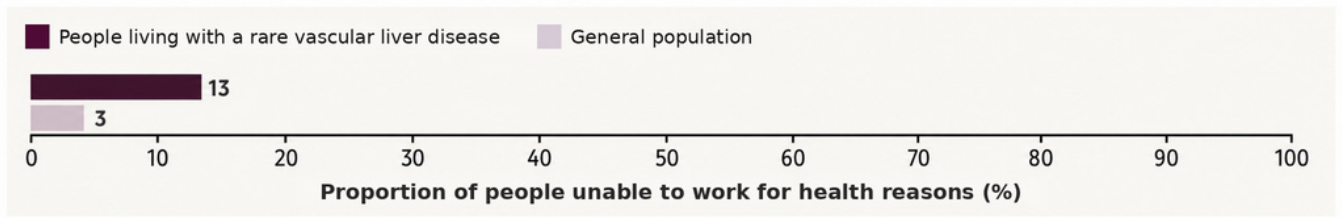
Employment, Work Capacity and Vascular Liver Diseases

Living with a vascular liver disease can, for some people, affect their ability to work and have an impact on their professional life.

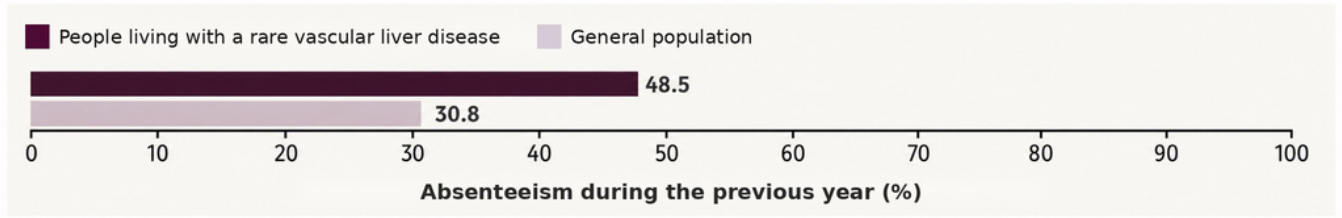
What the LIVES project shows, a European project on health-related quality of life in these diseases

In 2024, a questionnaire-based study was conducted among 488 people with portal vein thrombosis or Budd–Chiari syndrome, followed in 3 countries (France, Spain and Switzerland).

- People living with a rare vascular liver disease were more likely to be **unable to work for health reasons** than the general population.



- Among people who were employed, **absenteeism due to health reasons** was significantly higher.



Inability to work was associated with:

- lower educational level
- a history of gastrointestinal bleeding or radiological or surgical interventions
- older age (while still of working age)

Absenteeism was associated with:

- being unable to obtain special leave from work
- moderate to severe pain

What the LIVES project shows, a European project on health-related quality of life in these diseases

In 2024–2025, 27 in-depth interviews were conducted by peer researchers (patients or caregivers themselves) with people with portal vein thrombosis or Budd–Chiari syndrome, followed in 4 countries (France, Spain, Switzerland and the Netherlands).

Participants described several ways in which the disease can affect their working lives:

- Feeling limited in their career, due to reduced work capacity, sometimes affecting career progression and income.
- Fear of or experiences of discrimination at work, which may lead people to hide their condition, particularly when symptoms such as fatigue are invisible.
- The need to keep the disease private, with some people not wanting to be perceived or labelled as “ill”, either administratively or socially.

Scan the QR codes below to access the scientific publications from the LIVES project:

Kangas et al. Clinics and Research in Hepatology and Gastroenterology, 2026

Alary A, et al. Health expectations, 2026

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