What is Claimed:

1. Use of an inhibitor of hydroxysteroid 17-beta dehydrogenase 13 (HSD17B13) in the manufacture of a medicament for treating or inhibiting a liver disease, wherein the medicament is to be administered to a human liver disease patient expressing a patatin like phospholipase domain containing 3 (PNPLA3) protein comprising an I148M variation such that the liver disease is treated or inhibited in the patient.

2. The use according to claim 1, wherein the liver disease is an alcoholic liver disease.

3. The use according to claim 2, wherein the alcoholic liver disease comprises one or more of cirrhosis, steatosis, or hepatocellular carcinoma resulting from alcohol consumption.

4. The use according to claim 1, wherein the liver disease is a non-alcoholic liver disease.

5. The use according to claim 4, wherein the non-alcoholic liver disease comprises nonalcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) or non-alcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH).

6. The use according to claim 4, wherein the non-alcoholic liver disease comprises one or more of cirrhosis, steatosis, or hepatocellular carcinoma not caused by alcohol consumption.

7. The use according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the patient is obese.

8. The use according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the patient has a fatty liver.

9. The use according to any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the patient has been determined to express the variant PNPLA3 protein by detection of the variant PNPLA3 protein in a sample from the subject.

10. The use according to any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the variant PNPLA3 protein comprises a methionine at a position corresponding to position 148 according to SEQ ID NO:42.

11. The use according to claim 8 or claim 10, wherein the variant PNPLA3 protein in the sample comprises the amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO:42, or an amino acid sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:42 and comprising the I148M variation.

12. The use according to any one of claims 9 to 11, wherein the variant PNPLA3 protein is detected by amino acid sequencing or by an immunoassay.

13. The use according to any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the subject has been determined to express the variant PNPLA3 protein by detection of a nucleic acid molecule encoding the variant PNPLA3 protein in a sample from the subject.

14. The use according to claim 13, wherein the variant PNPLA3 protein comprises a methionine at the position corresponding to position 148 according to SEQ ID NO:42.

15. The use according to claim 14, wherein the variant PNPLA3 protein comprises the amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO:42, or an amino acid sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:42 and comprising the I148M variation.

16. The use according to any one of claims 13 to 15, wherein the nucleic acid molecule encoding the variant PNPLA3 protein comprises genomic DNA, mRNA, or cDNA obtained from mRNA.

17. The use according to any one of claims 14 to 16, wherein the nucleic acid molecule comprises genomic DNA comprising an ATG codon at the positions corresponding to positions 5107 to 5109 according to SEQ ID NO:31.

18. The use according to claim 16 or claim 17, wherein the genomic DNA comprises the nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO:31, or a nucleotide sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:31 and encoding a PNPLA3 protein which comprises the I148M variation.

19. The use according to any one of claims 13 to 16, wherein the nucleic acid molecule comprises mRNA comprising an AUG codon at the positions corresponding to positions 442 to 444 according to SEQ ID NO:34.

20. The use according to claim 16 or 19, wherein the mRNA comprises the nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO:34, or a nucleotide sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:34 and encoding a PNPLA3 protein which comprises the I148M variation.

21. The use according to any one of claims 13 to 16, wherein the nucleic acid molecule comprises mRNA comprising an AUG codon at the positions corresponding to positions 430 to 432 according to SEQ ID NO:35.

22. The use according to claim 16 or claim 21, wherein the mRNA comprises the nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO:35, or a nucleotide sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:35 and encoding a PNPLA3 protein which comprises the I148M variation.

23. The use according to any one of claims 13 to 16, wherein the nucleic acid molecule comprises cDNA obtained from mRNA, the cDNA comprising an ATG codon at the positions corresponding to positions 442 to 444 according to SEQ ID NO:38.

24. The use according to claim 16 or claim 23, wherein the cDNA comprises the nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO:38, or a nucleotide sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:38 and encoding a PNPLA3 protein which comprises the I148M variation.

25. The use according to any one of claims 13 to 16, wherein the nucleic acid molecule comprises cDNA obtained from mRNA, the cDNA comprising an ATG codon at the positions corresponding to positions 430 to 432 according to SEQ ID NO:39.

26. The use according to claim 16 or claim 25, wherein the cDNA comprises the nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO:39, or a nucleotide sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:39 and encoding a PNPLA3 protein which comprises the I148M variation.

27. The use according to any one of claims 13 to 16, wherein the nucleic acid is detected by sequencing at least a portion of the nucleic acid, wherein the portion comprises a codon encoding the I148M variation.

28. The use according to any one of claims 13 to 26, wherein the nucleic acid is detected by hybridization of the nucleic acid with a probe or primer that specifically hybridizes to a portion of the nucleic acid, wherein the portion comprises a codon encoding the I148M variation.

29. The use according to claim 28, wherein the probe or primer is an allele-specific probe or primer.

30. The use according to claim 28 or claim 29, wherein the probe or primer comprises a label.

31. The use according to any one of claims 1 to 30, wherein the patient is homozygous for a gene encoding the variant PNPLA3 protein.

32. The use according to any one of claims 1 to 30, wherein the patient is heterozygous for a gene encoding the variant PNPLA3 protein.

33. The use according to claim 31 or claim 32, wherein the patient further is homozygous for a gene encoding a functional HSD17B13 protein, wherein the functional HSD17B13 protein comprises oxidoreductase activity.

34. The use according to claim 31 or claim 32, wherein the patient further is heterozygous for a gene encoding a functional HSD17B13 protein, wherein the functional HSD17B13 protein comprises oxidoreductase activity.

35. The use according to claim 33 or claim 34, wherein the functional HSD17B13 protein is a HSD17B13 protein which has at least 10% of the activity of wild type HSD17B13 protein.

36. The use according to claim 34, wherein the patient is heterozygous for the gene encoding the functional HSD17B13 protein and a gene encoding a loss of function variant of HSD17B13.

37. The use according to claim 36, wherein the functional HSD17B13 protein is a HSD17B13 protein which has at least 10% of the activity of wild type HSD17B13 protein.

38. The use according to any one of claims 1 to 37, wherein the inhibitor of HSD17B13 is an antisense molecule.

39. The use according to any one of claims 1 to 37, wherein the inhibitor of HSD17B13 is an shRNA molecule.

40. The use according to any one of claims 1 to 37, wherein the inhibitor of HSD17B13 is an siRNA molecule.