



Annual Meeting of Cellular Pathology Subspecialty Advisors, 8th November 2017
Subspecialty Report for Liver Pathology

Since September 2016, liver pathology activities in the UK have been developed and coordinated by the UK Liver Pathology Group (UKLPG). Committee meetings are held every 3 months, usually by teleconference. Details relating to the constitution of the UKLPG and minutes of the UKLPG committee meetings can be view on the UKLPG page in the Leeds Virtual Pathology website:

http://www.virtualpathology.leeds.ac.uk/eqa/specialist/liver/liver_group.php

1. New developments and issues affecting service delivery

The recently formed UKLPG (see above) is intended to provide a robust mechanism for ensuring the promotion of excellence in liver histopathology services in the UK and Ireland, across all levels of specialisation, through professional collaboration in (i) education, (ii) quality assurance and (iii) research. In addition to a chair, secretary and treasurer there are committee members leading subcommittees covering each of these three key areas. Other committee members include representatives for paediatric liver pathology, liver transplant pathology and clinical hepatology, the RCPATH Subspecialty Advisor for Liver Pathology and the National Liver Pathology EQA Scheme organiser. Two trainee representatives were appointed in October 2017. The UKLPG has 109 full members, comprising the members of the National Liver Pathology EQA scheme. The annual subscription fee is £30, which also includes optional free membership of the British Association for the Study of Liver (BASL), the British Liver Transplant Group (BLTG) and HCC-UK. There is also associate, trainee and overseas membership for pathologists to benefit from our CPD activities without being full members of the Group.

2. Staffing and Recruitment

See above re members of the UKLPG.

Medical liver biopsies are received by nearly all histopathology departments. One aim of the UKLPG is to provide accessible liver pathology CPD designed for non-specialist pathologists. We are not aware that liver pathology has been disproportionately affected by recruitment issues. Sub-specialisation in liver pathology is generally restricted to tertiary liver centres, which are designed for patients requiring certain interventions, such as those with acute liver failure and transplant patients. As with other smaller specialties, succession arrangements for pathologists working in tertiary referral centres can be problematic.

3. Training

There is an established cycle of liver pathology CPD meetings, which include the following:

- “Liver Biopsy in the Assessment of Medical Liver Disease” - held annually at RCPATH since 2009. 9th meeting scheduled for 23rd February 2018
- Annual Liver Pathology Update Meeting. 13th meeting is on 30th November 2017 in Oxford.
- BLTG Pathology Group Meeting (previously the UK Liver Transplant Pathology Group Meeting). Meetings took place annually from 2008-2014 as part of the UK & Ireland Liver Transplant Meeting. After a break of 3 years, the group met again in Warwick on 19th September 2017 as



part of the annual BLTG meeting. The group plans to meet annually on a similar basis. Clinicians and pathologists not working in transplant centres are also welcome to attend pathology “breakout sessions”.

- Trainees are welcome at any of the above meetings.

Other postgraduate training activities include the following:

- Postgraduate training materials on the liver pages website include virtual slides from >300 previous liver EQA cases and Power Point presentations from liver pathology CPD meetings referred to above.
- Opportunities are available, currently on an ad hoc basis, for training in liver pathology for post-exam trainees, who are considering applying for consultant posts which include a substantial component of liver pathology.

4. Interpretive EQA

The National Liver Pathology EQA scheme started in 1994 and now has more than 100 members. There are two circulations of 12 cases per year, as glass slides, also available as digitised slides with special stains on line. Discussion of both circulations takes place during the annual liver pathology update meeting (see above). Further details concerning the EQA scheme together with other liver pathology CPD activities are available on the liver pages in the Leeds Virtual Pathology website : <http://www.virtualpathology.leeds.ac.uk/eqa/specialist/liver/index.php?>

5. Datasets and ICCR (International Collaboration for Cancer Reporting)

The following documents published via the RCPATH are currently undergoing revision:

- Tissue Pathways for liver biopsies – 2nd edition published March 2014. Further discussions are taking place with colleagues in hepatology and radiology regarding guidelines for obtaining liver biopsies of adequate size for reporting on medical liver diseases
- Dataset for liver cancer – 2nd edition published June 2012. Revised version will include data from TNM 8th Edition and incorporate information from the recently published ICCR Liver Cancer Dataset (see below).

The ICCR Liver Dataset provides recommendations for reporting cases of intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma, perihilar cholangiocarcinoma and hepatocellular carcinoma. The dataset was published online in April 2017:

<http://www.iccr-cancer.org/datasets/published-datasets/digestive-track>

A manuscript incorporating information from the ICCR liver dataset has been submitted for journal publication.

Prof SG Hübscher (Chair) & Dr JI Wyatt (Secretary) on behalf of the UK Liver Pathology Group