

Population Based Screening for HBV - Critical Step to Improve the Clinical Outcomes of HCC Patients in Africa: Survey Study from African Practitioners

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BACKGROUND

- Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) is a leading cause of cancer-related death in Africa.
- Recently, investigators from the Africa Network for Gastrointestinal and Liver Diseases reported that only 3% of HCC patients receive cancer treatment (except for Egypt).¹
- The median survival of the HCC patients was only 2-5 months.
- The aim of the study is to investigate the causes of the dismal outcomes for HCC in Africa.

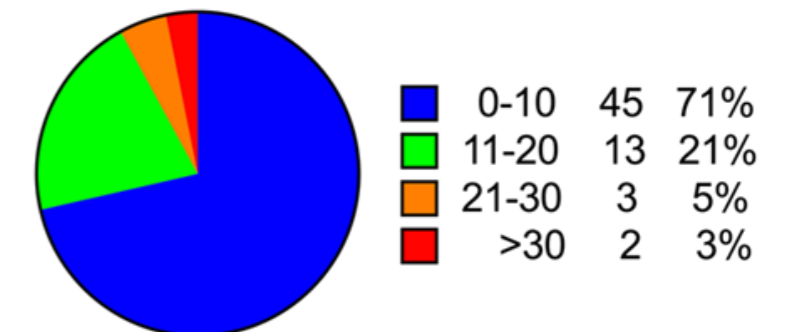
METHODS

- A web-based survey was conducted.
- Investigators from the Africa Network for Gastrointestinal and Liver Diseases and their local practice partners and collaborators who currently practice in Africa were eligible.
- Survey was conducted between November 2016 and February 2017.
- HCC surveillance was defined as US or AFP at 6 month intervals in the absence of suspicion for cancer or cancer related symptoms.
- Survey respondents were asked to answer a series of 5 questions that assessed general knowledge about HCC.

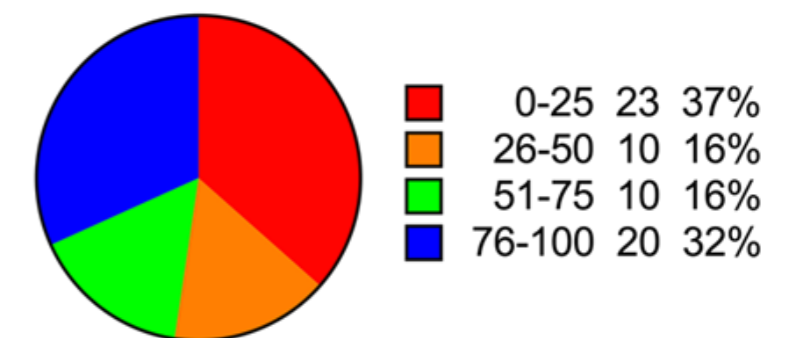
RESULTS

- 63 participants
- 58 referral centers
- 14 African countries

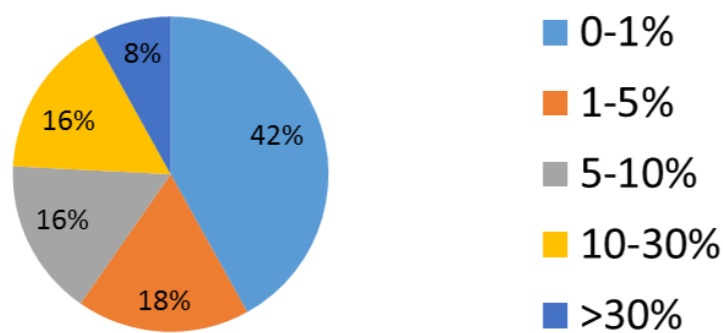
Number of New HCC Cases Seen per Month



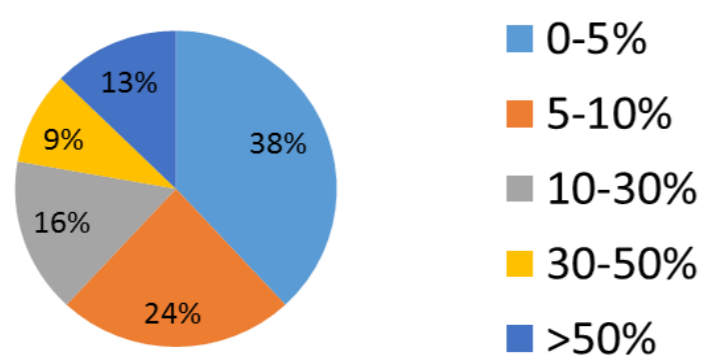
Percent of At Risk Patients Receiving Surveillance



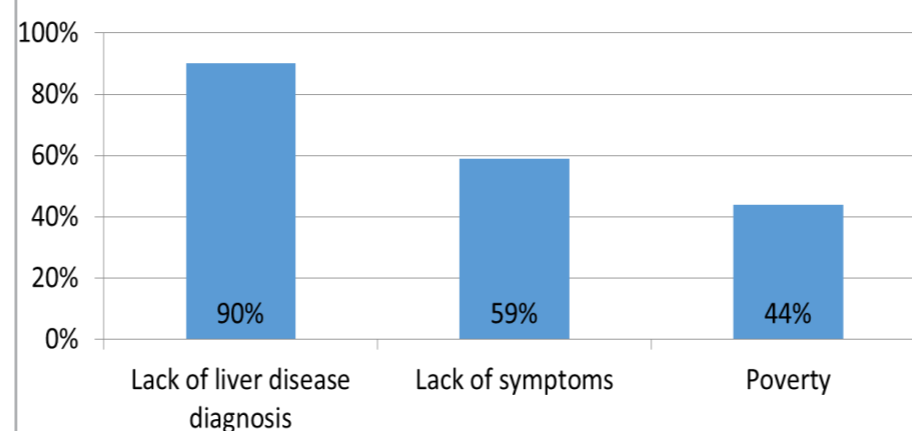
HCC diagnosis under surveillance



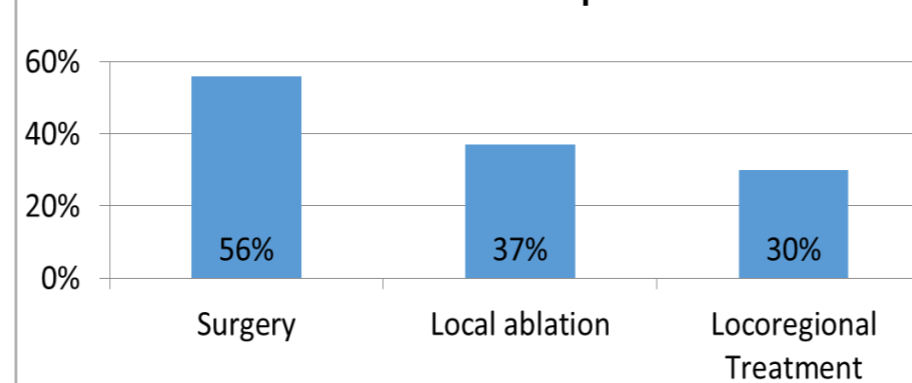
HBV diagnosis before HCC diagnosis



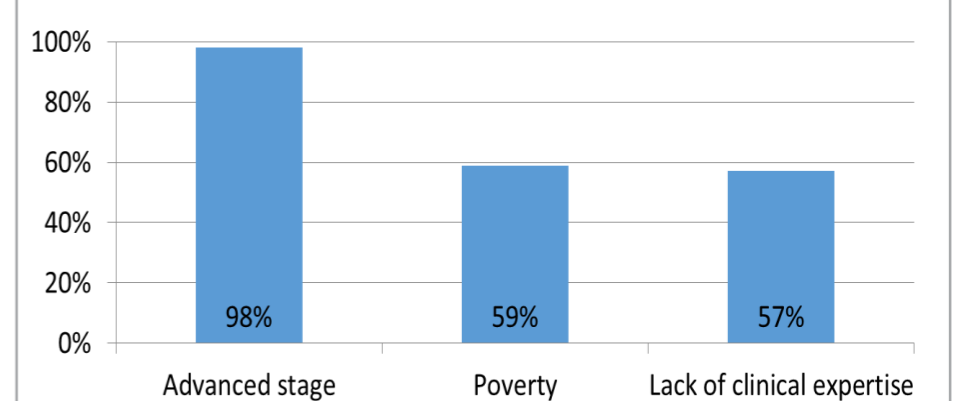
Barriers to HCC surveillance



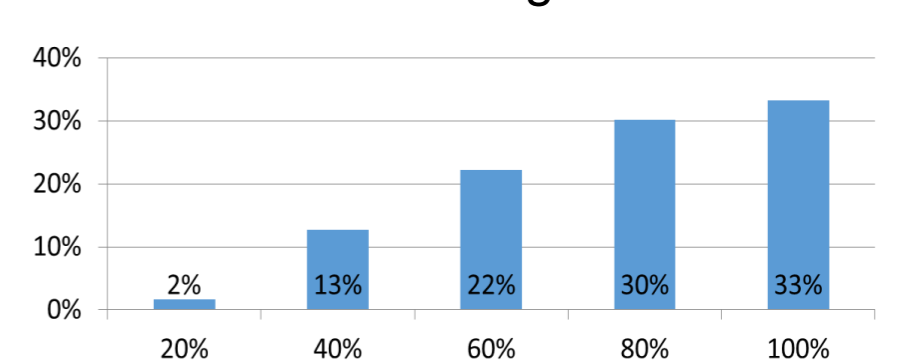
Available treatment options for HCC



Reason for no treatment



Level of knowledge on HCC



CONCLUSIONS

- A web-based survey showed that only a small proportion of HCC patients with underlying HBV are diagnosed with HBV before the diagnosis of HCC.
- This contributes to detection of HCC at advanced stages at which no treatment can be offered.
- Population based screening for HBV will be a critical strategy for identifying candidates for HCC surveillance.
- HCC surveillance can lead to earlier detection of HCC and improve the dismal clinical outcomes of HCC patients in Africa.

REFERENCES

- Yang JD et al, Characteristics, management, and outcomes of patients with hepatocellular carcinoma in Africa: a multicountry observational study from the Africa Liver Cancer Consortium. Lancet Gastro 2017

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nothing to disclose

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