

Question 16 – November 18

A 52 M with cirrhosis is found to have a lesion 9 mm in size on the left lobe of his liver. Clinically he is a compensated cirrhotic and the lesion has now been stable for 24 months, followed by abdominal ultrasounds done every 3 months.

When should his next surveillance ultrasound be done to follow this lesion?

- A. 1 month
- B. 3 month
- C. 6 month
- D. 12 month
- E. Stable lesion no further follow up

Answer: C

Once a suspicious lesion is found on US, a systematic algorithm, also known as the recall policy, can be followed to appropriately and expeditiously diagnose an HCC ([Figure 1](#)). If the nodule is smaller than 1 cm, a close follow-up with a repeat US at 3 months is recommended. If the lesion is found to enlarge to a size larger than 1 cm, a dynamic imaging study (CT or MRI) should be performed. If the size of the lesion remains the same for more than 2 years, the original 6-month follow-up might be resumed.

Reference:

1. Yang et al. Surveillance for Hepatocellular Carcinoma in Patients With Cirrhosis. *Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology* 2012;10:16–21