



Annual report for Sub-specialty advisors in histopathology, November 2010 - Liver.

1) Liver histopathology CPD.

The liver pathology sub-committee of the BSG organises liver CPD events in the UK and is also the steering committee for the liver EQA scheme. Details of its activities are available on the website http://www.virtualpathology.leeds.ac.uk/eqa/liver_pages.php

- a) Annual update in liver pathology meeting Dundee November 4th 2011 – these meetings are held annually, one day on liver pathology and the next day on GI/pancreatic pathology, under the auspices of BSG/ACP. The aim is to enable liver pathologists in the UK can keep abreast of international developments in research and practice. There were 50 attendees this year. The 2011 meeting will be in Southampton.
- b) Educational course “Liver biopsy in the assessment of medical liver diseases”. intended for non-specialist histopathologists and also hepatologists, was first held in December 2009 at RCPATH. It was fully subscribed. It will be repeated on 3rd March 2011, with the intention to repeat it as required thereafter.
- c) Liver transplant histopathology. The histopathologists from the eight liver transplant centres in the UK and Ireland meet annually to discuss pre-circulated slides and aspects of service provision – this year Nov. 18th, Royal Free Hospital. This precedes the annual UK Liver Transplant meeting.

2) Liver EQA scheme.

The summer meeting scheduled during the Pathological Society meeting at St Andrew’s had to be canceled because it would have been inquorate. Therefore both 2010 circulations were discussed during the annual update meeting in November. Members voted to have both EQA discussions during the annual update meeting in future, to enable more members to be part of the case discussions.

The virtual slides together with results, scoring and discussion are available on the EQA website for the last sixteen rounds since July 2003. This generates an accumulating CPD resource, and an opportunity to disseminate new diagnostic criteria etc.

3) Cancer data set.

Aim to submit second edition of liver cancer data set in January 2011. This will include TNM 7 and 2010 WHO classification. The main change is additional sections on intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma and gallbladder cancer.

4) National liver disease strategy.

Department of Health initiative to address liver disease, the fifth “big killer” after heart disease, cancer, stroke, and respiratory disease; average age at death is 59. Diagnostics is one of three external reference groups

Chronic liver disease is usually clinically silent until late stage. The developing strategy focuses on early detection and intervention for the three commonest causes of liver disease



- alcohol-related, non-alcoholic fatty liver disease and hepatitis B and C, with more involvement at primary care level. Aims include:

- Coordination of primary/secondary/tertiary care.
- Establish regional networks for service delivery

JIW 10.11.10