

# Coexistence of Alcoholic Liver Disease and Alcoholic Pancreatitis

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# Background

- ▶ Alcohol use is a common problem worldwide
- ▶ Alcohol use disorder affects approximately 6.2% or 15.1 million adults in the United States
- ▶ Long standing alcohol use is a known cause of liver and pancreatic damage, leading to cirrhosis or chronic pancreatitis respectively.
- ▶ Research has yielded variable results regarding the prevalence of the coexistent alcohol-related pancreatic and liver conditions

# Background

- ▶ In clinical practice, the coincidence of both liver cirrhosis and chronic pancreatitis is uncommon
- ▶ These diseases share few risk factors other than alcohol consumption
  - ▶ No significant overlap in risk factors in Japanese alcoholics.
  - ▶ Duration of alcohol use required for disease development is greater in liver cirrhosis than in chronic pancreatitis

# Background

- ▶ However, asymptomatic alcoholic liver disease may be frequent in chronic alcoholic pancreatitis (and vice versa).
  - ▶ If hepatic pathology unrecognized, surgical procedures can lead to complications that aggravate the clinical course
- ▶ Development of ascites and varices as a sequela of portal hypertension increases morbidity and mortality in patients with both disease processes.

# Background

- ▶ Controversy exists regarding the frequency of coincident chronic pancreatitis and liver cirrhosis in alcoholic patients
- ▶ Conflicting findings may be due to differences in:
  - ▶ Variable definitions of alcohol related conditions studied
  - ▶ Methodology: retrospective vs prospective studies
  - ▶ Evaluation of diagnostic parameters (i.e. clinical, functional, radiographic, or histopathological criteria)

Digestion. 1992;51(2):86-94.  
J Gastroenterol. 2004 Sep;39(9):879-87.  
Dig Dis Sci. 1983 Dec;28(12):1089-93.  
Gastrointest Endosc. 1999 Jun;49(6):705-9.  
Dig Dis Sci. 1984 Jul;29(7):593-9.  
Am J Gastroenterol. 1985 Dec;80(12):998-1003.

# Aims: Systematic Review

- ▶ Determine robust prevalence estimates of coexistent
  - ▶ alcoholic cirrhosis and chronic pancreatitis
  - ▶ alcoholic liver disease and alcoholic pancreatitis among patients with a diagnosis of alcoholism
- ▶ Identify alcohol-related diseases that associate with alcoholic liver disease and alcoholic pancreatitis

# Inclusion and Exclusion criteria

## ▶ Inclusion criteria

- ▶ Studies that allowed for the calculation of prevalence of coexistent disease for alcoholic pancreatitis in alcoholic liver disease or alcoholic liver disease in alcoholic pancreatitis
- ▶ Human studies

## ▶ Exclusion criteria

- ▶ Non-English studies
- ▶ Review articles and case studies/series < 25 patients
- ▶ Abstracts without a full manuscript
- ▶ Duplicate publications

2000 articles identified through database searches  
(using MEDLINE, Embase and Web of Science) between 1965-2018

**1968 articles excluded:**

- Duplicate studies between databases (n=379)
- Case reports OR series less than 25 patients (n=257)
- Review articles (n=181)
- Abstract or lecture (n=179)
- Non-English studies (n=236)
- Animal models/In Vitro studies (n=42)
- Did not meet inclusion criteria (n=694)

32 articles selected for full text review

**3 articles excluded:**

- Prevalence reported as subgroup analysis of mortality (n=1)
- Prevalence reported based on discharge diagnoses (n=1)
- Full text not available (n=1)

29 articles selected for final review

Non-autopsy studies (n=24)

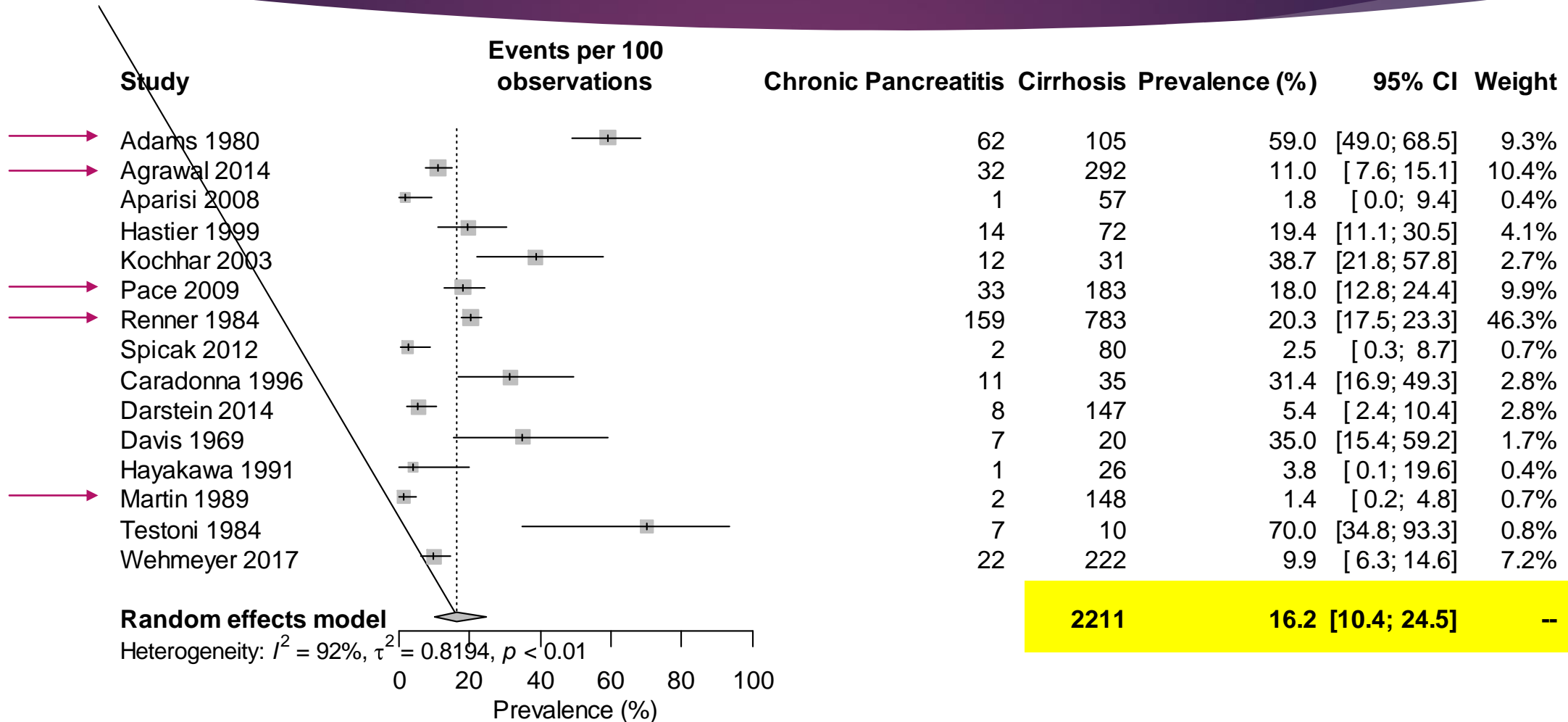
Autopsy studies (n=5)



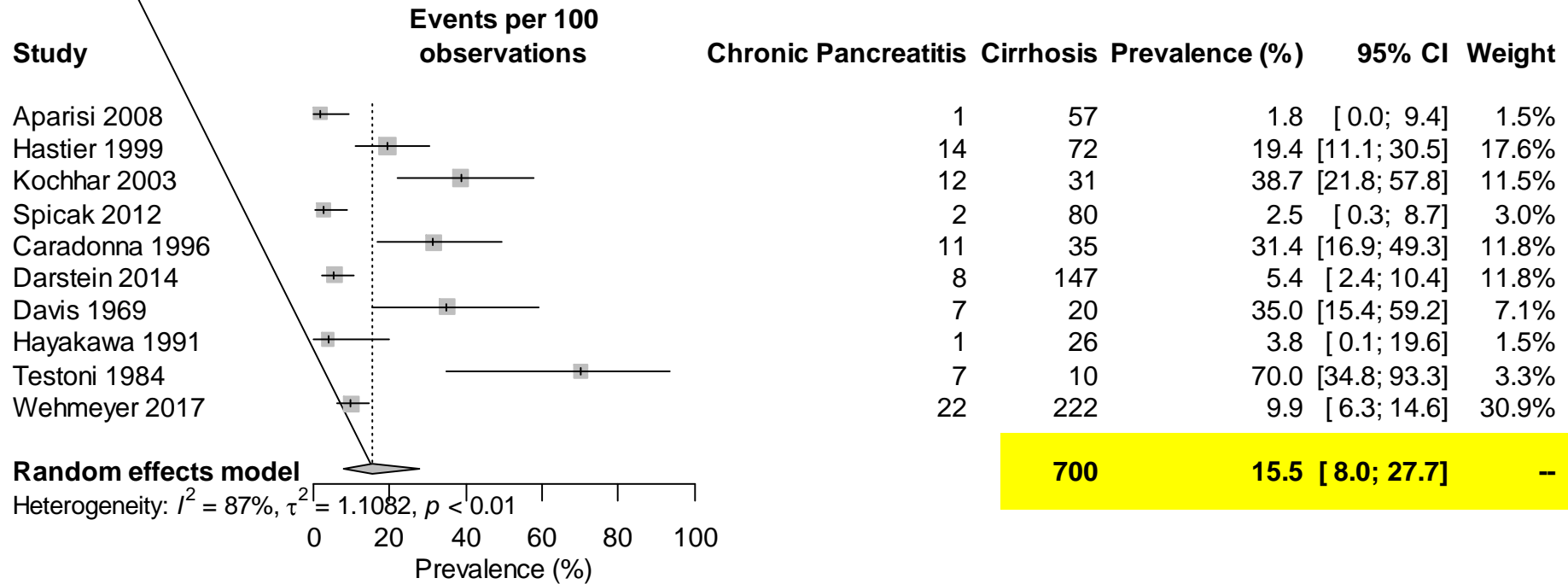
# Results

- ▶ Majority of studies were from Europe (59%) or North America (21%)
- ▶ Roughly 50% were published after year 2000
- ▶ Most included no or few female subjects
- ▶ Number of subjects
  - ▶ Alcoholic cirrhosis (n=2211 from 15 studies)
  - ▶ Chronic pancreatitis (n=652 from 11 studies)

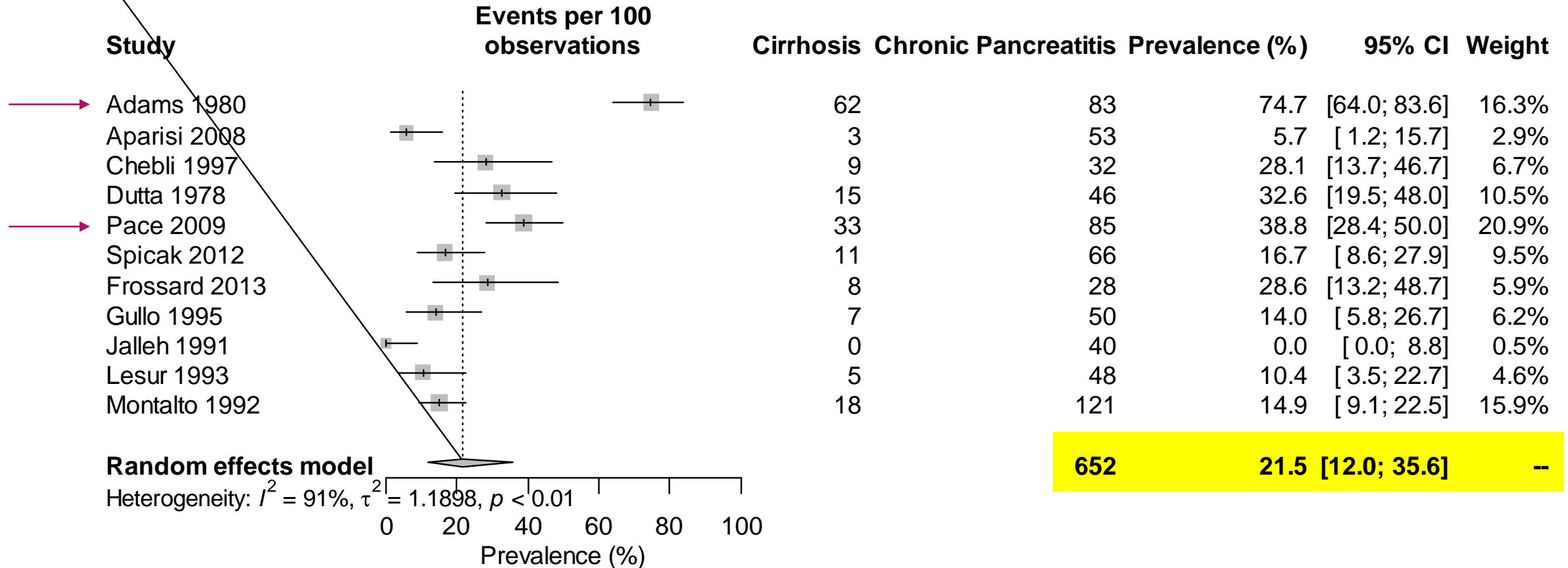
# Prevalence of Alcoholic Chronic Pancreatitis in Alcoholic Cirrhosis



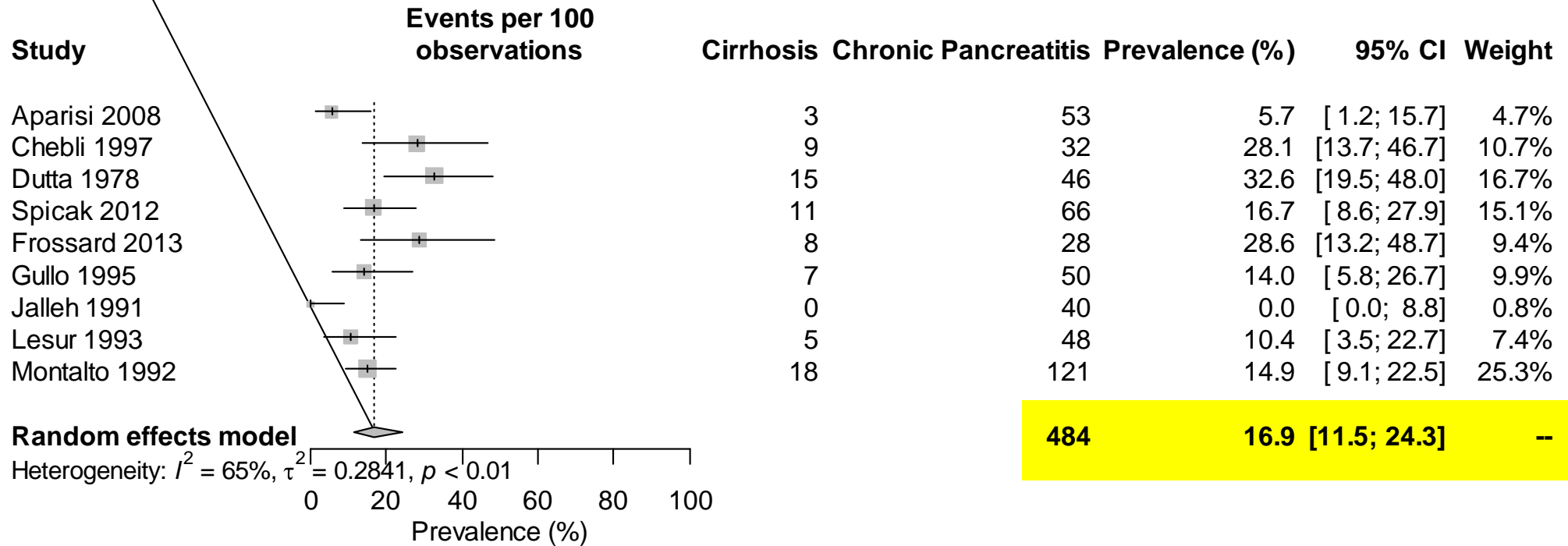
# Prevalence of Alcoholic Chronic Pancreatitis in Alcoholic Cirrhosis (autopsy studies removed)



# Prevalence of Alcoholic Cirrhosis in Alcoholic Chronic Pancreatitis



# Prevalence of Alcoholic Cirrhosis in Alcoholic Chronic Pancreatitis (autopsy studies removed)



# Summary of Results

- ▶ Pooled prevalence of Chronic Pancreatitis in overall Alcoholic Cirrhosis was 16.2% (95% CI 10.4-24.5)
  - ▶ After excluding autopsy studies was 15.5% (95% CI 15.5-27.7)
- ▶ Pooled prevalence of Alcoholic Cirrhosis in Chronic Pancreatitis overall was 21.5% (95% CI 12-35.6)
  - ▶ After excluding autopsy studies was 16.9% (95% CI 11.5-24.3)

# Limitations of this systematic review

- ▶ Small sample sizes of individual studies
- ▶ Many of the studies were retrospective
- ▶ Geographical variation across countries and continents
- ▶ Comparing studies from different decades
- ▶ Variable criteria for defining alcoholic pancreatitis and alcoholic cirrhosis
  - ▶ Parameters used included clinical, functional, imaging, or histopathological criteria
- ▶ Few women

# Administrative Data Study

- ▶ Study the prevalence of coexistent alcoholic pancreatitis and alcoholic cirrhosis
  - ▶ Larger sample sizes
  - ▶ Homogenous population
  - ▶ More female patients



# Administrative Data Study

- ▶ Primary Aim: To determine the prevalence of alcohol-related comorbidities in patients with a diagnosis of alcoholism.
  - ▶ Alcoholic pancreatitis (acute/chronic)
  - ▶ Alcoholic hepatitis, Alcoholic cirrhosis
  - ▶ Coexistence of alcoholic cirrhosis + alcoholic pancreatitis
- ▶ Secondary Aim: To determine the prevalence of additional alcohol-related conditions (cardiomyopathy, withdrawal/DTs, Wernicke/Korsakoff, neuropathy) among patients with alcoholism

# Study Design

- ▶ Retrospective cohort study
- ▶ Source population:
  - ▶ University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) Medical Archival Retrieval System (MARS) to identify the patient cohort (2006-2015).
  - ▶ MARS collects all data from UPMC (outpatient, inpatient, billing)
- ▶ MARS will be used to screen all UPMC data using ICD-9/10 diagnosis codes

# Disease groups

## 1. Group A: Alcoholism

- ▶ Neuropsychiatric manifestations of Alcohol
- ▶ Toxic Effects of Alcohol not otherwise specified
- ▶ Sexual manifestations of alcohol
- ▶ Cardiac manifestations of alcohol
- ▶ Alcohol use disorder

# Disease groups

## 2. Group B: Pancreatitis

- ▶ Acute pancreatitis (unspecified etiology)
- ▶ Acute pancreatitis, etiology biliary
- ▶ Acute pancreatitis, etiology alcohol
- ▶ Acute pancreatitis, etiology drug induced
- ▶ Chronic pancreatitis, etiology alcohol
- ▶ Chronic pancreatitis, (unspecified etiology)

# Disease groups

## 3. Group C: Alcoholic Liver Disease

- ▶ Alcoholic hepatitis
- ▶ Alcoholic cirrhosis
- ▶ Alcoholic liver disease (unspecified)
- ▶ Alcoholic fatty liver
- ▶ Alcoholic liver failure

# Disease groups

- ▶ Group D: Other Liver Diseases
  - ▶ Hepatitis B (acute and chronic)
  - ▶ Hepatitis C (acute and chronic)
  - ▶ Hepatitis D
  - ▶ Unspecified viral hepatitis (acute and chronic)
  - ▶ Fatty liver disease
  - ▶ Hepatitis (not otherwise specified)
  - ▶ Cirrhosis not otherwise specified
  - ▶ Autoimmune hepatitis
  - ▶ Biliary cirrhosis
  - ▶ Liver failure, etiology not specified

# Variables of interest

- ▶ Age at initial diagnosis
- ▶ Gender
- ▶ Race
- ▶ Inpatient admission (Y/N) for any of these diagnoses
  - ▶ Inpatient code that prompted admission
  - ▶ Number of inpatient admissions for each diagnosis
- ▶ Duration of contact with UPMC system
- ▶ Decompensated liver disease

# Analysis Plan

- ▶ Calculate prevalence of individual condition and overlap
- ▶ Stratify prevalence results based on age, gender, and race
- ▶ Compare demographic and other relevant variables between groups
- ▶ Sensitivity analyses
  - ▶ Duration of follow-up in UPMC system, hospital type



# Strengths and Limitations

- ▶ Strengths:
  - ▶ Large data set
  - ▶ Ability to provide data on women
- ▶ Limitations:
  - ▶ Use of ICD-9/10 diagnosis codes
  - ▶ Unable to capture data for some outpatient physician practices
  - ▶ Some hospitals came into UPMC system later during study period

# Where are we now?

- ▶ We now have the data set
- ▶ Working on developing a detailed analysis plan

Questions?