Background:
Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC) is the third leading cause of cancer deaths worldwide with the incidence growing due to an increase in associated risk factors. The incidence of HCC varies by region, and while the incidence of HCC is increasing worldwide, there are regional differences in the magnitude of this increase.

Aim:
- To estimate the change in global HCC incidence over the next ten years due to the change in HCC risk factors.
- To compare the increase in HCC incidence across regions worldwide.

Methods:
To estimate the incidence of HCC, we obtained data reported by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) on the incidence of liver cancer (ICD-10 code C22) from country-specific cancer registries, and country-specific histological data on the proportion of liver cancer cases comprised of HCC (ICD-10 histology codes: B170-B175). Our analysis includes people of all ages.

We identified hepatitis B virus, hepatitis C virus, alcohol abuse, and obesity as the main risk factors associated with HCC and developed an incidence forecast model for HCC that incorporates the effect of changes in exposure to each of these risk factors.

The risk-factor-based incidence model incorporates a 20-year lag and uses age- and gender-specific prevalence data for each risk factor.

Results:
In 2016, the incidence of HCC ranged from 2 per 100,000 in Latin America to 23 per 100,000 in high-income Asian countries (Figure 1) resulting in 13,000 and 414,000 cases of HCC respectively (Figure 2).

Conclusions:
The incidence of HCC will continue to increase over the next ten years due to an increase in risk factors, and demographic changes. The greatest increase in incidence of HCC will be observed in Latin America.

References:

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