

Liver cirrhosis in the UK rises

An analysis of European cirrhosis mortality rates from 1950 to 2002 published in The Lancet medical journal showed the number of deaths increased in Britain while it fell in other European countries.

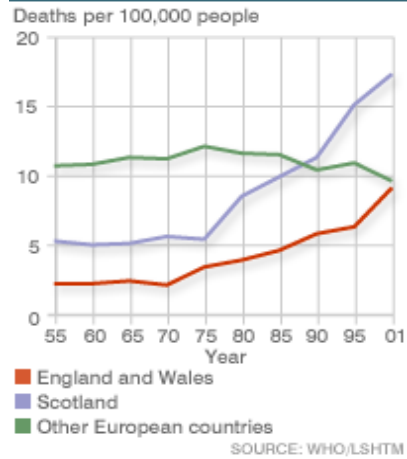
Liver cirrhosis has more than doubled in men in Scotland between the periods of 1987-1991 and 1997-2001 while it rose by over two-thirds in England and Wales. Mortality in women increased by 46 percent in Scotland and 44 percent in England and Wales.

“These relative increases are the steepest in western Europe, and contrast with the declines apparent in most other countries examined, particularly those of southern Europe,” said David Leon, of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, in the report. “Cirrhosis mortality rates in Scotland are now one of the highest in western Europe, in 2002 accounting for 0.45

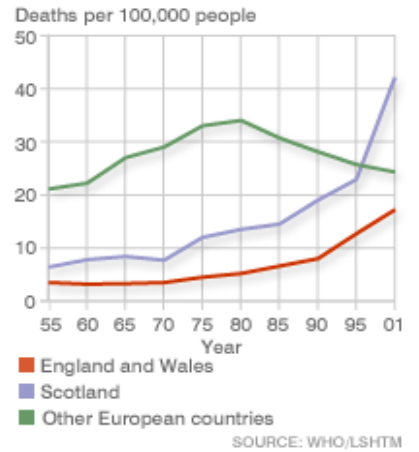
deaths per 1000 in men and .2 deaths per 1000 in women,” he added.

The report by Leon and Jim McCambridge of London’s King’s College showed Austria had the highest cirrhosis mortality rate for both men and women.

FEMALE LIVER CIRRHOSIS DEATHS



MALE LIVER CIRRHOSIS DEATHS



Whilst some European countries still had high levels, most saw a decrease of between 20 to 30 percent from the early 1970s. The authors blamed the rise in Britain on the increase of alcohol consumption and obesity. Leon added. “The situation in Scotland warrants particular attention.” The survey used data from the World Health Organization Mortality Database.