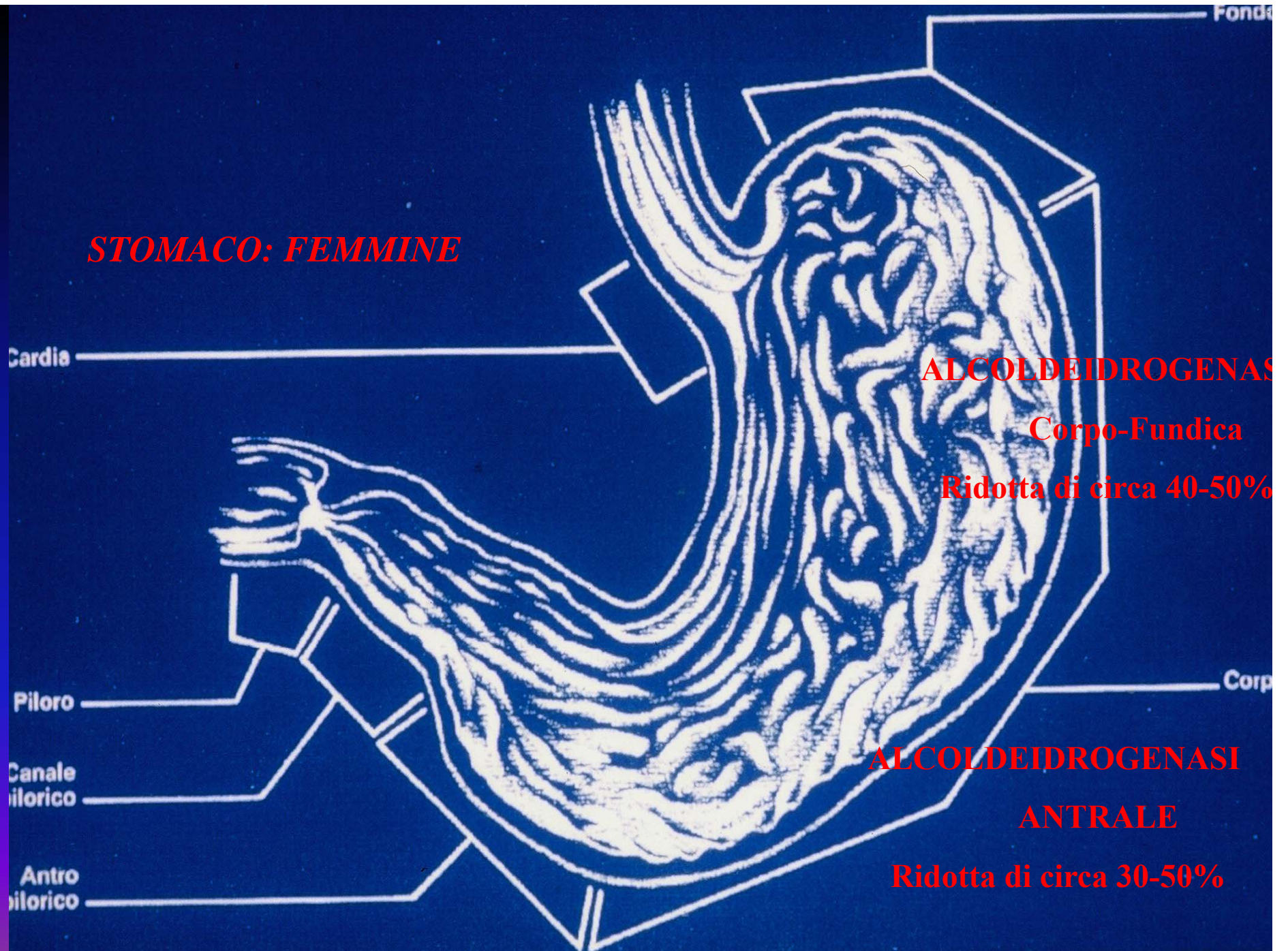
**ALCOLDEIDROGENASI**

**ANTRALE**

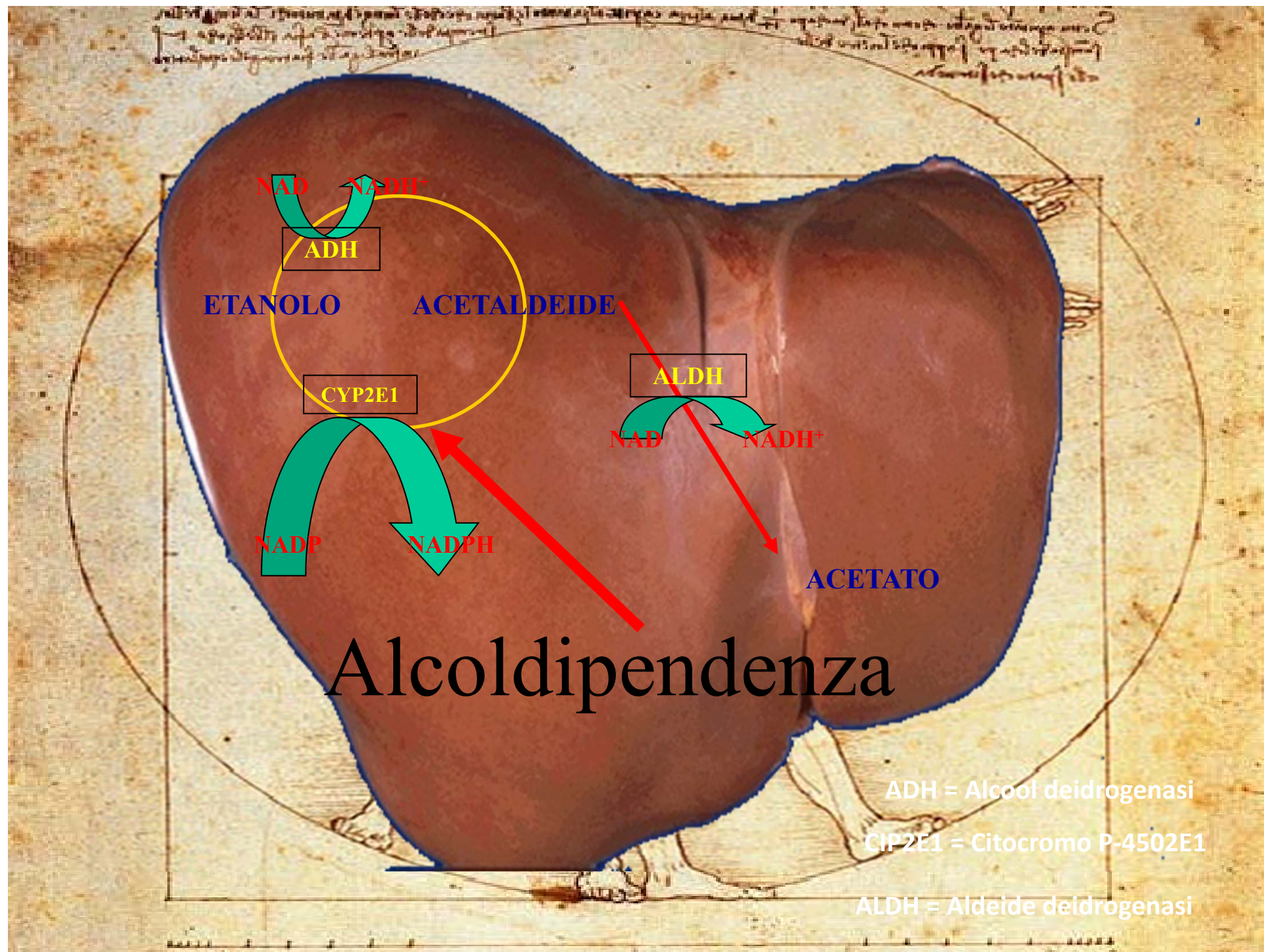
**Ridotta di circa 30-50%**

Corpo

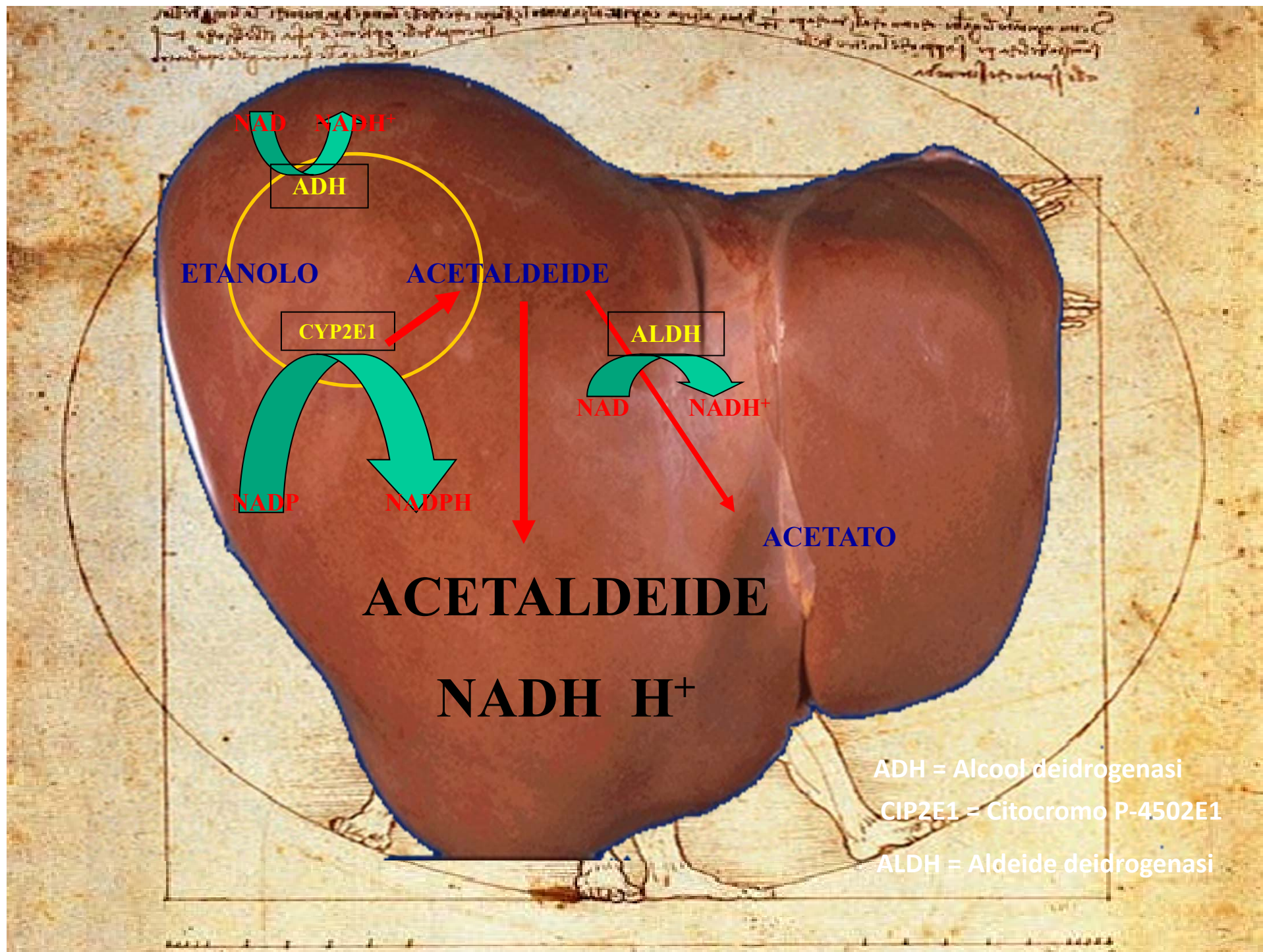
Fondo



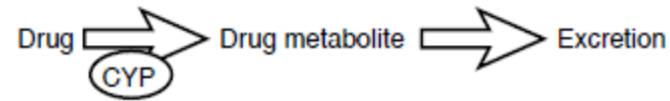




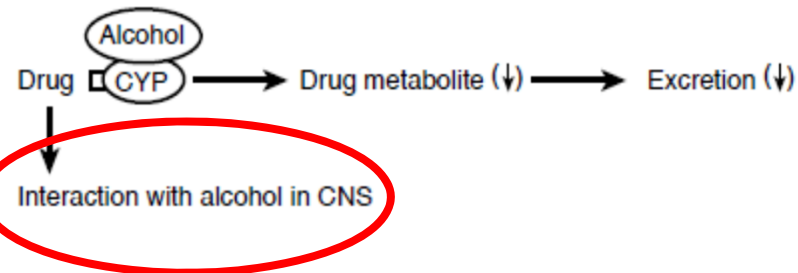




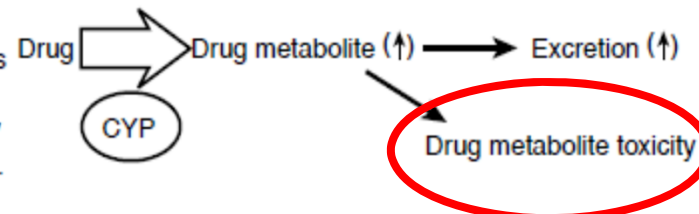
(A) In the absence of alcohol, CYP activity is relatively low. CYP breaks down the medication, and the resulting products (i.e., metabolites) are excreted.



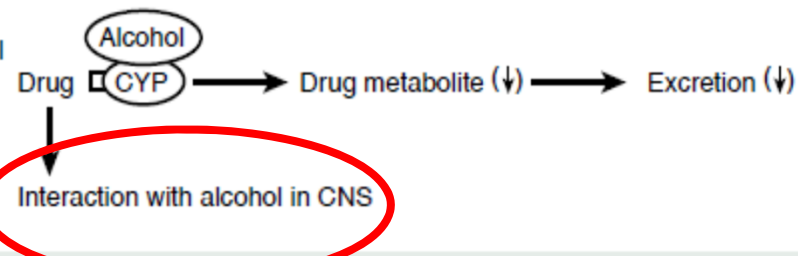
(B) After moderate alcohol consumption, CYP metabolizes alcohol in addition to the medication. As a result of competition for CYP between alcohol and the medication, the medication's metabolism is reduced, and the production of metabolites as well as their excretion declines, resulting in higher medication levels in the body. In addition, interactions between alcohol and the medication may occur in the central nervous system (CNS).



(C) In chronic heavy drinkers who are sober, CYP activity is enhanced. As a result, the breakdown of medications metabolized by CYP increases, and metabolite levels as well as their excretion are elevated, possibly resulting in insufficient medication levels in the body. Furthermore, toxic metabolites may accumulate.



(D) In chronic heavy drinkers who are intoxicated, CYP is activated, but most of the enzyme is involved in alcohol metabolism. Consequently, the CYP-dependent metabolism of other medications is reduced, and metabolite levels and their excretion decline. Alcohol-medication interactions also can occur in the CNS.





# Potential for Alcohol and Prescription Drug Interactions in Older People

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**OBJECTIVES:** To examine the patterns and prevalence of concomitant alcohol and alcohol-interactive (AI) drug use in older people.

**DESIGN:** Cross-sectional analysis of survey and prescription claims data.

**SETTING:** The Pennsylvania Pharmaceutical Assistance Contract for the Elderly (PA-PACE) program, a state-funded program providing prescription benefits to older people with low to moderate incomes.

**PARTICIPANTS:** A total of 83,321 PA-PACE cardholders (age range 65–106) who were using any prescription medications at the time of survey completion.

**MEASUREMENTS:** All AI drugs were identified using a database of medication warning labels obtained from First DataBank. Prescription drug claims were used to characterize AI drug exposure according to therapeutic class of prescription drug use. A mail survey of PA-PACE cardholders was used to examine alcohol use, as well as sociodemographic and health factors associated with concomitant use of alcohol and AI drugs.

**RESULTS:** Seventy-seven percent of all prescription drug users were exposed to AI medications, with significant variation in exposure and concomitant alcohol use according to therapeutic class. Overall, 19% of AI drug users reported concomitant alcohol use, compared with 26% of non-AI drug users ( $P < .001$ ). Multinomial logistic regression analyses showed that certain groups of older people, including younger older people, men, and those with higher educational levels, were at greater risk for concomitant exposure to alcohol and AI drugs.

**CONCLUSION:** Many older people use alcohol in combination with AI prescription drugs. Clinicians should warn

every patient who is prescribed an AI drug about alcohol-drug interactions, especially those at high risk for concomitant exposure. *J Am Geriatr Soc* 53:1930–1936, 2005.

**Key words:** elderly; alcohol; prescription drug use; alcohol-drug interactions; concomitant use of alcohol and prescription drugs

Significant problems can result from the concomitant use of prescription drugs and alcohol.<sup>1</sup> For example, alcohol enhances the sedative effects of antidepressants, antihistamines, barbiturates, muscle relaxants, benzodiazepines, and opioids,<sup>1</sup> creating the potential for serious consequences, such as falls, automobile accidents, or even death.<sup>2,3</sup> When alcohol is used in combination with nonsteroidal antiinflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), stomach bleeding, gastric inflammation, and liver damage can result.<sup>1–3</sup> Alcohol-related adverse drug reactions (ADRs) are an important health concern for individuals of all ages, but the concern is especially salient for older people, because they are more likely to use multiple alcohol-interactive (AI) drugs.<sup>1,4</sup> Although older people typically have low rates of heavy drinking,<sup>5,6</sup> many older adults engage in patterns of alcohol consumption that exceed current guidelines.<sup>6</sup> In addition, even small amounts of alcohol consumed by an older person who is taking multiple medications can have serious consequences.<sup>7,8</sup>

Prior research suggests that older people are at risk for adverse effects due to concomitant use of alcohol and AI medications. One study<sup>9</sup> found that 25% of community-dwelling older people were at risk for alcohol-drug interactions. Another study<sup>10</sup> showed that nearly 38% of older people in three retirement communities were drinkers who used AI drugs. A third study found that more than 60% of older people referred for prescription drug abuse showed evidence of alcohol abuse.<sup>7</sup> Other research has suggested that—considering individuals of all ages—alcohol-drug interactions are a factor in at least 25% of emergency department admissions.<sup>11</sup> Despite the likelihood of severe adverse effects of alcohol-drug interactions, most studies of ADRs in older people have focused on concomitant use of

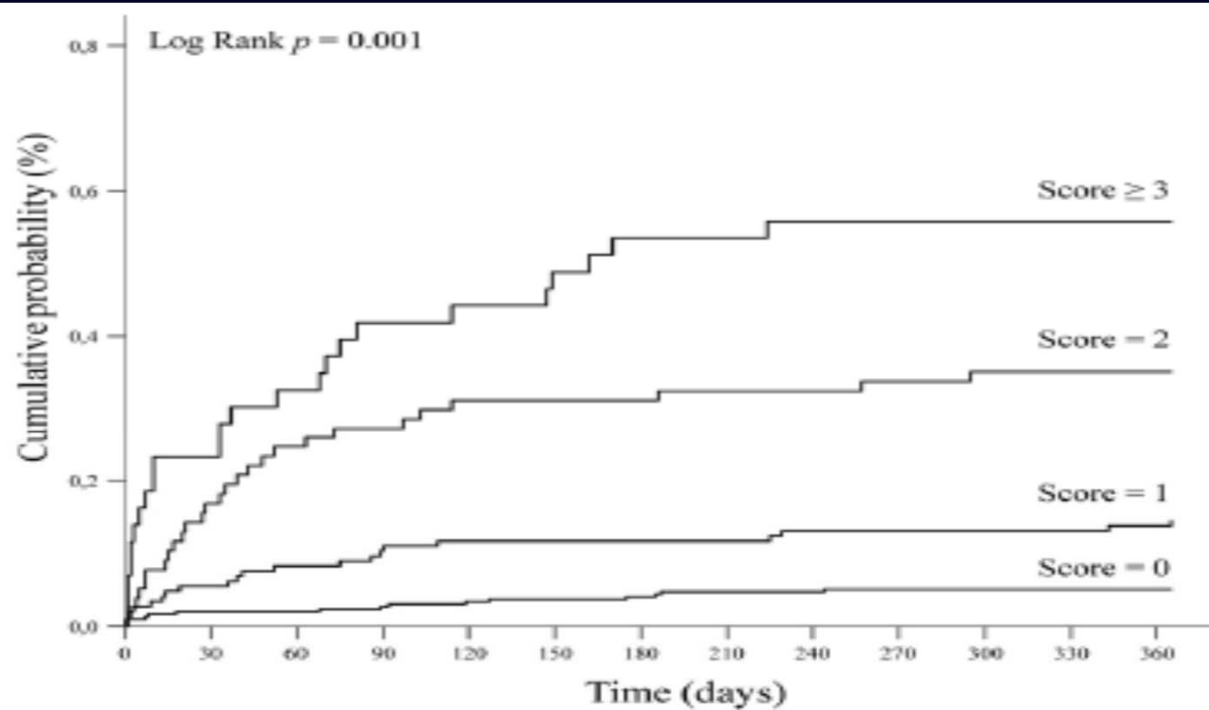
From the \*First Health Services Corporation/Pennsylvania Pharmaceutical Assistance Contract for the Elderly, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; <sup>†</sup>Department of Biobehavioral Health, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania; and <sup>‡</sup>Pennsylvania Department of Aging, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

This paper was presented at the 132nd annual meeting of the American Public Health Association, November 2004.

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DOI: 10.1111/j.1532-5415.2005.00474.x





**Fig. 2.** Cumulative probability of readmission to the Emergency Department (ED) for Acute Alcohol Intoxication (AAI) within one year in patients presenting 0, 1, 2 or  $\geq 3$  risk factors at the first admission to the ED in the year 2014.

Past episodes of alcohol abuse

Social discomfort

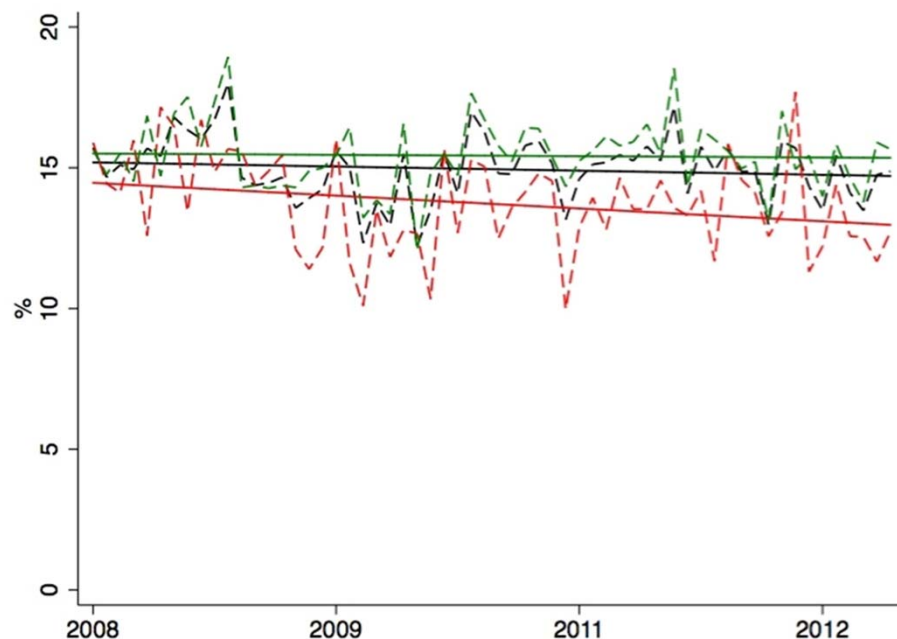
Previous traumas

Psychiatric disorders

*Baldassarre et al, Addictive Behaviors 2018*

## Trend del consumo di alcol chiesto dal medico

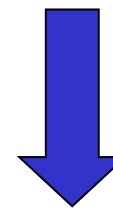
Prevalenze mensili - Pool di Asl - Passi 2008-12



Pool	Stime puntuali	Trend
18-34 anni	-----	----- *
35-69 anni	-----	-----

\* Sign. (p<0,01)

**Attenzione degli operatori sanitari al consumo di alcol\***



**15%**

- Significative differenze regionali: dal 7% della Basilicata al 25 del Friuli Venezia-Giulia

- Significativo trend in diminuzione nella classe di età più giovane (18-34 anni)

\* Persone, che sono state dal medico o da un operatore sanitario negli ultimi 12 mesi, a cui è stato chiesto se bevono



guadagnare  
salute  
rendere facili le scelte salutari



ccm



# ALCOL SCREENING SCORES (CAGE e AUDIT)

## RISCHIO DI COMPLICANZE GASTROINTESTINALI

Pazienti al di sotto di 50 anni

**con CAGE > 2 o AUDIT > 4**

hanno un rischio aumentato sino a 7 volte,  
dopo un periodo di osservazione di 4/5 anni,  
di sviluppare complicanze come:

- Cirrosi epatica scompensata
- Sanguinamento da varici gastro-esofagee
- Pancreatite

*Au DH et Al, Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research 2007; 31:443*

# ALCOHOL SCREENING AND BRIEF INTERVENTION FOR YOUTH

## A PRACTITIONER'S GUIDE



National Institute  
on Alcohol Abuse  
and Alcoholism

2015

**C:** Have you ever ridden in a **CAR** driven by someone (including yourself) who was “high” or had been using alcohol or drugs?

**R:** Do you ever use alcohol or drugs to **RELAX**, feel better about yourself, or fit in?

**A:** Do you ever use alcohol or drugs while you are by yourself, **ALONE**?

**F:** Do you ever **FORGET** things you did while using alcohol or drugs?

**F:** Do your family or **FRIENDS** ever tell you that you should cut down on your drinking or drug use?

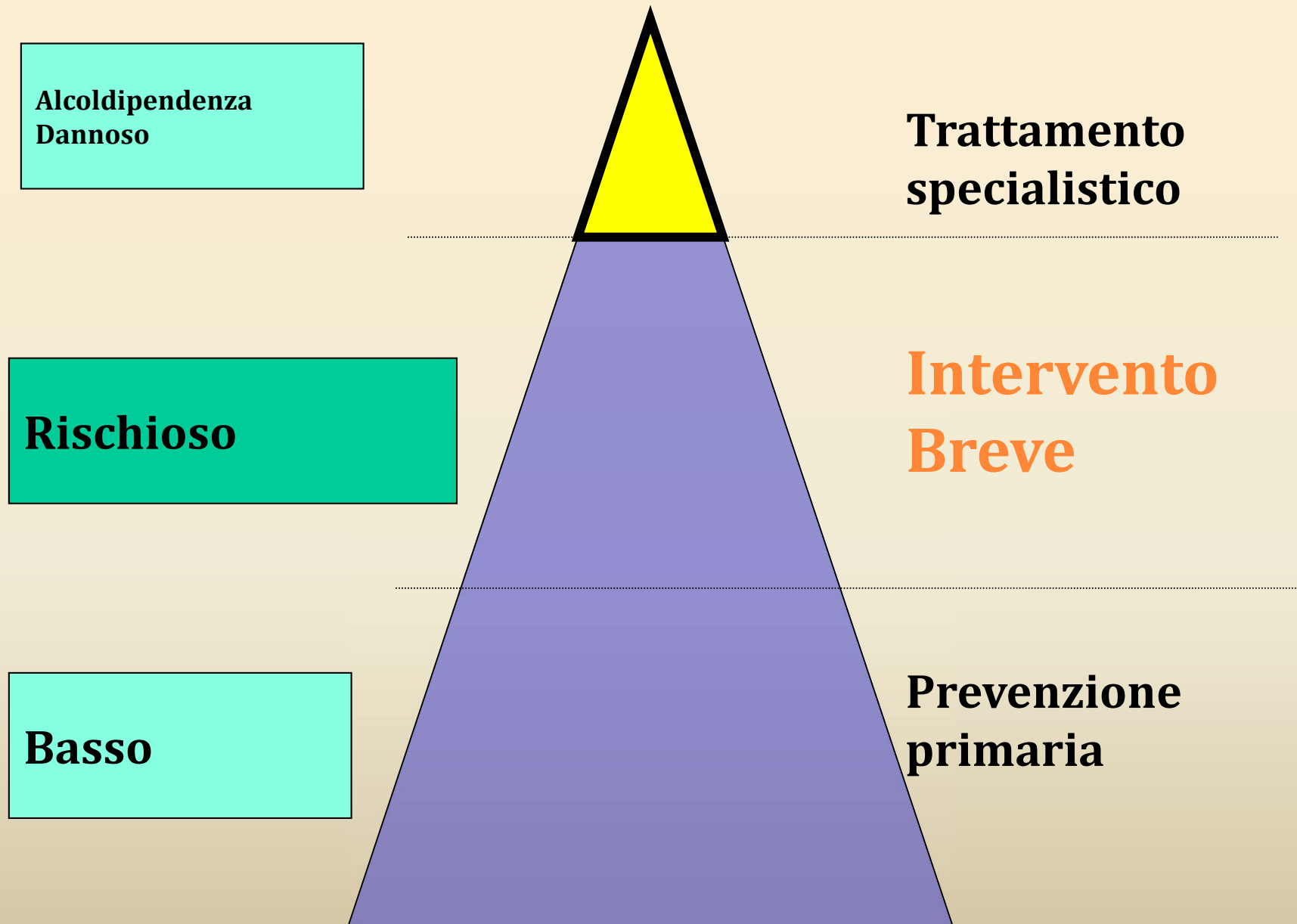
**T:** Have you ever gotten into **TROUBLE** while you were using alcohol or drugs?

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Johnston, L. D., O'Malley, P. M., Bachman, J. G., & Schulenberg, J. E. (2011). *Monitoring the Future national survey results on adolescent drug use: Overview of key findings, 2010*. Ann Arbor: Institute for Social Research, The University of Michigan, 77 pp.

2-3 risposte approfondimento/ 4 risposte probabile dipendenza

# GRAVITÀ CONSUMO/PPAC e TIPO DI INTERVENTO



**Consumption  
Heavy**

**Alcohol Consumption**

**Consequences  
severe**

**Alcohol  
dependence**

**Advanced  
Alcoholic Diseases**

**Harmful**



**Risky use**

**Alcoholic diseases**

**None**

**Low risk use**

**Abstinence**

**None**



**Consumption  
Heavy**

**Alcohol Consumption**

**Consequences  
severe**

**Alcohol  
dependence**

**Advanced  
Alcoholic Diseases**

**Harmful**

**Risky use**

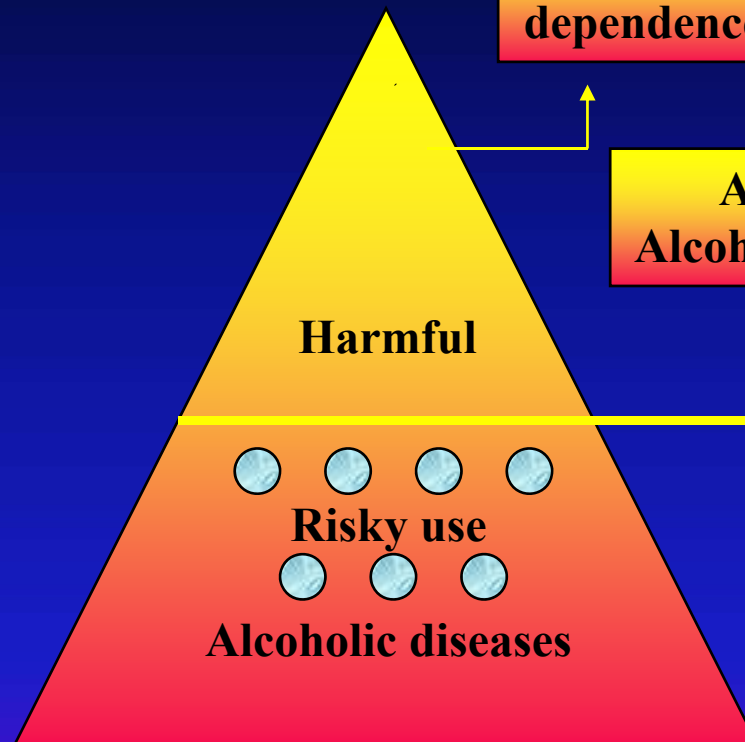
**Alcoholic diseases**

**Low risk use**

**Abstinence**

**None**

**None**



Grazie