

# Digestive cancer screening: Sharing Taiwan's experience with the EU

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# Digestive cancer screening: Sharing Taiwan's experience with the EU

- Digestive cancer trends in Taiwan, 2004–2024
- Stomach cancer screening in Taiwan
- Colorectal cancer screening in Taiwan
- Liver cancer screening in Taiwan
- Taiwan experience for Europe

# Digestive cancer trends in Taiwan, 2004–2025

- Top 10 causes of cancer death: 1994, 2004, 2014, and 2024.
- Key shifts in stomach, colorectal, and liver cancer over 30 years

# Top 10 causes of cancer death across four decades (1994, 2004, 2014, and 2024)

| Rank | 1994          | 2004          | 2014          | 2024                            |
|------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------------------|
| 1    | Liver         | Lung          | Lung          | Trachea, Bronchus & Lung        |
| 2    | Lung          | Liver         | Liver         | Liver & Intrahepatic Bile Ducts |
| 3    | Stomach       | Colorectal    | Colorectal    | Colon, Rectum & Anus            |
| 4    | Cervix Uteri  | Stomach       | Female Breast | Female Breast                   |
| 5    | Colorectal    | Female Breast | Stomach       | Prostate                        |
| 6    | Nasopharynx   | Cervix Uteri  | Prostate      | Stomach                         |
| 7    | Female Breast | Esophagus     | Oral Cavity   | Pancreas                        |
| 8    | Esophagus     | Oral Cavity   | Pancreas      | Oral Cavity                     |
| 9    | Pancreas      | Pancreas      | Esophagus     | Esophagus                       |
| 10   | Leukemia      | Prostate      | Cervix Uteri  | Ovarian                         |

# Key shifts in stomach, colorectal, and liver cancer over 30 years

## Rise in Lifestyle-Related Cancers:

- **Colorectal Cancer:** Rose with dietary and lifestyle changes and wider screening.

## Decline in Preventable Cancers:

- **Liver Cancer:** Fell after universal infant hepatitis B vaccination began in 1984.
- **Stomach Cancer:** Fell with less salted and cured food and wider *H. pylori* eradication.

# Stomach cancer screening in Taiwan

- **Matsu H. pylori Eradication Pilot**

*2004–2018*

NTUH launched a landmark pilot in the Matsu Islands.

- **Integrated Community Pilots**

*2018–2023*

- **Regional Expansion and Policy Development**

*2024–2025*

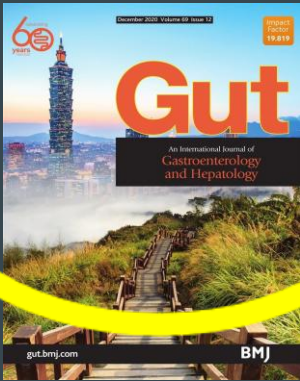
- **Nationwide Publicly Funded Launch**

*January 1, 2026*

# Taiwan scientific contributions of *H. pylori* screening for stomach cancer prevention to support global strategy

**Gut  
2020**

HP screening  
consensus I



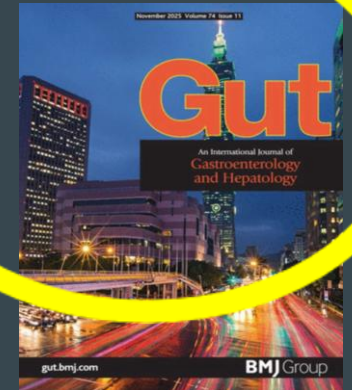
**JAMA  
2024**

Changhua RCT



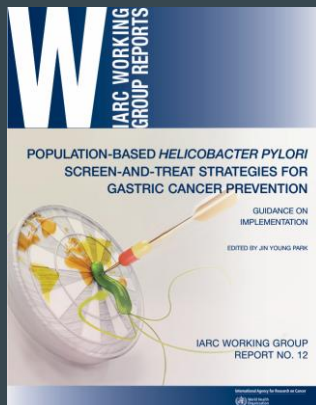
**Gut  
2025**

HP screening  
consensus II



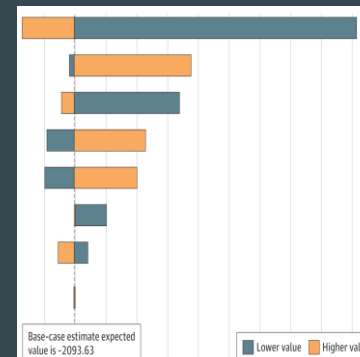
**IARC  
2025**

Global  
screening  
guideline



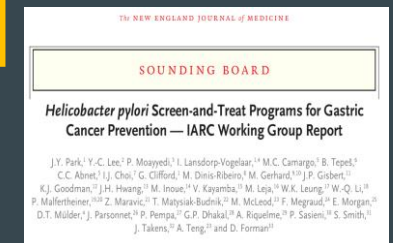
**JAMA  
2026**

Cost-  
effectiveness  
analysis



**NEJM  
2026**

IARC Working Group  
Report (WHO)



# Free 'H pylori' tests offered to prevent stomach cancer

**PROTECTION:** Open to people aged 45 to 74, the test could assist in early detection, with a five-year survival rate of more than 75 percent, the HPA said



Deputy Minister of Health and Welfare Chuang Jen-hsiang, second right, is joined by actress Tang Ling, center, and health officials at a news conference in Taipei yesterday.

新增項目：第六癌篩檢正式納入

## 新增公費「胃癌」篩檢

針對胃癌高風險因子「幽門螺桿菌」進行檢測。



45至74  
歲民眾，  
終身篩檢  
1次

採用糞便抗原檢查，  
若陽性需進一步治療。

資格放寬：原有五癌篩檢擴大

## 現有篩檢資格擴大， 年齡門檻降低

多項篩檢的起始年齡調降，讓民眾能更早接受檢查。

### 大腸癌

擴大後主要篩檢對象：  
45-74歲 民眾  
(原為50歲起)  
篩檢頻率：  
每2年1次



### 乳癌

擴大後主要篩檢對象：  
40-74歲 女性  
(原為45-69歲)  
篩檢頻率：  
每2年1次



### 子宮頸癌

擴大後主要篩檢對象：  
新增 25-29歲 女性  
篩檢頻率：  
每3年1次



### 肺癌

擴大後主要篩檢對象：  
具家族史：女性40歲起、  
男性45歲起  
篩檢頻率：  
每2年1次



# Colorectal cancer screening in Taiwan

- **National Screening Launch**

*2004*

Taiwan launched nationwide, population-based screening.

- **Expanded Eligibility and Hospital Integration**

*2010*

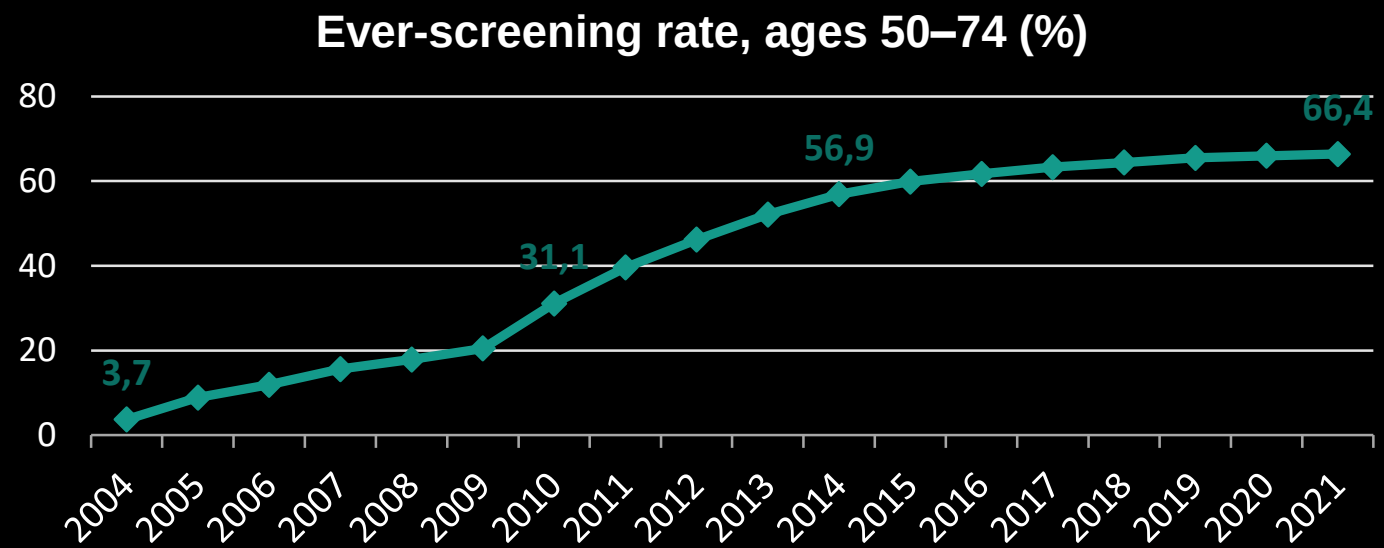
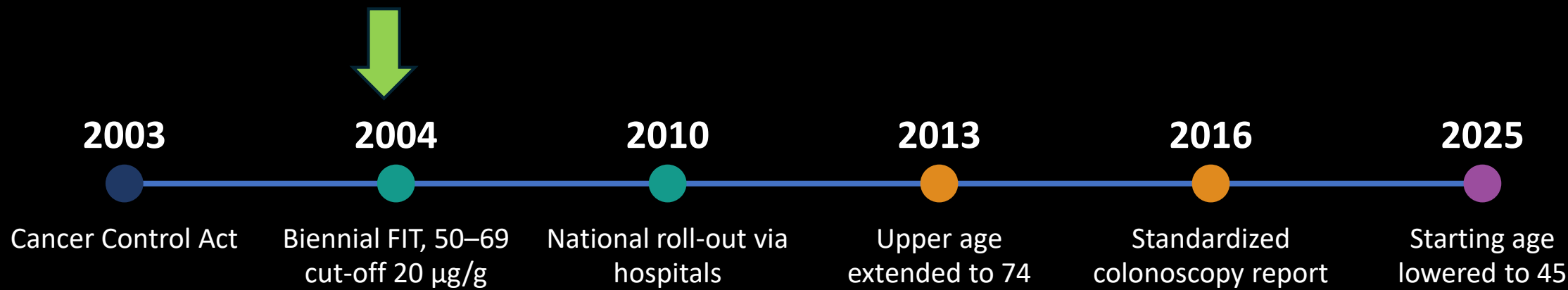
- **Digital Tracking and Quality Standards**

*2013–2020*

- **Eligibility Expanded to Younger Adults**

*January 1, 2025*

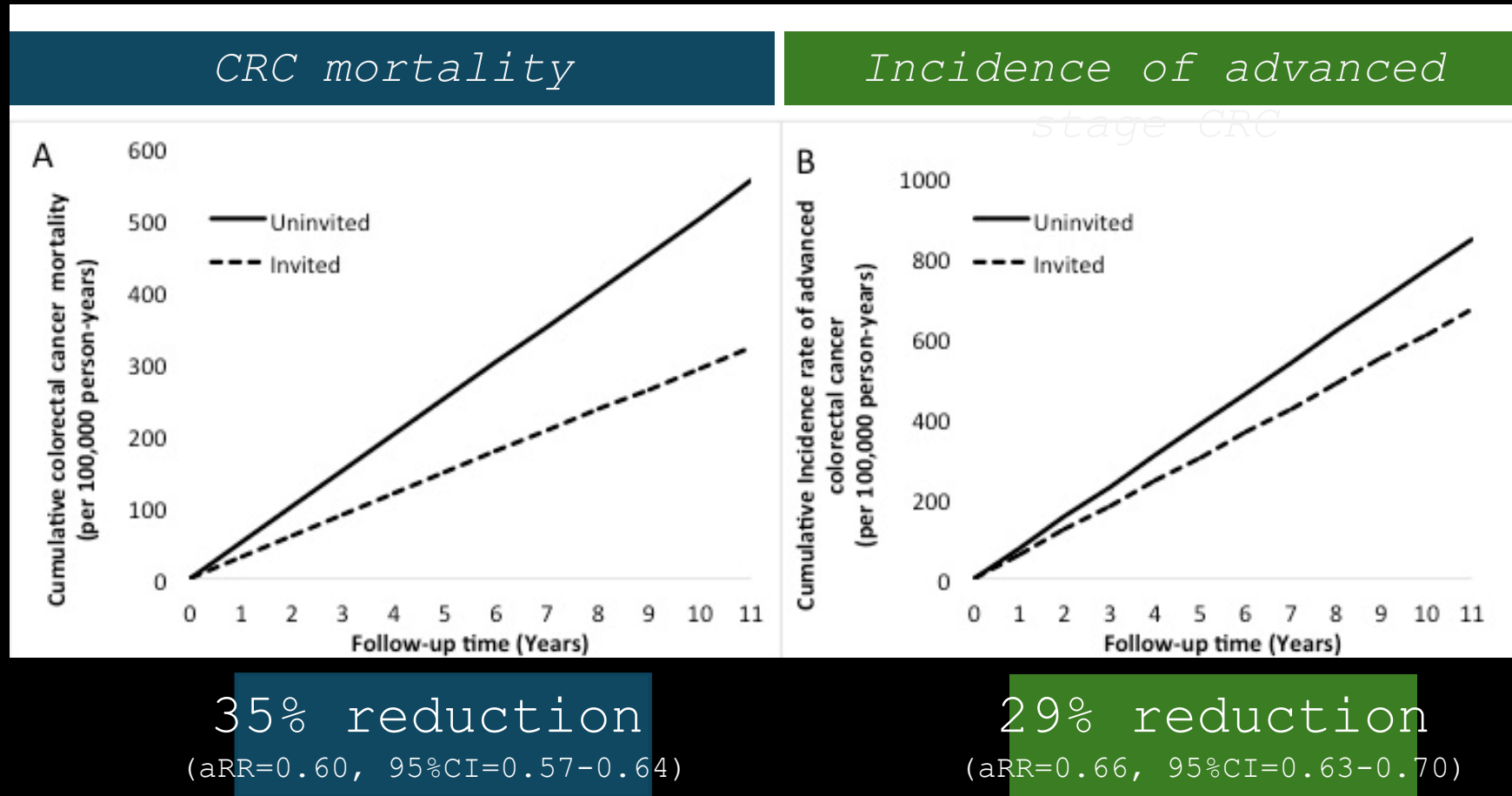
# Two decades of Taiwan CRC screening program



|                                                    |                                                               |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>5.4 M</b><br>people screened,<br>2004–14        | <b>7.0% / 6.4%</b><br>FIT positivity, first /<br>later rounds |
| <b>70%</b><br>colonoscopy<br>completion after FIT+ | <b>2.2</b><br>CRCs per 1,000 FITs<br>(first round)            |

Chiu HM et al. Gut 2021;70:2321–9; J Formos Med Assoc. 2018;117:358-364.

# Effectiveness of FIT-based CRC screening



# Liver cancer screening in Taiwan

- **World's First Universal Infant Hepatitis B Vaccination**

1984

- **NHI Coverage for Hepatitis Treatment**

2003

- **High-Risk Surveillance Guidelines**

2010s

- **National Hepatitis C Elimination Program**

2017

- **Free Adult Screening for Hepatitis B and C**

2020

- **WHO Elimination Target and Precision Screening**

2025-2030

# Four decades of Taiwan's crusade against viral hepatitis



1984 / 86

Infant HBV  
vaccination

2003

Funded  
hepatitis  
treatment

2017

Funded  
HCV cure

2020

HBV/HCV  
testing  
45–79 years<sup>1</sup>

2025

Testing:  
born  
≤1986, age  
≤79

<sup>1</sup> Indigenous adults: 40–79 years. One-time adult hepatitis testing.

Chang MH et al. *Gastroenterology*. 2016;151(3):472–480.e1. Chien RN et al. *J Infect Dis*. 2023;228(Suppl 3):S180–S188.

Taiwan MOHW. HBV/HCV screening expansion. 28 Jul 2025; updated 11 Aug 2025.

# Taiwan's HCV elimination programme in numbers

≈7.96  
million

People screened  
for HBV/HCV<sup>1</sup>

2017–June 2026

≈184,000

People treated  
with HCV DAAs<sup>2</sup>

2017–June 2026

≈99%

HCV cure  
rate<sup>2</sup>

HPA report, June 2025



Geneva HCV forum, May 2026

<sup>1</sup> HPA statistics, reported by CNA (3 Sep 2026). <sup>2</sup> HPA. Hepatitis screening update (16 Jun 2025).

<sup>3</sup> Shih CL, MOHW. How Taiwan is Eliminating Hepatitis C as a Public Health Threat (24 Apr 2026).

Photo: MOHW. Global Hepatitis C Elimination forum, Geneva (20 May 2026)

National HCV care coverage, June 2025<sup>3</sup>

90.2%

Of estimated

chronic  
HCV infections

diagnosed

2025

92.6%

Of diagnosed

patients  
treated with

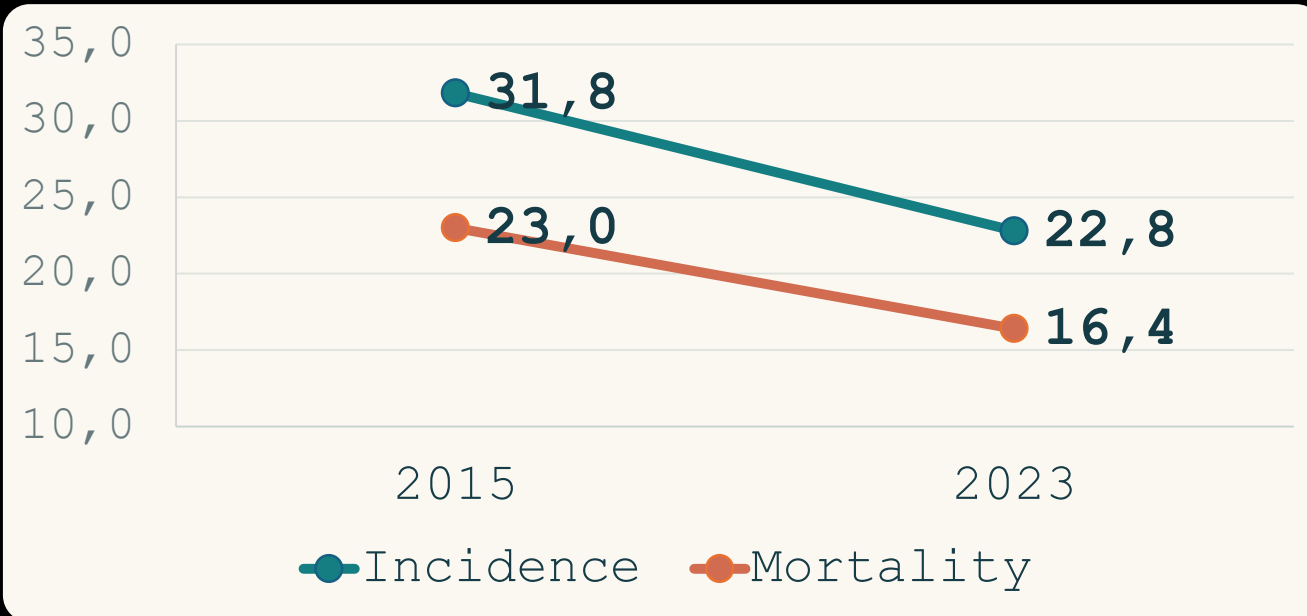
DAAs

Reported PTE gold-tier achievement in

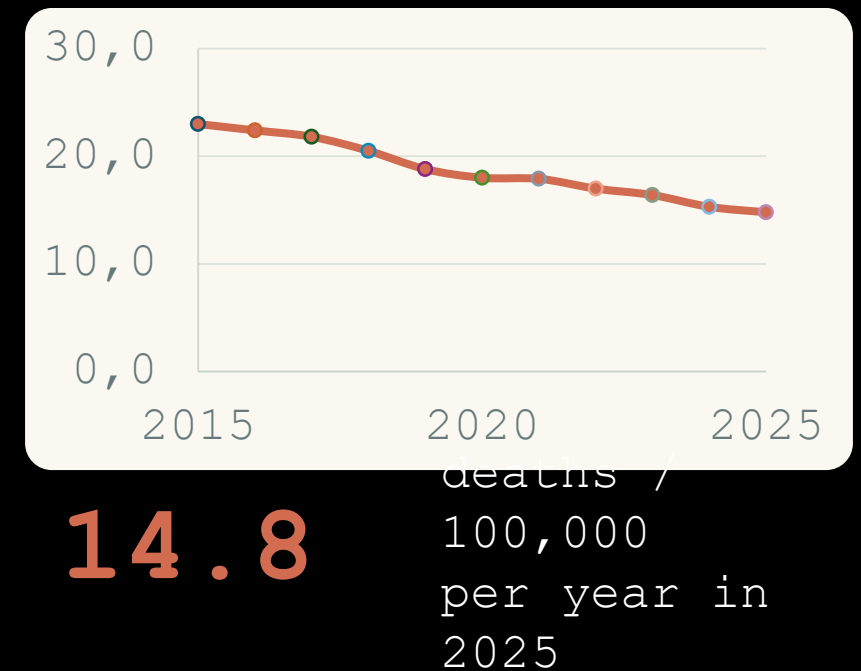
# Liver cancer incidence and mortality declined in Taiwan

WHO 2000 age-standardized rates per 100,000 per year

## 2015 and 2023 endpoints



## Annual mortality



Chen CF, Chang HC. Adv Dig Med. 2023;10(3):135-142.

Taiwan HPA. Cancer Registry 2023. Released 30 Dec 2025. Taiwan MOHW. Causes of Death 2025. 22 Jun 2026, Table 4.

# Taiwan's experience for Europe

- The “Matsu model” of test –and- treat for *H. pylori* may be applicable in Latvia as well as in EU countries with high prevalence of stomach cancer .
- The national CRC screening program by FIT + colonoscopy achieved remarkable reduction of the incidence and mortality of colorectal cancer in Taiwan.
- Screen and identify people with HCV infection, successfully treated with DAA will ensure a reduction of the incidence and mortality of liver cancer in the future.

Thank you very  
much for your  
attention !  
Liels  
paldies

