

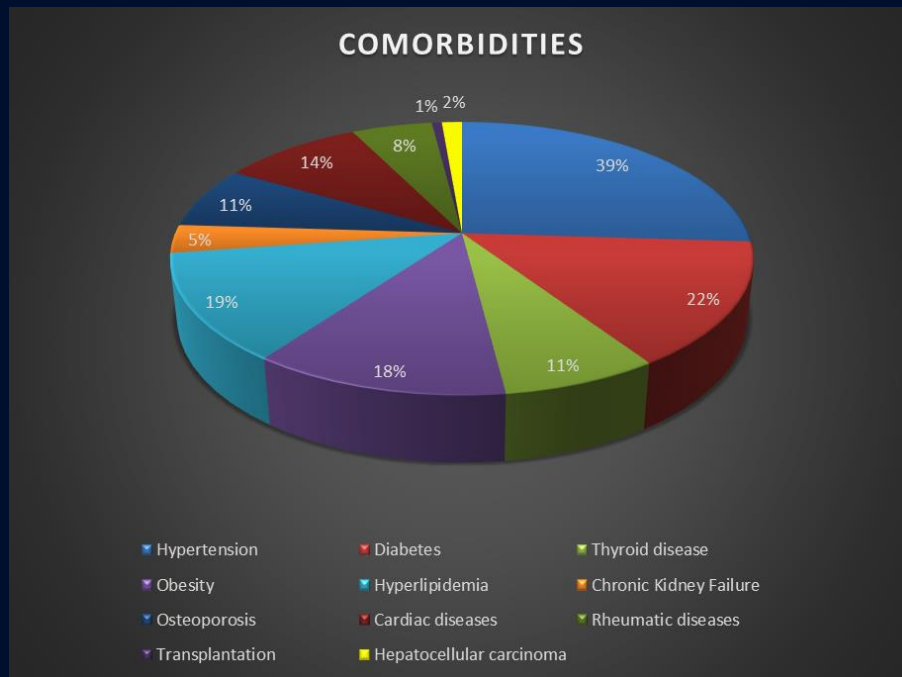
## PATIENTS WITH CHRONIC HEPATITIS B(CHB) WITH NUCS TREATMENT AND COMORBIDITIES IN GREECE

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**Background & Aims:** Chronic viral hepatitis is caused by the hepatitis B virus and is a major public health problem worldwide. Viral hepatitis B affects a large part of the population, associated with significant morbidity and mortality and requires special therapeutic interventions. In our country, the prevalence for chronic hepatitis B is estimated at 2.5-3% of the population and the incidence of chronic viral hepatitis varies by geographical area and population. It is known that a significant percentage of patients with chronic hepatitis B end up with complications of chronic infection such as liver cirrhosis, hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC), liver failure and death if not monitored and treated specifically for antivirals. The hepatitis B virus is transmitted sexually, parenterally and from a mother with HBsAg (+) to the child during pregnancy or childbirth (vertical transmission). Patients with CHB treated with Nucs prevent cirrhosis of the liver and the occurrence of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). In our study we evaluated the comorbidities in a large sample of patients with CHB treated with NUCS.

**Methods:** Our study included 225 patients with CHB (excluding HCV / HD / HIV infection) receiving long-term treatment with NUCS. Data on comorbidities, medication and laboratory imaging were recorded.



**Conclusions:** Patients with CHB under long-term treatment with NUCS (ETV / TDF) are over 56 years old with many comorbidities and need intensive medical care due to other pathological problems.

**Results:** The patients had a mean age of  $56 \pm 14$  years (58% were over 56 and 55% were men, 72% were of Greek origin). They received 98% monotherapy with NUCS (ETV / TDF / TAF). Uncompensated cirrhosis was observed in 5 (2.2%) patients, while in 5 (2.2%) patients developed HCC under treatment. The mean duration of treatment was  $72 \pm 60$  months. Liver and kidney function was performed every 3 months, HBV-DNA PCR every 12 months and liver elastography every 12-18 months.

The most common comorbidities were: Hypertension:39%, Diabetes:22%, Thyroid disease :11%, Obesity :18%, Hyperlipidemia :19%, Chronic Kidney Failure :5%, Osteoporosis :11%, Cardiac diseases :14%, Rheumatic diseases :8%, Transplantation:1% and Hepatocellular carcinoma:2%. Patients on long-term treatment over 48 months had a mean age > 56 years.

