



Yaqrit's mHEST outperforms conventional staging of hepatic encephalopathy and demonstrates prognostic value in *Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology* publication

- mHEST staging tracks plasma ammonia levels and one-year survival in a stepwise manner, outperforming West Haven
- Online version of mHEST available from late 2026 to support research and broader validation

LONDON, October 6, 2026 -- Yaqrit, a late clinical-stage company developing life-saving treatments for advanced liver diseases, announced today the publication of data showing that the modified Hepatic Encephalopathy Staging Tool (mHEST) has prognostic value and is more reliable than the conventional West Haven criteria in staging hepatic encephalopathy (HE), a serious complication of advanced liver cirrhosis. The study, published in *Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology*^{*}, an official journal of the American Gastroenterological Association Institute, also shows clinical teams can use mHEST after minimal training. Yaqrit holds an exclusive license to mHEST, which will be used to assess HE stage in its planned phase 3 trial of the ammonia-scavenging agent YAQ006.

In a prospective study of 128 patients hospitalized with decompensated cirrhosis, conducted at the Royal Free Hospital, London, by the University College London Liver Failure Group, mHEST outperformed the West Haven criteria for staging HE on both diagnostic consistency and prognostic value. Two independent observers agreed on the mHEST grade in 95% of patients, compared with 52% for West Haven. Plasma ammonia levels and one-year transplant-free survival both tracked mHEST grades in a stepwise manner, which West Haven grades did not, and a low mHEST grade was independently associated with better one-year survival. The authors suggest that mHEST could better inform decisions on intensive care admission, liver transplant candidacy and clinical trial eligibility.

"Hepatic encephalopathy is one of the most frequent and frightening complications of cirrhosis, yet for almost fifty years we have graded it using criteria that depend heavily on subjective judgment," said **Rajiv Jalan, Professor of Hepatology at University College London, Founder and CMO of Yaqrit**, and senior author of the study. "This study shows mHEST produces reliable staging, particularly at the lower grades of HE, where West Haven is most difficult to apply, and that its grades carry real prognostic weight. Multicenter validation is the next step, but I believe mHEST has the potential to bring much-needed consistency to how this condition is diagnosed, staged and studied, that can be applied by the whole clinical team."

The paper in *Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology* includes the inter- and intra-rater reliability data that show, after brief training, mHEST can be applied consistently by a broad range of healthcare professionals caring for patients with advanced liver disease, including nurses and physician assistants, and not only by specialist physicians.

“The era of targeted therapy for liver disease is beginning and mHEST is an important component of that,” said **Troels Jordansen, Chief Executive Officer of Yaqrit**. “The ability to correlate staging with disease biomarkers and with patient prognosis is essential to well-controlled clinical studies in severe liver disease. mHEST provides a robust, evidence-based foundation for Yaqrit’s pursuit of treatments for advanced liver diseases.”

Yaqrit is working to make a version of the staging tool available through its website from late 2026 to support wider research and to facilitate broader validation and application of the approach.

*Kerbert AJC, Chesta C, Balachandran P, et al. Development and clinical evaluation of the modified Hepatic Encephalopathy Staging Tool. *Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology* 2026 (in press). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cgh.2026.09.011>

Contact Company

Troels Jordansen

Email: Troels@Yaqrit.com

Tel: +31 6 1834 5326

Contact Investors

Mary-Ann Chang

Email: Mary-Ann@Yaqrit.com

Tel: +44 7483 284 853

About Yaqrit

Yaqrit is a clinical-stage company discovering and developing innovative treatments for patients with advanced liver disease at high risk of hospitalization and death. Yaqrit’s pipeline includes three novel therapeutics at phase 2-3 of development and two medical devices providing acute and chronic treatments for advanced cirrhosis and acute-on-chronic liver failure where there is an urgent need for more effective treatments. More information is available at www.Yaqrit.com

About YAQ006 and YAQ007

YAQ006 and YAQ007 are, respectively, IV and oral formulations of ammonia scavenger L-ornithine phenylacetate (OPA). Clinical data (Rahimi, RS et al. doi:10.1016/j.cgh.2020.10.019) show OPA reduces levels of toxic ammonia more rapidly than standard of care, facilitating resolution of hepatic encephalopathy, which is one of the most prevalent complications of advanced liver disease.

About Hepatic Encephalopathy and mHES

Hepatic encephalopathy (HE) is a common and serious complication of advanced cirrhosis in which toxins that are normally cleared by the liver, principally ammonia, impair brain function, causing symptoms that range from subtle confusion to coma. One-year mortality in patients with overt HE approaches 40%, and HE is a leading cause of hospital readmission. HE severity has traditionally been graded using the West Haven criteria, introduced in 1977, which rely on subjective clinical judgement. mHES instead uses five standardized orientation questions and clearly defined levels of consciousness, and does not rely on subjective neurological signs such as asterixis.