

LIVERHOPE EFFICACY STUDY

The EC H2020 funded LiverHope Project is performing a randomized double-blind trial to investigate the efficacy of the combination of simvastatin plus rifaximin in patients with decompensated cirrhosis to **halt** progression to acute-on-chronic liver failure (ACLF), **decrease** complications of the disease, **reduce** hospital readmissions, **improve** cost-effectiveness, **improve** patients quality-of-life, and **increase survival**. This Trial is being performed in 14 hospitals in 7 European countries. The administration of the combined treatment with simvastatin and rifaximin is a very innovative approach to therapy of cirrhosis that targets both the systemic inflammation and the alteration in gut microbiome and gut-liver axis that characterize advanced chronic liver diseases.

Preliminary results from a parallel clinical study of the LiverHope Consortium evaluating the effects of treatment with simvastatin and rifaximin on plasma metabolomic profile are very promising, indicating that this new combined treatment modulates some of the key metabolic pathways that appear to be critical in the development of ACLF and progression of cirrhosis (Hepatol Commun, in press).

The recruitment of patients with decompensated cirrhosis in the LiverHope Efficacy trial has now finished and the sample size has been reached. As of 30th November 2021 a total of 250 patients have been included. The last patients included will be followed-up until the end of 2022. Results of the study are expected during the first half of 2023.

