

# EFFECT OF HBV AND HCV SEROPREVALENCES IN THE GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF PRIMARY LIVER CANCER IN EUROPE DURING 2002

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Primary liver cancer (PLC) in Europe, represents about 2% of the total new cancer cases diagnosed in Europe during 2002. Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) and Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) are the main risk factors for PLC, accounting for well over 80% of PLC cases detected worldwide. Our aims have been 1) to determine the variability on incidence and mortality PLC risk between European countries, and 2) to explain this variability according to HBV and HCV exposures in both sexes. Incidence and mortality data from PLC have been obtained through a combination of the reports of the population-based cancer registries and the World Health Organization (WHO) mortality databank. Risk factors have been measured in terms of HBV (HBsAg-positive) and HCV (anti-HCV) population seroprevalences. The number of European countries included in the study was 38. We have calculated the Standardized incidence (SIR) and mortality (SMR) ratios for PLC using the European population as reference population. Areal data models based on Bayesian inference have been used in order to smooth PLC Relative Risk (RR) accounting for the effect of covariates HBV and HCV prevalences.