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# Impact of Atrial Fibrillation on Inpatient Outcomes of Patients With Liver Cirrhosis: 2017-2018 National Inpatient Sample Database

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## Introduction

Atrial fibrillation (AF) is the most common sustained cardiac arrhythmia in medical practice. We conducted this retrospective study to investigate an association between AF and liver cirrhosis (LC).

## Methods

The National Inpatient Sample database (2017 and 2018) was used for data analysis to identify patients with the principal diagnosis of LC and a secondary diagnosis of AF. We assessed the in-hospital mortality, length of stay, and total charge in liver cirrhosis patients with and without AF using multivariate logistic and linear regression analysis. Multiple confounders like Charlson comorbidity index (CCI), coronary artery disease, congestive heart failure, smoking, hyperlipidemia, alcohol intake, diabetes mellitus, obesity, myocardial infarction, percutaneous coronary intervention, coronary artery bypass graft, peripheral artery disease, gender, age, race, hospital region, hospital teaching status, hospital bed size, and patients economic status were included to adjust for biases.

# Results

410,824 patients were admitted with liver cirrhosis and 32866 had AF and LC. Mean LOS 5.67 days, mean age 57 years, and 39% female.

AF increases odds of mortality in LC patients irrespective of all the confounders stated above (OR) 1.48, p = 0.000, 95% Confidence Interval (Cl) 1.33 – 1.65. Factors contributing to higher odds of mortality include alcohol intake, age, weekend admission, patients admitted at teaching hospitals and a larger center.

AF increases mean length of stay by 1.0 days in liver cirrhosis patients independent of all the confounders (p = 0.000, 95% CI 0.68 – 1.14). CHF, obesity, female gender, patients treated at teaching hospital, and patients treated at medium/large sized hospital increases mean LOS.

AF increases mean total hospital charges by \$14895 (p = 0.000, 95% Cl 9591 – 7716) in liver cirrhosis patients. Patients treated at teaching hospital, and patients treated at medium/large sized hospital increases total charge (Table 1,2,3).

Patients with a higher Charlson Comorbidity Index had increased odds of mortality, LOS, and total inpatient hospital charge.

## Discussion

This study highlights the poor outcome of liver cirrhosis patients who develops atrial fibrillation. Limitation of this study includes retrospective analysis, the possibility of incomplete or misclassified diagnoses and unmeasured clinical variables skewing the outcomes that were not considered so larger prospective studies needs to be conducted to understand the outcomes clearly.

### Table 1: Mortality

rable i: Mortality						
Variables (Mortality)	Coefficient	p-Value	95% Confidence Interval			
Atrial Fibrillation	1.48	0.000	1.33-1.66			
Charlson Comorbidity Index	1.13	0.000	1.11—1.15			
History of Coronary Artery Disease	0.88	0.065	0.78—1.01			
History of Congestive Heart Failure	0.93	0.158	0.83-1.03			
History of smoking	0.73	0.000	0.67-0.80			
Hyperlipidemia	0.73	0.000	0.66-0.81			
Alcohol Intake	1.14	0.001	1.05-1.22			
Diabetes Mellitus	0.61	0.000	0.54-0.68			
Obesity	0.73	0.000	0.65-0.81			
Prior Myocardial Infarction	0.76	0.016	0.61-0.95			
Percutaneous Coronary Intervention	0.69	0.349	0.32-1.49			
Coronary Artery Bypass Graft	0.79	0.073	0.62-1.02			
Peripheral Artery Disease	0.85	0.308	0.63-1.16			
Weekend Admission	1.12	0.002	1.04-1.21			
Age	1.01	0.000	1.01-1.02			
Female	0.90	0.002	0.84-0.96			
Hospital Teaching Status	1.11	0.009	1.03-1.20			
Hospital Bedsize (compared to small)						
Medium	1.08	0.142	097-1.20			
Large	1.17	0.000	1.06-1.29			

#### Table 2: Length of Stay

	Table 2. Length of Stay					
	Variables (Length of Stay)	Coefficient	p-Value	95% Confidence Interval		
	Atrial Fibrillation	0.91	0.000	0.68-1.14		
	Charlson Comorbidity Index	0.32	0.000	0.29-0.3		
	History of Coronary Artery Disease	-0.23	0.005	-0.40— -0.07		
	History of Congestive Heart Failure	0.29	0.007	0.08-0.50		
	History of smoking	-0.66	0.000	-0.77— -0.5		
	Hyperlipidemia	-0.50	0.000	-0.62 <del>-</del> -0.38		
	Alcohol Intake	-0.06	0.329	-0.17-0.0		
	Diabetes Mellitus	-1.16	0.000	-1.281.05		
	Obesity	0.24	0.001	0.09-0.39		
	Prior Myocardial Infarction	-0.87	0.000	-1.100.64		
	Percutaneous Coronary Intervention	-0.34	0.237	-0.91-0.23		
	Coronary Artery Bypass Graft	-0.60	0.000	-0.830.36		
	Peripheral Artery Disease	-0.33	0.082	-0.70-0.0		
	Weekend Admission	-0.06	0.281	-0.17—0.0		
	Age	-0.02	0.000	-0.030.02		
	Female	0.22	0.000	0.15-0.32		
	Hospital Teaching Status	1.11	0.000	0.97—1.24		
	Hospital Bedsize (c	ompared to s	mall)			
	Medium	0.52	0.000	0.36-0.69		
	Large	1.37	0.000	1.20-1.54		

#### Table 3: Total Hospital Charge

Variable (Total Charge)	Coefficient	p-Value	95% Confidence Intervals			
Atrial Fibrillation	14895	0.000	9,591-20,197			
Charlson Comorbidity Index	4782	0.000	4,160-5,405			
History of Coronary Artery Disease	123	0.940	-3,100 <del>-</del> 3,34 <i>6</i>			
History of Congestive Heart Failure	-5327	0.070	-11,083—429			
History of smoking	-7439	0.000	-10,037— -4,842			
Hyperlipidemia	-8056	0.000	-10,512			
Alcohol Intake	-11974	0.000	-14,821 <del>-</del> -9,126			
Diabetes Mellitus	-16714	0.000	-19,342 <del>-</del> -14,08 <i>6</i>			
Obesity	3292	0.036	218-6,365			
Prior Myocardial Infarction	-19003	0.000	-22,806— -15,200			
Percutaneous Coronary Intervention	-4370	0.443	-15,528—6,789			
Coronary Artery Bypass Graft	-10632	0.000	-14,358 <del>-</del> -6,906			
Peripheral Artery Disease	-9001	0.000	-13,995— -4,006			
Weekend Admission	-604	0.580	-2,744—1,535			
Age	-535	0.000	-637 <del>-</del> -433			
Female	-1979	0.034	-3,808150			
Hospital Teaching Status	23616	0.000	19,908—27,324			
Hospital Bedsize (compared to small)						
Medium	11845	0.000	8,114—1,5576			
Large	29959	0.000	25,070 <del>-</del> 34,847			

