

HEPATOCELLULAR CARCINOMA

Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) is a cancer of the liver. It affects individuals of any ethnicity or gender. The median age of individuals diagnosed with HCC is 69 years. Early detection of the disease significantly improves the management and outcome of HCC.

Risk factors of HCC include a history of long term liver disease such as hepatitis B or C, and alcoholic liver disease with physical signs of HCC ranging from unintentional weight loss, jaundice, persistent itching, abdominal discomfort or distention, fever, and

gastrointestinal hemorrhage. The symptoms arise and intensify as the tumor grows and starts affecting the liver function.

Diagnostics include blood tests, a liver biopsy, and clinical imaging such as

MRI, CT, and Alpha-Fetoprotein testing. Common treatment plans include but are not limited to surgical removal of the tumor, a liver transplant, radiation, and chemotherapy, as well as targeted drug therapy.

Liver with hepatocellular carcinoma

Three lesions visible across both lobes

